

REVISED POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

OPIC's current Environmental and Social Policy Statement (ESPS) was adopted in October 2010 to ensure that OPIC-supported projects are environmentally and socially sustainable. In keeping with best practice, it is important to periodically assess the effectiveness of policies such as the ESPS with our stakeholders.

In the six years since the adoption of the 2010 policy, global markets have changed and OPIC products have adapted to those changing market conditions. OPIC remains committed to sustainable development and prudent risk management and will ensure that the policy remains an effective tool in achieving those commitments.

OPIC's draft revised ESPS can be found [here](#)

Red line version of OPIC's ESPS can be found [here](#)

In keeping with OPIC's commitment to transparency, OPIC is committed to seeking input from members of the interested public on material changes to the ESPS. The draft policy will be available for a 60 day comment period on the proposed changes. The public comment period will end on November 23, 2016.

Written comments or feedback on the draft can be submitted to esps@opic.gov or mailed to Kate Dunbar, Office of Investment Policy, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20527.

Comments provided are collected voluntarily and will be publicly disclosed on OPIC's website. By providing comments you are consenting to their use and consideration by OPIC. For additional information regarding submitting comments containing Confidential Business Information please contact OPIC directly at the above email. For additional information, please review OPIC's Privacy Policy.

Proposed Revisions

During the policy revision, OPIC hosted several meetings and invited recommendations from civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the business community. This engagement actively informed the proposed revisions, including:

- Incorporation of human rights risks more systematically into OPIC's social assessment. Those projects with the potential for significant social impacts can be designated as Special Consideration.
- Revision of the greenhouse gas (GHG) policy to incorporate the "netting" proposal for retrofitting power plants and fuel switching, provided life cycle GHG accounting demonstrates a net reduction in GHG emissions.
- Updated policies to employ "risk-based" project selection for site monitoring, and providing public disclosure of monitoring trip summaries to increase transparency.
- Greater emphasis on a "risk-based" approach to screen sub-projects originated by financial intermediaries such as investment funds or banks.

Much of the feedback received during the ESPS revision consultations focused on greater transparency and clarity regarding how OPIC implements the ESPS. Once the ESPS revision is final, OPIC will develop updated procedures to reflect changes in the guiding policies. These procedures are not part of the ESPS review, but OPIC welcomes substantive suggestions on how to improve these procedures during the policy review process. Once final, the revised procedures will also be made available on OPIC's website.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I participate in OPIC's review of its ESPS?

You are welcome to submit comments at any point during the course of this review in writing to esps@opic.gov. In order to be considered in the final policy, please submit comments by November 23, 2016.

2. What is the timeline for this review?

The draft policy will be available for a 60 day comment period on the proposed changes. The public comment period will end on November 23, 2016.

3. What is included in the scope of OPIC's review of the ESPS?

The ESPS includes the policies that guide OPIC's review of environmental and social impacts of potential projects. Following the finalization of the revised ESPS, updated procedures will be developed to reflect changes in the guiding policies. Please see OPIC's current Procedures Manual. These procedures are not part of the ESPS review, but OPIC welcomes substantive suggestions on how to improve these procedures during the policy review process.

OPIC is particularly interested in receiving examples of policies, procedures, studies, or guidance that have worked well in specific project sectors or regions.

4. I submitted comments online. Will I receive a response to my questions and comments?

OPIC is recording all submitted comments and will publish a consolidated management response to each comment received during the 60-day public comment period alongside the revised ESPS.