

SESSION 8

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING

SESSION SUMMARY

This session provides an overview of environmental mitigation and monitoring and how the two concepts are incorporated into Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (EMMPs). Mitigation is the implementation of measures designed to eliminate, reduce or offset the undesirable effects of project activities on the environment. Environmental monitoring is both a systematic observation of key environmental conditions and a systematic verification of the implementation of mitigation measures.

Mitigation measures are a translation of IEE conditions to the project ground-level. Environmental monitoring is a necessary complement to mitigation. Its purpose is to tell us clearly and cost-effectively if mitigation is sufficient and effective. Good environmental monitoring is targeted and takes the simplest effective approach.

With a comprehensive understanding of both mitigation and monitoring, this session provides the foundation for developing a robust Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). The EMMP is the method by which environmental conditions specified in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environmental Assessment (EA) are exposed for implementation. The EMMP sets out specific mitigation measures and monitoring requirements and establishes responsibilities and timing for these actions. EMMPs may also include more detailed information to guide the mitigation and monitoring of potential environmental impacts, such as monitoring indicators and results, and budgetary estimates. The EMMP helps project implementers and managers to effectively mitigate adverse impacts and to understand whether mitigation measures are in place and effective.

EMMPs are developed by first understanding how the conditions established in the IEE or EA apply to “real-world” implementation of the project (e.g., once a project work plan has been developed). These conditions are then “translated” into specific mitigation measures that will eliminate, reduce, or offset the undesirable effects of project activities. The monitoring criteria, timelines, and responsible parties are detailed for each mitigation measure.