



**GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
CLIMATE CHANGE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
(SECTION ENVIRONMENT)**

NOTIFICATION

Peshawar Dated the 25/07/2025

No. SO(ENVT)/CCFE&WD/1-8/EPC-2025: In exercise of powers conferred under Clause xxii of Section 7 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014, (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act No. XXX of 2022), the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Council (EPC) in its 3rd Meeting held on 13.05.2025 has been pleased to approve the following guidelines for General Environmental Approval (GEA);

**GUIDELINES FOR OIL AND GAS PIPELINES (06 INCHES AND ABOVE DIA) BELOW 10
KM**

Introduction

The increasing demand of energy is directly related with the degradation of Environment. The constructions of oil & gas pipelines have impacts on Environment. The increase in the ecological safety during the pipeline construction is an issue, which requires proper guidelines for the protection of Environment. Recently, more and more attention has been paid to the environmental issues concerning the pipeline construction. Environmental impacts of pipelines consist of two aspects: construction and operation, however, the construction period has a greater impact on the ecology of the affected area. Unavoidably, the installation of a pipeline leads to ecological disturbance, since there are clearing of vegetation, excavation, soil compaction and others. The installation and subsequent maintenance of a transmission pipeline can bring about a change in habitat along a narrow linear corridor. This can result in a change in wildlife species composition along the pipeline but typically does not have an adverse effect on the abundance or distribution of regional wildlife populations. However, in certain situations a particular habitat is sensitive to disturbance and pipeline construction and maintenance activities could have a negative impact on wildlife species. For example, threatened or endangered species habitat or unique wetlands, if disturbed by construction activities, could adversely affect wildlife populations that rely on these sensitive habitats. Rights-of-way can also act as disturbance corridors for the movement and spread of invasive species.

Moreover, due to the linear arrangement of the pipelines, various natural and climatic zones are affected by its construction phase activities. Thus, there is need to develop guidelines for the development of oil and gas transmission pipelines to mitigate and control its impacts on Environment. Such guidelines are aimed for remediation of any damage brought by the development of oil & gas transmission lines. They are intended to prevent such losses as wetland destruction, excessive soil erosion, agricultural soil structure alteration, river and stream bottom changes. Some regulations require monitoring to be carried out after construction to ensure that the basic environmental characteristics (plant cover, sedimentation control, hydrologic features) have returned to preconstruction status and to protect the environment from its adverse effects.

Impacts of Pipelines construction on Environment

The following Environmental impacts are related to the development of Oil & Gas transmission lines (Pipelines).

1. Transportation activities (loading & unloading) during construction of transmission lines produces diesel engine emissions, oil leakage from heavy machines, energy usage in the form of fuel



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- consumption & noise which have impacts on Air Quality Deterioration, land contamination, global warming and noise effects on community accordingly.
2. During welding process different types of solid waste (welding gloves, electrodes, glasses, wire brushes, iron cutting), diesel engine emissions, oil leakage from heavy machines, energy uses in the form of fuel consumption, noise may have role in land contamination, air quality deterioration, impacts on community, & global warming.
 3. Trenching and excavation.
 4. Back filling.
 5. Joint cleaning and sleeving produces diesel engine emissions, slag blasting, liquid waste, solid waste, noise causes air quality deterioration, air pollution, chemical contamination of environment, landfills and effect on community accordingly.
 6. Loss of natural habitat loss/fragmentation from land clearing for access roads, accommodation camps, pipeline strips causes wildlife breeding/migration.
 7. Increased sediments in water bodies due to soil substrate disturbance caused by trenching/pilling.
 8. Disruption of wild life from blasting.
 9. Deforestation for fuel wood in working area.
 10. Pollution of soil and water from waste dumping and concrete mixing etc.
 11. Depth of land/trenches leading to water accumulation may provide breeding site for mosquitoes which is a risk to public health.
 12. Waste water from resident camps leads to poor sanitation leading to public health risk.
 13. Medical waste from the resident camps.

The following conditions must be fulfilled:

1. The pipelines should not pass any forestry and wild life protected area.
2. If at a distance of less than 500 meter than NOC must be obtained from the concerned Wild life and Forest department.
3. Archaeology site should not be disturbed, if in less than 500 meter area than NOC from archaeological department should be obtained.
4. It should not pass/disturb any ROW of river, road and railway line.
5. There should be no human settlement in radius of 200 meter of pipeline.
6. The proponent will provide the complete sketch/lay out plan/design of transmission line.
7. Document of Land acquisition duly verified by revenue department must be provided.
8. Plan of CSR activities in area of project and its verification from local community.
9. Compensation plan for locals and its verification.
10. Sharing of Information regarding construction of site camp.
11. ROW should be avoided in agriculture land if possible.
12. There should no hospital, school or educational institutions and park in a 500 meter radius of project area.
13. It should not pass through graveyard.
14. The ROW of natural streams/seasonal water ways should not be disturbed.
15. The IEE report should carefully be reviewed for Environmental Assessment.

After fulfilling the above criteria approval should be granted subject to following conditions.

1. All the air emissions should be kept within the permissible limit of NEQs, monthly reports of air analysis should be submitted.
2. Land contamination should be avoided. Leaked oil and solid waste should be properly collected.



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3. Noise pollution shall be avoided. Community should be protected from all types of Noise pollution. Monthly reports during working hours shall be submitted. Working plan should be shared with local community elders.
4. During trenching and excavation soil condition shall be restored.
5. Tree cutting shall be avoided if possible. Heavy plantation of Native plants shall be carried out in project area where possible.
6. Provide safe means of access route e.g., graded slope, graded access rout.
7. Avoid or minimizing project transportation through community area.
8. Use temporary noise control devices/sheets/mufflers etc.
9. To reduce the impact of vector borne disease, prevention of larval & adult propagation through best sanitary improvements and elimination of breeding habitats close to human settlement and camp site.
10. Water spray shall be carried twice a day out to minimize the dust on transport routes.
11. Timely notice to the residents regarding physical work and noise producing work.
12. Establish community based early warning system regarding the risk of construction work, pipelines and associated infrastructure.
13. Adopt all the safety measures related to construction of pipelines in flood & seismic risk (berms, wall construction, gabions, and safety valves).
14. Excessive use of water negatively affecting local farming and rural livelihoods shall be avoided. Use water in a sustainable way and from sustainable source.
15. The open trenches shall be fenced temporarily and must not be left open overnight. The fencing shall be moved on daily basis along the trenches, temporary walkways could be placed over trenches to enable safe pedestrian passage. Local community shall be informed to trench digging activity (use of local radio station.)
16. A hazard tape shall be used in digging area and area shall be delineated.
17. During rain the water shall be flushed from trenches as soon as possible. Quick emergency response system shall be managed in rainy area. (Ambulance, rescue)
18. The solid waste shall be properly handled and transported to designated place. Hazardous waste shall be incinerated. All the waste oil, grease and filters are placed in sealed container and disposed on designated sites or recycled.
19. The plantation and re-vegetation shall be carried out to maintain the aesthetic value of the area (effected by scaring and infrastructure).
20. Reduce speed on unpaved roads so that less dust is produced. Water spray should be used.
21. The vehicle and generator should have appropriate exhaust system and mufflers to reduce dust and air emissions.
22. Rehabilitate the area cleared for road, site camps, lay down area and pipeline strips.
23. Avoid routing pipelines through forests, wetlands and important wild life area instead use existing corridors.
24. Avoid disruption of any natural water flow (streams).
25. Wild life harvesting should be banned. Educate workforce on the importance of biodiversity.
26. Wood harvesting shall be banned and Educate workforce on the importance of woodlands.
27. Employment shall be given to locals.
28. The pipeline servitude may not be out of bonds for cultivation and livestock.
29. The design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance of pipeline should be according to OGRA Oil Transportation (Pipeline) Technical Standards, 2009 and Natural Gas Transmission Technical Standards Regulations, 2004.



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30. Natural gas pipelines constructed on land in Class 1 locations must be installed with a minimum depth of cover of 30 inches in normal soil or 18 inches in consolidated rock; pipelines installed in navigable rivers, streams, and harbors must have a minimum cover of 48 inches in soil or 24 inches in consolidated rock. Pipelines in Class 2, 3, and 4 locations must be installed with a minimum depth of cover of 36 inches in normal soil or 24 inches in consolidated rock. Similarly 48-inch cover over pipelines is required where a vehicle crossing is to be made for axle loads up to 15,000 pounds; 72-inch cover is required for railroads.
31. Regular inspection and patrolling should be performed to tackle any emergency situation.


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**Secretary to Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Climate Change, Forestry, Environment & Wildlife
Department**

No. SO(ENVT)/CCFE&WD/1-8/EPC-2025:

Copy for information to;

1. All members of Environmental Protection Council (EPC) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
2. PS to Secretary Climate Change, Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa


**Muhammad Ishaq
Section Officer (Environment)**