



Law of the Republic of Armenia

Approved on June 21 2014

ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EXPERTIZE

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. The Subject of the Regulation of the Law

1. This Law regulates the relation in the society in the Republic of Armenia related to the sphere of environmental impact assessment (hereinafter: assessment) including the state expertize of transboundary impact assessment.

(Article 1 amended 11.09.14 HO-144-N)

Article 2. The Scope of Action of the Law

1. The action of this Law applies to the subjects, prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, which draft, approve or implement anticipated activity of the fundamental document which has possible impact regarding the environment and human health.

Article 3. Legislation on Assessment and Expertize

1. The legislation on assessment and expertize consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the international treaties with the participation of the Republic of Armenia, this Law and other legal acts.

Article 4. The Main Notions used in this Law

1. The following main notions shall be used in this law:

1) **the environment:** natural and anthropogenic elements (atmospheric air, waters, soils, subsurface resources, landscape, animal and plant kingdoms, including forests, areas of the nature under special protection, green areas of the settlements, structures,

historical and culture monuments) and social environment (human health and safety), the totality of factors, materials, phenomena and processes and its interaction between themselves and the people;

2) **the environmental impact assessment:** possible changes of the environment and the human health as a consequence of implementation of actions or anticipated actions of the fundamental document;

3) **the transboundary impact:** environmental impact on the area under jurisdiction of the state, which will emerge as a consequence of implementation of the action of fundamental document or implementation of envisaged action, and the physical source of which is located fully or partially on the territory under the jurisdiction of another country;

4) **the affected state:** a state which can be subjected to the impact on the environment as a consequence of the implementation of the fundamental document or the planned activity on the territory under the jurisdiction of other state;

5) **the state of origin:** a state, under the jurisdiction of which it is planned to implement the provisions of the fundamental document or the planned activity;

6) **a fundamental document:** a draft document which might have a possible impact on the environment (policy, strategy, concept paper, outline, the scheme of utilization of natural resources, a project, layout, urban development program document);

7) **the anticipated activity:** a study on the possible impact on the environment, production, construction, exploitation, reconstruction, expansion, technical and technological re-equipment, reprofiling, conservation, relocation, liquidation, closure;

8) **project design documents:** technical report about envisaged activity, feasibility study, technical-and-economic calculations, architectural and construction design project;

9) **strategic assessment:** the process of comprehensive, summary assessment of the possible impact as a result of the action of the fundamental document;

10) **assessment:** the process of comprehensive, summary assessment of the possible impact of the anticipated activity as a result of the implementation of the anticipated activity;

11) **expertize:** the process of submission of the state expertize conclusion (inference) (hereinafter: expertize) as a result of the study and the analysis of the fundamental document, the request for anticipated activity and the environmental impact assessment report regarding the admissibility thereof;

12) **preliminary stage of the environmental impact assessment:** the process of making a respective decision as a result of the study and the analysis of the fundamental document or the request for anticipated activity;

13) **basic stage of environmental impact assessment:** the process of submission of the state expert assessment conclusion as a result of the study and the analysis of the environmental impact assessment report of fundamental document or the request for anticipated activity regarding the admissibility thereof;

14) **expert center for the environmental impact assessment:** a structure, created pursuant to the provisions of this Law by the government of the Republic of Armenia;

15) **state expertize conclusion (inference):** an official document with appropriate

justifications submitted by the authorised body regarding the admissibility of the provisions of the fundamental document and (or) anticipated activity;

16) **authorized body**: a state governance body in the sphere of environmental protection authorized by the government of the Republic of Armenia pursuant to the provisions of this Law;

17) **initiator**: pursuant to this Law: the state governance body or local self-government body, a legal entity of a natural person which drafts, approves, implements and (or) carries out the activity or orders the fundamental document subject to expertize [expert assessment];

18) **expert**: a natural person or a legal entity engaged by the authorized body in the process of expertize;

19) **community**: one or more natural persons or legal entity.

20) **affected community**: the population of the community (communities) subject to possible impact by the implementation of the fundamental document or the anticipated activity: natural persons and (or) legal entities;

21) **interested community**: the legal entities and natural persons demonstrating interest regarding the approval of the fundamental document and (or) the implementation of the anticipated activity subject to expert assessment;

22) **the participants of the process**: the bodies of state governance of local self-government bodies, natural persons and legal entities, including the affected community, interested community, which, pursuant to this Law participate in the process of assessment and (or) the expertize;

23) **request**: a notification package compiled by the initiator or upon his/her/its order on the initiative of drafting the fundamental document and (or) the anticipated activity;

24) **terms of reference** : a document summarizing the requirements of the assessment, as well as limiting the content of the report and the framework of the participants of the process as a result of the study of the request;

25) **report**: a document summarizing the results of strategic assessment and the assessment;

26) **monitoring program of the environmental impact assessment**: the totality of actions directed towards the observation of the impact on the environment, post-project analysis, execution of the requirements of expert assessment conclusion or industrial control (self- control) in the process of the action of the provisions of fundamental document and (or) in the process of implementation of the anticipated activity and after that;

Article 5. The Concepts and the Basic Principles of Assessment and Expertize

1. The assessment and expertize are based on the following:

1) the right of human beings to health, normal life and to have a favourable environment;

2) requirements to use the natural resources in an effective, complex and rational way.

3) the necessity to maintain the balance of environmental systems and the animal and plant kingdoms taking into consideration the interests of the current and future generations;

4) on the recognition of the compensability of the damage inflicted to the environment and the human health.

2. The following are the principles of the environmental impact assessment and expertize:

1) the acceptance of the possibility of the environmental impact as a result of implementation of the activity;

2) complex consideration of the impacts in the process of assessment, including transboundary impacts.

3) the consideration of the alternative options for the implementation of the anticipated activity, including the zero option (exclusion of the implementation of the activity);

4) the provision of the full value conditions, authenticity and scientific reasonableness of the reports;

5) the provision of the reasonableness, legitimacy and objectivity of expertize;

6) the provision of the transparency and publicity of the processes of assessment and expertize;

7) the provision of the public participation in the process of assessment and expertize;

8) the compensation of the damage inflicted to the environment by the initiator;

3. In case of the possible risk connected with the human health or environment as a result of implementation of the anticipated activity or the action of fundamental document the responsibility bears the initiator, if the absence of harmfulness of the given activity is not justified scientifically.

Article 6. The Goals and Objectives of Assessment and Expertize

1. The goal of the assessment is the prediction, prevention, decrease or exclusion of possible harmful impacts on environment and human health as a result of implementation of the activity [envisaged in] the fundamental document and implementation of the anticipated activity.

2. The goal of expertize is the verification of the authenticity of the request or the assessment, the decision regarding the admissibility of the fundamental document or the anticipated activity.

3. The objectives of the assessment and expertize are:

1) the facilitation of sustainable development based on the requirements of environmental safety and environmental limitations;

2) the safeguarding of the protection of the positive impacts of the provisions of the fundamental document and the anticipated activity, the prevention, mitigation or

exclusion of the hazardous impacts;

3) the provision of assessment of the possible risks of emergency situations.

Article 7. The Objects and Characteristics under Observation in the Process of Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertize

1. The following is under observation in the process of implementation of assessment and expertize

1) the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of atmospheric air, the substances polluting the atmosphere, the level of pollution;

2) the surface waters and subterranean waters, the categories thereof, flow regimes, qualitative and quantitative characteristics, water consumption, drainage, water system or the separate parts thereof and other characteristics;

3) the soil: special purpose, visual properties, operational significance, the category, the quality, its status, composition, level of contamination, degradation, the usage of fertile layer, other characteristics of the soil;

4) the geological structure, formations, mineral resources, other characteristics regarded the protection and utilization of underground resources;

5) the terrain, landscape, areas of the nature under special protection, the green belts of the settlements, migration areas and ways;

6) plant kingdom and animal kingdom, its composition of species and the existence conditions, the utilization of the objects of plant kingdom and animal kingdom, the use of living modified organisms, the availability of animals, plants registered in the Red Books of animals of the Republic of Armenia are the Red Book of plants of the Republic of Armenia;

7) forests: operational significance, the composition of species, its conditions and other characteristics of the forest;

8) structures, historical and cultural monuments;

9) the composition of wastes, the level of hazardousness, its volume, utilization, processing, relocation, decontamination, redundancy, waste disposal, storage, protection;

10) physical influences: noise, vibrations, ionizing and not ionizing radiations;

11) health care factors, connected with the influences;

12) social factors, demographic composition and the population;

13) probability of emergency situations.

C H A P T E R 2

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROCESS OF ASSESSMENT AND EXPERTISE

Article 8. The Bodies of Public Administration of the Process of Expertize and Assessment

1. The state governance of the process assessment and expertize shall be implemented by the government of the Republic of Armenia and the state body authorized in the sphere of environmental impact.

Article 9. The Authorities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the Process of Assessment and Expertize

1. The authorities of the government of the Republic of Armenia in the process of assessment and expertize are the following ones:

- 1) to ensure the implementation of the policy related to the processes of assessment and expertize;
- 2) the approval, within the frameworks of its jurisdiction, the legal acts which regulate the processes of assessment and expertize;
- 3) the approval of expert assessment conclusion related to the fundamental document or anticipated activity which had transboundary impact.

Article 10. The Authorities of the State Governance Body Authorized for the Processes of Expertize

1. The following are the authorities of the state body authorized for the processes of expertize [expert assessment]:

- 1) drafting of the policy related to the expertize process and its implementation within the frameworks of its jurisdiction;
- 2) drafting of the legal acts regulating the process of expertize;
- 3) implementation of the international collaboration related to the process of expertize within the frameworks of its jurisdiction;
- 4) submission of expert assessment conclusion regarding the fundamental document or activity which have transboundary impact;
- 5) the submission of the draft decision of the government of the Republic of Armenia for the approval by the government of the Republic of Armenia or suspension or recognizing as null and void the expert assessment conclusion on the implementation of fundamental document or anticipate activity regarding transboundary impact on the grounds and in the manner prescribed by this Law;
- 6) the implementation of the assessments or its organization of the impact of the fundamental document and anticipated activity ordered or initiated by it;
- 7) the involvement of the experts in the process of expert assessment of the fundamental document or the activity which have transboundary impact;
- 8) the implementation of the oversight in the manner prescribed by the law over the execution of the requirements of the expertize [expert assessment] conclusion;
- 9) ensuring the possibility for the notification of the public and public participation in the process of expert assessment in cases and in the manner prescribed by this Law;
- 10) Implementation of other functions, prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 11. The Authorities of the Center of Expertize for Environmental Impact Assessment

1. The following are the authorities of the Center of Expertize for Environmental Impact Assessment in the course of the expertize:

- 1) to participate in drafting of the policy and its implementation related to the process of expertize [expert assessment];
- 2) to participate in drafting of legal acts which regulate the process of expertize [expert assessment];
- 3) to implement the expertize [expert assessment] within the framework of its authorities, to compile of expertize [expert assessment] conclusion and to submit it;
- 4) to engage experts in the process of expertize based on contractual relations;
- 5) to coordinate, in case of necessity, with the bodies dealing with it the fundamental document and the planned activity;
- 6) to ensure the participation of its representative in public hearings;
- 7) to compose the terms of reference and to submit it to the entrepreneur.

Article 12. The Authorities of the Bodies of Territorial Governance in the Process of Assessment and Expertize

1. The authorities of the bodies of territorial governance in the process of assessment and expertize are the following ones:

- 1) the provision of the opinion on the provisions of the fundamental document and (or) the anticipated activity related to the territory, if otherwise is not prescribed by the legislation;
- 2) within the framework of its authorities: the provision of the notification, organization of the public hearings and the public participation, in the manner prescribed by this Law, regarding the processes of expert assessment related to the fundamental document and (or) the anticipate activity;
- 3) the provision upon the request of the initiator information regarding the acting fundamental document related to the territory;
- 4) the provision of the respective consultations to the initiator in the processes of assessment, as well as the provision of any other information necessary for the implementation of the assessment.

Article 13. The Authorities of the Bodies of Local Self-Government in the Process of Assessment and Expertize

1. The authorities of the bodies of local self-government in the process of assessment and expertize are the following ones:

- 1) provision of the opinion regarding the provisions of the fundamental document and (or) the anticipated activity related to the community, if otherwise is not prescribed by the

legislation:

2) within the framework of its authorities: the provision of the notification, organization of the public hearings and the public participation, in the manner prescribed by this Law, regarding the processes of expert assessment related to the fundamental document and (or) the anticipate activity;

3) the provision of the information regarding the fundamental documents related to the territory upon the request of the initiator;

4) the provision of the respective consultations to the initiator in the processes of assessment, as well as the provision of any other information necessary for the implementation of the assessment.

C H A P T E R 3

THE TYPES OF THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENTS AND ANTICIPATED ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUBJECT TO ASSESMENT AND EXPERTIZE

Article 14. The types of the fundamental documents and the anticipated activity related to the environmental impact assessment subject to assessment and expertize

1. The fundamental document related to the social-economic, energy sector, urban development, transport sector, communication sector, agriculture, underground resources utilization, industrial sectors, health care, environmental, recreation sector, sector of services, forestry, waste utilization, waterworks systems spheres shall be subject to strategic assessment and expertize.

2. The project design documents of the types of anticipated activity prescribed by Part 4 of this Article are subject to assessment and expertize.

3. The types of the anticipate activity subject to assessment and environmental impact expertize (hereinafter: expertize) shall be classified following three categories A, B and C, taking into consideration the spheres, according to the reducing degree of impact on the environment.

4. Category A shall include:

1) in the sphere of energy sector:

a. nuclear power plants or other structures using nuclear reactors,

b. the installation for the storage of the processed nuclear fuel and its sealing,

c. production facility for the enrichment of the nuclear fuel,

d. thermal power plants,

e. 800 mm diameter pipelines with a length of 40 km and longer for oil or gas or chemical substances,

f. the hot water or steam production facilities with a thermal power of 50 MW and more,

- g. hydroelectric power station with a capacity of 30MW and more;
- 2) in the sphere of utilization of underground resources:
 - a. geological explorations with underground pits with a length more, than 1000 running meters or in case of drilling of wells with a depth exceeding 1000 running meters;
 - b. extraction of underground resources of metal ores, including radioactive underground resources and (or) processing of ores, minerals including tailing storage facilities and tailing transportation systems;
 - c. production of non-metallic underground resources and (or) processing of ores,
 - d. the exploitation of the sources of mineral or underground waters with a purpose of entrepreneurship;
 - e. the exploitation of the sources of underground drinking waters with a purpose of entrepreneurship;
 - f. oil and gas extraction and (or) ore processing;
 - g. creation of underground structures for the storage of oil and gas or industrial wastes or poisonous or radioactive substances;
 - h. the construction of the underground ways of transportation or structures;
 - i. the reclamation of the territories of the deposits of mineral resources (recultivation).
- 3) in the sphere of chemical industry:
 - a. manufacturing and processing of the caoutchoucs, general mechanical rubber goods and other organic substances;
 - b. Oil processing production;
 - c. Fuel oil production;
 - d. Production of explosives;
 - e. production of inorganic acids or alkalis and the production of other substances;
 - f. production of toxic chemicals or chemical fertilizers;
 - g. production of household chemicals (washing, cleaning or other substances) with a monthly capacity 50 metric tons and more:
- 4) in the sphere of the production of the pharmaceuticals:
 - a. industrial production of pharmaceuticals.
- 5) in the sphere of production and processing of the metals:
 - a. the roasting and agglomeration of metal containing minerals (including sulphide ore);
 - b. the production of non-ferrous, precious, rare and ferrous metals or the alloys thereof from the ores or concentrates or the secondary raw material resources;
 - c. the processing of non-ferrous metals, including alloyage, recuperation of products (refinement, melting production etc.);
 - d. the production of the processed cast iron or steel (primary or secondary casting) including continuous casting, which is exceeding the capacity of 2.5 metric tons per hour;
 - e. the processing of the surfaces of metals or plastic materials by utilization of electrolytic or chemical processes in basins with a 30 cubic meter volume or bigger;
- 6) in the sphere of waste utilization:
 - a. the collection of hazardous wastes, storage, utilization, processing, recycling,

removal, detoxication, placement, burial;

b. the organization of landfills with a capacity of 10 metric tons and more garbage per day or for providing services to settlements with a population of 15 000 residents and (or) the processing of household wastes;

7) in the sphere of building materials industry :

a. the production of cement, lime carbonate, alabaster with a 20 metric ton or more daily capacity;

b. melting of mineral substances with a capacity of 20 and more metric tons daily: including the production of mineral fibres;

c. the manufacturing of ceramic items through roasting, including roof tiles, bricks, firebricks, ceramic tiles, stone ceramics or porcelain items with a daily capacity of 75 metric tons or more;

8) in the sphere of the light industry:

a. production of natural leather or its chemical processing: with a capacity 10 metric tons daily and more;

9) in the sphere of sanitary-technical structures:

a. cemeteries, crematoriums or morgues or facilities for pathologic anatomy or mortuaries;

b. cremation of the animals or burial or abattoirs with a capacity of 500 heads and more;

10) in the sphere of infrastructures:

a. the airfields with o 2100 meter or longer runways;

b. the electric power transmission lines with a length of 15 km and more with 220 kW voltage;

c. the construction or reconstruction of the highways with four and more lanes, or the widening of the highways which have not more, than two lanes for traffic in order to obtain four and more lanes, in the respective section of the highway has a 10 km or more uninterrupted length;

11) In the sphere of water economy:

a. Water reservoirs, artificial lakes, swimming pools with a volume equal to 1 million cubic meters and more;

b. Sewage water processing plants: with an equivalent capacity for 50 000 and more population;

c. the construction of the infrastructures, which have public significance in order to get protections from floods, eutrophication;

12) In the sphere of urban development:

a. anti-land slide or anti-mud slide arrangements for the territories with surface of 10 or more hectares;

13) in the sphere of forestry:

a. lumbering;

14) in the sphere of agriculture:

a. factories for milk processing, dairy product production with a daily capacity of 200 metric tons of milk and more.

5. category B includes:
 - 1) in the sphere of energy sector:
 - a. the stations for the production of hot water or steam with a thermal capacity of 30-50 MW or more;
 - b. Hydroelectric power plants with a power of: 10-30 megawatt.
 - c. the production of geo-thermal waters or energy generation with a capacity of 8 MW or more;
 - 2) in the sphere of chemical industry :
 - a. the underground storage facilities with a volume of 5000 metric tons and more for gaseous or oil or petrochemical or chemical substances;
 - 3) in the sphere of infrastructures:
 - a. the construction of the tunnels, subway or railroads with 1 km or longer length, the construction of bridges over the rivers with a bearing capacity of 25 metric tons;
 - b. the pipelines with a diameter of 300 mm or more, with 20 km length or more for gas, oil or chemical substances;
 - c. the transmission lines for electric power with a 110 kV or more voltage;
 - d. the gas stations with a capacity of 5 cubic meters or more
 - e. the installation of superpower transmitting radio-technical objects. For the purposes of this Law superpower transmitting radio-technical objects are such objects the efficiency of the installed directional antenna is 5 or exceeds it, of the maximal power exceeds the levels mentioned below:
 - 900 watt: in the frequency range of 30 kHz-3 MHz;
 - 500 watt: in the frequency range of 3-30 MHz;
 - 25 watt: in the frequency range 30 MHz -300 GHz;
 - f. pipelines with a diameter of 300 mm or more and with a length of 1 km for fibre optic cables;
 - 4) in the sphere of water economy or the melioration of the soils:
 - a. sewage water intake points or treatment plants for the population 5000-50 000;
 - 5) in the sphere of construction materials industry:
 - a. the production of glass, glass fibre, glass items: with a capacity of 20 metric tons or more;
 - 6) in the sphere of wood and water industry:
 - a. the production of timber, paper or cardboard for paper manufacturing with a daily capacity 20 metric tons and more;
 - 7) in the sphere of light industry:
 - a. production of leather substitute (including the synthetic varieties) with a monthly capacity of 30000 square decimetre and more;
 - 8) in the sphere of food industry:
 - a. the production of manufactured feed concentrate: with a daily capacity 50 metric tons and more;
 - b. tobacco manufacturing or processing: 0.5 metric tonnes daily or more;
 - 9) in the sphere of agriculture:
 - a. poultry production: 40000 birds and more;

b. swine production: 2000 heads and more.

6. Category C includes:

1) The following types of the activity in the energy sector or the production units or all structures or infrastructures thereof:

a. biogas production or power generation using biogas: with a capacity of 1 megawatt or more;

b. hydroelectric power plants: with a capacity of 1-10 megawatt;

c. wind power plants: with a total capacity 8 megawatt or more, solar power plants occupying 40 hectares of territory and more;

2) in the sphere of utilization of underground resources:

a. geological explorations;

3) in the sphere of water economy:

a. the water reservoirs, artificial lakes, swimming pools with a volume of 100 000 - 1 mil cubic meters;

b. the water supply systems with a diameter of 300 mm and more and with a length of 1 km or more or main canals;

4) in the sphere of agriculture:

a. fisheries: 100 metric tonnes annually and more;

b. sheep-farms: 500 heads and more,

c. stock-raising (cattle) farms: 1000 heads and more;

d. poultry farms 10000-40000 chickens;

5) in the forestry sector:

a. forest regeneration, afforestation:

6) in the sphere of food industry:

a. meat production of meat product production (finished products): with a daily capacity of 50 metric tons;

b. production of sugar or granulated sugar 10 metric tons daily and more;

c. production of non-alcoholic beverages: with a daily production of 10000 dekalitres and more;

d. beer brewing: with a daily capacity of 10000 dekalitres and more;

e. production of wine and (or) champagne wines and (or) liquors and (or) vodka and (or) cognac (brandy) with a daily capacity of 1000 dekalitres and more;

f. milk processing and dairy product production: with a daily capacity of 100-200 metric tons;

g. the production of animal or vegetable oils and fats: with a daily capacity of 5 metric tons and more;

h. margarine production: 1 metric ton daily and more;

7) in the sphere of urban development:

a. urban development structures: with a surface of build-up area exceeding 1500 square meters;

8) in the spheres of recreation and tourism:

a. parks or groves not envisaged by the fundamental document, forest type suburban parks, recreation areas;

- b. Overhead ropeways:
 - 9) in the sphere of water economy or the melioration of soils:
 - a. desalination of salinized soils with a chemical solution: on the area of 100 hectares and more;
 - b. drying or drainage collector systems: with a length 5 and more kilometers.
- 7. Emergency arrangements related to the provision of national security measures and the elimination of the consequences of the emergency situations are not subject to expertize [expert assessment].
- 8. All anticipate activities, not listed in Part 3 of this Article are subject to expertize [expert assessment] which shall be implemented in the areas of nature under special protection and forest covered areas, within the borders of historical and cultural monuments, in common use green areas. In this case expertize shall be implemented pursuant to the procedure prescribed for category B.
(Article 14 edited 11.09.14 HO-144-N)

CHAPTER 4

THE PROCESSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EXPERTIZE AND THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY IT

Article 15. Assessment and Expertize of the Impact on Environment and the Human Health

- 1. The assessment and expertize shall be carried out before the adoption of the fundamental document and (or) implementation of the planned activity. The procedure for the implementation of expertize [expert assessment] shall be approved by the government of the Republic of Armenia.
- 2. The assessment and expertize shall be conducted based on the type, sizes and location of the planned activity and conditioned by that the degree of summary, complete impact.
- 3. The expert assessment [expertize] shall be carried out in two stages:
 - 1) preliminary stage, in the course of which the request for the preliminary assessment shall be studied;
 - 2) basic stage: in the course of which the report on basic assessment shall be subjected to expertize.

Article 16. The Preliminary Stage of Expertize

- 1. The preliminary stage of expertize shall be carried out within 30 working days from the date of the submission of the request by the initiator to the authorized body.
- 2. The preliminary assessment request for the planned activity in the sphere of utilization of underground resources shall be submitted to expertize by the initiator

through the authorized body for the sphere.

3. The following shall be carried out in the preliminary stage of expertize:

1) the completeness of the submitted request for preliminary expertize shall be discussed;

2) the frameworks for the possible (probable) environmental impact of the provisions of the fundamental document and (or) the anticipated activity shall be determined, the content of the assessments report and the requirements to meet by it shall be defined, the frameworks of the participants of the process shall be decided, the terms of reference for impact assessment summarizing all above mentioned shall be compiled and provided to the initiator.

4. The request submitted for the expertize [expert assessment] shall contain:

1) the name (appellation) of the initiator and the place of residence (location);

2) the name of the fundamental document and (or) anticipated activity and its purpose;

3) the area subject to the implementation of the fundamental document and (or) the anticipated activity including the brief description of the environment and the scheme of the situation;

4) the characteristics of the fundamental document and (or) the anticipated activity (production capacities, the natural resources to be used, technical and technological solutions);

5) the program of the environmental arrangements directed towards the exclusion, mitigation and compensation of the harmful for impact on the environment;

6) the information regarding the notification of the public, public hearings and the preliminary agreement of local self-government bodies, if it is not otherwise prescribed by the legislation.

5. As a result of the study of the request the authorized body shall make one of the following decisions:

1) on impermissibility of the provision of the fundamental document or implementation of the anticipated activity, which shall be made based on the environmental requirements prescribed by the laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia;

2) on returning back the request to the initiator for replenishment, in case the requirements prescribed by Part 3 of this Article are presented with mistakes or in an incomplete way;

3) on being the fundamental document or the anticipated activity to being subject to impact assessment in transboundary context;

4) on the fundamental document or the planned activity, in case of categories A and B, in accordance with the terms of reference, about being subjected to impact assessment;

5) on providing a conclusion: for the categories C of the activity.

6. The terms of reference shall be composed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

7. In the case when the request is not complete or and (or) if mistakes are available in the information contained in that, then the authorized body within five days upon the

receipt of the request shall return it to the initiator for replenishment. From the moment when the request was returned the time frame for the initial stage is deemed suspended until the moment of submission of the replenished request to the authorized body.

8. The terms of reference shall be composed taking into consideration the objects under observation, the impacts and characteristics of the environment pursuant to Articles 7, 18 of this Law, as well as it shall define the frameworks for the content of the report and the participants of the process, including the requirement set by the state bodies authorized for the given sphere regarding the conclusion.

9. The format of the terms of reference shall be established by the authorized body.

Article 17. The basic processes of assessment of the impact on environment and human health

1. The basic assessment shall be conducted by the initiator through respective natural person or legal entities.

2. At the stage of impact assessment:

1) the provisions of the fundamental document and the possible impact of the planned activity on the environment shall be assessed;

2) the alternative options for the solutions for the fundamental document and the anticipate activity approaches and its impact on the environment, human health and social-economic situation shall be revealed;

3) the environmental-economic analysis and the substantiation of the selection of preferable option for the alternative anticipated activity shall be carried out;

4) environmental arrangements shall be developed, including the monitoring program for impact assessment with a purpose to prevent, mitigate or exclude the environmental impact;

5) the degree of the impact shall be taken into account taking as a basis the geographical location of the territory, the number of the population, the probability, complexity, the degree, duration, frequency and the summary nature of different impacts;

6) the summary impact on the environment shall be taken into account in the process of assessment of the anticipated activity as a consequence of implementation of other activities on the territory of implementation of the anticipated activity.

3. The assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of this Law, other normative legal acts and the terms of reference. While implementing the assessment the remarks and suggestion of the participant of the process shall be taken into consideration. In case of rejection thereof the respective justifications shall be included in the report. The assessment methodology shall be approved by the government of the Republic of Armenia.

4. The procedure for assessment and compensation of the possible economic harm inflicted to the environment shall be approved by the government of the Republic of Armenia.

5. As a result of impact assessment the initiator himself/herself/itself or upon

his/her/its order the one, who implements the impact assessment, shall compose a report: pursuant to the requirements of the Article 18 of this Law, and it shall be submitted for expertize.

6. In the process of the environmental impact assessment the initiator can carry out consultations with the authorized body, state governance bodies, the leaders of the affected community, interested community.

Article 18. The content of the environmental impact and impact on the human health assessment reports

1. The following are the general requirements to be met by the content of the report for strategic impact assessment of the fundamental document:

1) the concise content of the fundamental document, its purpose, its connection and (or) correspondence with the other related fundamental documents, approved for the given territory;

2) the international treaties ratified by the Republic of Armenia related to the fundamental document and other related legal acts, the environmental problems related to the area subject to the impact and its reflection in fundamental document;

3) the physical characteristics and resource requirements, of the anticipated activity within the frameworks of the fundamental document, the utilized materials, technological processes, emissions, outflows, wastes, industrial dump sites, the description of physical influences and the description possible risks of emergency and accident situations;

4) the description of the environment of the territory, subject to probable impact, as well as the description of social-economic situation and the possible changes thereof, without implementation of the provisions of the fundamental document;

5) the comparison of all options of the approaches of the fundamental document (including zero options) and the substantiation of the selection of the preferable option;

6) the arrangements for the protection and enhancement of the possible positive impacts, the prevention, exclusion, mitigation and the arrangements envisaged for the compensation of the damage inflicted to the environment, the effectiveness, sufficiency and costs;

7) the program for the monitoring of the impact in the process of implementation of the fundamental document and post-project analysis.

8) the information about the assessment methods, the obstacles, difficulties revealed in the process of implementation thereof, including information about the absence of the data;

9) information about the data sources included in the report;

10) the summary content of the report.

2. The general requirements to be met by the report on the environmental impact assessment of the anticipated activity:

1) the description of the planned activity and its goal, physical, technical and technological characteristics, the description of the required natural resources, the

primary products and materials to be used, emissions, discharges and wastes, commercial refuses, physical interference and the description of the possible risks of emergency situations;

2) the description of all possible options, including the option of refusal from the planned activity (zero option);

3) the assessments of the possible economic damage, which might be inflicted to the environment.

The cost of compensation of economic damage and the schedule of payments:

4) the description of the environment, the natural conditions, the description of resources and its utilization of the territory, subject to the possible impact;

5) in case of implementation of the anticipated activity (construction and exploitation stage, risk assessment), including in the case of implementation of the alternative options the description of the possible changes of separate components, natural resources, conditions and the description of volumes and the assessment thereof separately, in a summary way and the total assessment;

6) the possible social impacts, risks, benefits, the analytical characteristics;

7) the possibilities, ways and means of mitigation or elimination of the volume, degree of impact of the consequences of possible emergency situations;

8) the correspondence of the planned activity to the fundamental documents approved for the given territory;

9) the corroboration of the option selected as a result of analysis of all possible options under the perspective of protection of the environment, from economic, social viewpoints;

10) the arrangements for the preservation and strengthening of the possible positive impacts, the prevention, exclusion, mitigation and the arrangements envisaged for the compensation of the damage inflicted to the environment (construction exploitation and closure stage, risky situations) the justification and sufficiency thereof, the total cost assessment.

11) the program for the monitoring of the impact of the anticipated activity and post-project analysis;

12) the materials which are presented by the report on the anticipated activity for the creation of an overall picture for summary content: maps, diagrams, graphs, tables etc.;

13) the sources of baseline data related to the environment;

14) information about the obstacles revealed in the process of assessment and compilation of the report, including the information on the absence of data;

15) the summary content of the report.

3. The following are the documents which shall be submitted attached to the reports:

1) the draft of the fundamental document, other approved fundamental documents related to it;

2) the design document of the planned activity;

3) documents related to the participation of the participants of the process (the copy of the publication of the notification, received remarks and recommendations, the minutes of public hearings, audio records, video records);

- 4) in case of legal entity: the copies of its charter and inset, and in the case of individual entrepreneur the copy of the state registration certificate;
- 5) in case it is prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia: the copy of the licence or permission to engage in the planned activity;
- 6) the receipt of the payment of the state due.

Article 19. The basic stage of expertize [expert assessment]

1. The basic stage of expertize [expert assessment] shall start from the moment of submission of the report with the attached documents by the initiator, compiled in accordance with the terms of reference prescribed by this Law.
2. At the basic stage of expertize the authorized body shall involve in the process of expertize the participants of the process.
3. In the basic stage of expertize an expertize conclusion shall be compiled as a result of analysis of the assessment of the following indices of expertize conclusion:
 - 1) the full value conditions, authenticity, fresh, satisfactory quality information, level of substantiation, completeness;
 - 2) the alternative approaches and solutions regarding the fundamental document or the planned activity;
 - 3) the compliance with the requirements and limitation set by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
 - 4) the effectiveness of the program for the anticipated arrangements of the protection of the environment, the monitoring of the impact on the environment;
 - 5) the effectiveness, justification of the notification of the participants of the process, and ensuring discussions and consideration of the opinions.
4. The time frames of the basic stage of the expert assessment [expertize] shall not exceed:
 - 1) in case of fundamental documents up to 60 working days;
 - 2) in case of category A of the planned activity up to 60 working days;
 - 3) in case of category B up to 40 working days.
5. For the performance of the additional work and to obtain other information in case of necessity in order to ensure the full value conditions for expert assessment [expertize] processes in case of necessity the duration for the implementation of the basic stage of the expertize can be prolonged for each category by the substantiated decision of the authorized body for the time period not exceeding one half of the time period prescribed by Paragraph 4 of this Article, but not more, than once, upon written notification of the initiator.
6. If the initiator had not complied with the requirements established by this Law, then the state authorized body shall notify the initiator, mentioning the identified discrepancies, shortcomings and providing up to 10 working days for its elimination, which shall not counted as a time period prescribed by the Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Law.

7. Non submission of the envisaged documents and information within the time frame established by the authorized body, submission with shortcomings or inadequate submission shall serve as a ground for provision of a negative conclusion of expertize.

Article 20. The Conclusion of Expert Assessment [Expertize]

1. Expert assessment conclusion consists of the following parts: introductory, descriptive, motivational and conclusive:

1) introductory: brief information about the initiator, the fundamental document or the anticipated activity;

2) descriptive: the description of the possible harmful impact on the environment based on the information provided by presented fundamental or design document;

3) motivational: well-grounded conclusions on the admissibility or inadmissibility of the provisions of fundamental document or the planned activity;

4) conclusive: conclusion on the expert assessment inference regarding its positive or negative nature:

2. Positive expert assessment inference can contain requirements or conditions subject to mandatory execution, for which deadlines shall be established. In case of the failure to execute the requirements or conditions within the defined period of time the inference shall be deemed as null and void.

3. The positive expert assessment inference shall be provided for the time period mentioned in fundamental document of the document on the planned activity, unless other time period is mentioned in inference, which shall have reasonable excuse.

4. In the process of composition of expert assessment inference one shall take into consideration the conclusions or opinions submitted by the participants of the process. In case the opinions of the participants of the process are not accepted, the authorized body shall provide substantial reasons. The expert assessment shall be approved by the authorized body.

5. The expert assessment shall be uploaded upon the official web site of the authorized body within 7 working days.

6. Without positive expertize conclusion the receipt of the fundamental document or the implementation of the anticipated activity is prohibited.

7. The expert assessment conclusion shall be deemed as null and void if the implementation of the anticipated activity had not started within one year after submission of expert assessment conclusion.

Article 21. The Recognition of the Expertize Conclusion as Null and Void

1. In case of changes in the conditions of the environment and (or) in case of amendments of the requirements prescribed by the laws and other legal acts regulating the sphere of the environmental protection the authorized body shall notify the initiator regarding new conditions of the protection of the environment and the time-frames for the

implementation thereof. After the receipt of the notification the failure of the initiator to execute the conditions the authorized body shall recognize the expertize conclusion as null and void.

2. The positive expert assessment is recognized as null and void, if:

- 1) the activity is implemented with deviations from the requirements of the project design documents and expert assessment conclusions subjected to expertize;
- 2) amendments were carried out regarding the possible environmental impact the project design and the fundamental documents subjected to expertize without notifying the authorized body about that;
- 3) the conditions mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this Article were not implemented with the established time frame;
- 4) new environmental legislation was approved;
- 5) new environmental factors were revealed after provision of the expertize conclusion;

3. The initiator shall bring into line his/her/its activity with the requirements presented by the authorized body, as soon as he/she/it received the notification mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this Article, in case of failure to perform the activity shall be suspended until the execution of the requirements.

4. The initiator can appeal the decision of the authorized body on recognition of expert assessment conclusion as null and void through administrative proceedings or judicially.

5. The procedure of recognition of the expert assessment conclusion as null and void shall be established by the government of the Republic of Armenia.

C H A P T E R 5

ASSESSMENT AND EXPERTIZE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENT OR THE PLANNED ACTIVITY WHICH HAVE TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACT

Article 22. General Requirements to be Met by the Impact Assessment of the Fundamental Document or the Anticipated Activity which have Transboundary Impact

1. If on the territory of the Republic of Armenia the implementation of the fundamental document or the planned activity, as well as if the implementation of the fundamental document of the planned activity on the territory of other countries might have transboundary impact, then the environmental expert assessment and the expertize shall be carried out pursuant to the requirements of “Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context”, other international treaties ratified by the Republic of Armenia, international rules of health care and pursuant to the requirements of this Law.

2. The expert assessment conclusion on transboundary impact shall be approved by the government of the Republic of Armenia.

3. In case of necessity to ensure full value conditions for the procedures of the assessment of the impact of the implementation of fundamental document or the planned activity which have transboundary impact, and in case of necessity summarize the results of assessment the authorized body can prolong with an appropriate justification the time-frames prescribed by this Law.

Article 23. The Expertize of the Transboundary Impact of the Implementation of Fundamental Document or the Anticipated Activity in the Republic of Armenia

1. If implementation of any fundamental document or planned activity on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, prescribed by Articles 4 or 14 of this Law, can have a significant hazardous transboundary environmental impact, then the authorized body shall notify on that the respective authorized body of the affected country in the manner, prescribed by this Law and other legal acts, requesting simultaneously information regarding the requested documents and the procedures for public hearings necessary for implementation of environmental impact assessment in that country.

2. If it is not otherwise prescribed by the respective international treaty of the Republic of Armenia, then the notification shall contain the following information:

1) about the implementation of the fundamental document or the anticipated activity, including their possible transboundary impact;

2) about the characteristics regarding the adoption of possible decisions on implementation of the fundamental document or the planned activity;

3) about the procedures and deadlines of the expert assessment;

4) about the time frames for submitting answer to the given country regarding the intention to participate in expert assessment. The initiator shall facilitate the process of preparation of notification and the request by the authorized body.

3. The time frame for submission of an answer to affected country on its intention to participate in expertize [expert assessment] shall not exceed the limit of 45 working days counted from the date of the receipt of the notification, if no other time frame is prescribed by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

4. The country received notification had refused officially to participate in expert assessment or had not answered within the defined time frame about its intention to participate then expert assessment shall be carried out following the procedure established by this Law.

5. The authorized body after receipt of the official letter on its intention to participate in the process of expert assessment from the country, which had received the notification shall submit the documents necessary for impact assessment in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia: mentioning the time frame for the presentation of the opinion regarding it, which shall not exceed 60 working days counted from the date of receipt of the documents, if no other time frame is prescribed by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

6. The authorized body and the initiator shall facilitate the respective authorized body of the given affected country in dissemination of information among the general public of the territories, which most possibly might have be subjected to the impact regarding the implementation of the fundamental document or the planned activity.

7. The authorized body and the initiator shall coordinate with the respective authorized body of the state subject to possible impact the format and the procedure of consultations regarding the fundamental document or the anticipated activity which possibly might create transboundary impact, the means to prevent or to mitigate the impact and shall facilitate the implementation of such consultations.

8. The initiator shall ensure the translation of the opinions and other necessary materials received from the affected state.

9. If the possibility of transboundary impact is revealed in the process of expertise [expert assessment], than the authorized body shall ensure along with the initiator the implementation of the requirements prescribed by this Article.

Article 24. The Expert Assessment of the Transboundary Environmental Impact in the Republic of Armenia of the Implementation of the Fundamental Document or the Anticipated Activity of the other State

1. If a notification is received in the Republic of Armenia regarding the fundamental document or planned activity which have possibility to create transboundary impact in the Republic of Armenia, the and receiver is not the authorized body, then within 10 working days from the date of receipt of notification it shall be sent to the authorized body.

2. The authorized body shall inform the respective authorized body of the country of origin in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, about the receipt of notification and its intention to participate or not to participate in expert assessment.

3. The authorized body of the Republic of Armenia shall notify about its adopted decision to participate or not to participate in expert assessment the respective authorized body of the country of origin within the time frame and in the manner mentioned in the notification. If there is no fixed deadline mention in the notification for providing answer, then the authorized body shall give an answer to the notifying country within 10 working days after the date of receiving the notification.

4. If it is not otherwise prescribed by the bilateral or multilateral international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, then the authorized body shall ensure the discussion of the notification in the manner, prescribed by Articles 6, 8 and 10 of this Law.

5. If the authorized body had accepted a decision to participate in expert assessment, then the expert assessment shall be carried out in the manner prescribed by this Law, taking into consideration the requirements of the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, simultaneously informing the authorized body of the country of origin about the requirements of this Law, including the necessity to ensure the necessary funding from

its side for the expert assessment, the translation of the documents, the assuring of public participation and other costs required by this Law.

6. The authorized body shall coordinate with the respective authorized body of the country of origin the volume and content of the necessary documents, the format and procedure of consultations regarding the implementation of the fundamental document or planned activity, which possibly might have transboundary impact, the means for prevention or mitigation of the impact.

7. If it is not otherwise anticipated by the international bilateral or multilateral treaties of the Republic of Armenia or Part 4 of this Law, then the authorized body after receiving the documents shall ensure the study and discussion of the documents in the manner prescribed by this Law and other legal acts and shall send the expert assessment conclusion approved by the government of the Republic of Armenia to the notifying country.

8. If the authorized body had been informed about the implementation of a fundamental document or planned activity on the territory of other country, which can have transboundary impact on the environment of the Republic of Armenia, and no notification was received from the given country, then the authorized body after sending notification in advance to the government of the Republic of Armenia, shall apply to the respective authorized body of the given country in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia with a purpose to receive notification on the concept or the process of the transboundary impact assessment of the anticipated activity.

Article 25. International Collaboration in the Sphere of Transboundary Impact

1. With a purpose to execute obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia pursuant to the provisions of “Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context” the Republic of Armenia can sign bilateral or multilateral international treaties or acquire other agreements.

2. In order to increase the effectiveness of the management of transboundary impact the Republic of Armenia can create with other countries acting as provisional or standing bodies, the procedure of activity thereof shall be defined by respective bilateral treaties or other written agreements.

C H A P T E R 6

NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY IT

Article 26. Notification of the Public and Implementation of the Discussions

1. The processes of assessments and expertize are subject to public notice and

discussion in order to ensure the public awareness and participation of the public.

2. The notification of the public shall be carried out by the following entities:

- 1) the authorized body: at least 7 working days prior to the hearings on the request, reports and the draft expert assessment conclusion submitted by the initiator;
- 2) the initiator: at least 7 working days prior to the hearings on the implementation of the activities related to the fundamental document and planned activity and the processes of assessment;
- 3) the bodies of territorial governance of the affected community and the community leader: about the implementation of the processes of assessment of the fundamental document and the planned activity: at least 7 working days prior to the date of public hearings.

3. The content of notification shall contain data about the initiator, the brief description of the fundamental document or the planned activity, the location of implementation, the place where one can familiarize himself/herself with it and the place for discussions, conditions, the deadlines for presentation of comments and suggestions and other data.

4. The notification, the fundamental documents and design documents shall be posted also at the official website of the authorized body at least 7 working days prior to the date of hearings.

5. The public discussions shall be carried out by the following entities:

- 1) the initiator: about the fundamental document, the planned activity and the processes of assessment of the impacts thereof;
- 2) the territorial body of state governance, the initiator: about the fundamental document and the draft report on the strategic assessment of its impact;
- 3) the local self-government body, the initiator: about the planned activity and the report on its impact assessment.

6. The authorized body shall ensure the participation of its representative in discussions.

7. As a result of public discussions the implementer shall compile a respective protocol to which video and audio records shall be attached.

8. The initiator and the authorized body shall take into account the reasoned comments and suggestions of the public. In case they do not take it into consideration then reasoned substantiation shall be provided.

9. The procedure for public notification and for the implementation of discussions shall be established by the government of the Republic of Armenia.

C H A P T E R 7

THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INITIATOR IN THE PROCESSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EXPERTIZE

Article 27. The rights and responsibilities of the initiators in the processes of environmental impact assessment and expertize

1. The following are the rights of the initiator in the process of assessment and expertize:

- 1) to receive from the authorized body information about the process of assessment and expertize;
- 2) to receive from the bodies of state governance and local self-government bodies the acting fundamental documents related to the territory, as well as any other information necessary for the implementation of impact assessment;
- 3) to appeal in the manner, prescribed by the law the decision adopted by the authorized body on the conclusion of expert assessment and on recognizing the expert assessment as null and void;
- 4) other rights prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The following are the responsibilities of the initiator in the process of expertize [expert assessment]:

- 1) to maintain the requirements prescribed by this Law;
- 2) to submit the documents and information prescribed by this Law to the authorized body;
- 3) to ensure the completeness, authenticity and reasonableness of the materials to be presented;
- 4) to implement in the process of expertize the notification of the public and the discussions;
- 5) to make available the respective materials and documents to the ones who carry out the public discussions;
- 6) to accept or submit for the approval the fundamental document and implement planned activity only if a positive expert assessment conclusion is available.

C H A P T E R 8

INVOLVEMENT OF THE EXPERTS IN THE PROCESS OF EXPERT ASSESSMENT

Article 28. Requirements to be Met by the Involvement of the Expert of into the Process of Expert Assessment

1. The authorized body can involve in the process of expert assessment the respective expert (experts) which are legal entities and natural persons.

2. Those legal entities, the charter procedures of which are in line with the topic subject to expertize can function as experts.

3. The expert who is a natural person shall have a respective higher education and at least 10 years of working experience.

4. The involvement of the experts in the process of expertize shall be conducted based on the contract: in the manner prescribed by the legislation.

5. The contract shall establish the rights and responsibilities of the parties, the

content, volume and the deadlines of the work of experts, the procedure and the amount of payment and other conditions, not contradicting the legislation of the Republic of Armenia: upon the agreement of the parties.

6. The persons, participated in the drafting of the given fundamental document or the draft document for the planned activity and (or) in the process of impact assessment thereof cannot be involved in the process of expertize in the capacity of experts.

C H A P T E R 9

THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXPERT IN THE PROCESS OF EXPERT ASSESSMENT

Article 29. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Expert in the Process of Expert Assessment

1. The expert engaged in the process of expert assessment has the following rights:
 - 1) to receive from the authorized body all documents submitted for expert assessment;
 - 2) to receive from the authorized body or the bodies of state governance or local self-government bodies all materials related to the documents subject to expert assessment;
 - 3) to participate in discussions connected with the discussion of the drafts of the opinion submitted by him/her or the conclusion and the expert assessment document;
 - 4) to participate in public discussions of the documents subjected to expertize by himself/herself;
 - 5) present a dissenting opinion in case of disagreement with expert conclusion or separate provisions thereof;
2. The expert engaged in the process of expert assessment [expertize] has the following obligations:
 - 1) to implement the expert assessment of the fundamental document and the anticipated activity pursuant to the requirements of this Law and other legal acts;
 - 2) to ensure the reasonableness of the professional conclusion composed by himself/herself;
 - 3) to maintain the confidentiality of the data, which are considered as containing information which is defined as confidential by law;
 - 4) to demonstrate impartial, independent and objective approach;
 - 5) to ensure the execution of the contractual requirements.

C H A P T E R 10

THE FINANCING AND FEES OF THE PROCESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Article 30. Financing of the Process of Expert Assessment

1. A state due shall be paid for the implementation of the process of expert assessment.

2. The costs related to the maintenance of the expert assessments center for environmental impact assessment, the work of the expert, the expenses of local self-government bodies related to rising public awareness and carrying out the hearings shall be financed at the expenses of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 30 amended 11.09.14 HO-144-N)

C H A P T E R 11

THE RESPONSIBILITY AND OVERSIGHT IN THE PROCESS OF EXPERT ASSESSMENT

Article 31. Responsibility in the Process of Expert Assessment

1. The violation of the requirements of this Law shall create responsibility in the manner prescribed by the law.

Article 32. The Oversight in the Process of Expert Assessment

1. The oversight over the execution of the requirements established by this Law shall be implemented by the authorized body and the community in the manner prescribed by the law.

C H A P T E R 12

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 33. Transitional Provision

1. Prior to entering this Law into force the relations connected with started and not yet finished expert assessments shall be regulated by the legal acts effective at the moment of start of the process of expert assessment.

Article 34. Final Provisions

1. This Law shall enter into force on the tenth day after the date of its official promulgation.

2. From the moment of entering this Law into force the law of the Republic of Armenia "On Environmental Impact Assessment" as of November 20, 1995 HO-21 shall be deemed as null and void.

**The President of the Republic of
Armenia**

S. Sargsyan

July 22, 2014
Yerevan
HO-110-N