

8.3 Environmental Permitting for Outfalls

Federal Environment Law No. 24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment (Federal Law 24) requires all projects or establishments to obtain an environmental permit prior to the commencement of site activities. This is required for new projects or a modification to an existing project. The environmental permit is issued to developers or companies involved in development, infrastructure, industrial or commercial projects to ensure that the necessary measures are implemented to protect the environment during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. The Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) Standards Operating Procedures (SoP) for Permitting of Development and Infrastructure Projects in Abu Dhabi, dated April 2010, define the environmental permitting process for projects such as this.

An environmental permit application would need to be issued to the EAD for the entire project life-cycle (construction, operation and decommissioning) and, if required by the EAD, specifically for the discharge of stormwater via the outfall. The EAD would then determine any environmental studies that would be required and would only issue a no objection certificate for the project construction, operation and decommissioning stages once their requirements have been satisfied. For this type of project the EAD may request marine and water quality surveys and hydrodynamic studies and modelling. This would likely involve the collection of baseline data, modelling and reporting.

Federal Law No. 28 of 2005 dictated the establishment of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH). In 2011, the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority (TCA AD) was established. This replaced the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA) and ADACH. TCA-AD is the government institution in charge of conserving and promoting the heritage and culture of the Abu Dhabi Emirate. With the establishment of TCA-AD, the DMAT of Antiquities and Tourism in Al Ain and the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi became part of the new Authority with the aim to achieve an integrated approach to the promotion and enhancement of culture and heritage. In order to permit new projects it is a requirement of this law that a PCR application is made to TCA-AD detailing the project. If deemed necessary, a PCR may be conducted by TCA Abu Dhabi to establish the archaeological status of the site. Without the approval of TCA-AD, the Project will not receive an environmental permit

8.4 Monitoring and Reporting

Waste water and marine water quality monitoring guidance is provided in the EADs Technical Guidance Document for Wastewater and Marine Water Quality Monitoring, April 2011.

Further stormwater quality and marine water quality monitoring requirements will be determined by the EAD during the environmental permitting of the outfall. Furthermore, DMAT may have stormwater monitoring and reporting requirements for specific outfalls and should be consulted in each case.