

On the Republic of Armenia (RA) Draft Law amending the RA Law on environmental impact assessment and expertise

The Draft Law “On the Amendments to the RA Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise” has been submitted to the RA Government in December of 2017.

The draft Law reflects the desire of the Republic of Armenia to improve national environmental impact assessment and expertise legislation on proposed specific activities and strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the principles and requirements of international agreements, fully to comply the public participation procedures with the international agreements, including the Aarhus Convention.

Several amendments have been made in the draft Law.

The list of intended activities subject to environmental impact assessment has been revised (the article 14 of the Law).

The concept “intended activity” has been perfected.

The chapter 6 of the RA Law “On the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Expertise”, which is dedicated to the public notification, the public hearings and their application order has been amended and approved by the draft. In particular, the Law has defined the procedure of the public notification, the terms for submitting suggestions by the public on the intended activities. The terms of the public notification and public hearings are defined based on the type of activity and the stage of activity.

The public hearings and consultations at the phase of the expertise will be carried out not sooner than 12 days (at present it is 7 working days) after the notification. The recommendations of the public are submitted (i) within 10 days after the notification at the stage of the application submission, (ii) in the case of baseline documents and Category A documents within 18 days after the notification at the reporting stage and for the Category B projects within 12 days after the notification at the reporting stage.

The concepts of the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment have been explained.

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