

SCHEDULE III (Regulation 14)

Criteria to be applied in Screening

The screening shall address at least the following criteria, as relevant to the project and its context. Aspects identified in Schedule IV may also be addressed, insofar as relevant and proportionate to the screening, and as long as the required information or considerations are reasonably available at the time of screening.

1. Characteristics of the project

The characteristics of the project must be considered, with particular regard to:

- (a) the nature, size, scale and design of the whole project;
- (b) cumulation, interaction or interference with other projects that are existing, approved or foreseeable;
- (c) the use or consumption of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
- (d) the production of waste;
- (e) pollution, nuisances and disturbance to the surroundings;
- (f) the risk and implications of major accidents or disasters which may be relevant to the project, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge, as well as the vulnerability, exposure and resilience of the project and its area of influence thereto; and
- (g) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).

2. Location of the project

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project must be considered, with particular regard to:

- (a) the existing and approved land use;
- (b) the relative abundance, availability, quality, sensitivity and regenerative capacity of natural resources, soil, land, water, ecosystems and biodiversity in the area and its underground;
- (c) the conservation value and impact-absorption capacity of the environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
 - (i) wetlands, riparian areas, natural water bodies including aquifers, valleys and their watersheds, and other factors of hydrological relevance;
 - (ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;
 - (iii) mountain and forest areas;

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- (iv) nature reserves and parks;
- (v) areas that are classified, protected or designated for conservation under any environmentally-relevant legislation, including inter alia, areas classified or protected under national legislation or otherwise designated under any supra-national agreement, convention or protocol, as well as Natura 2000 sites;
- (vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in any relevant legislation, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure, or where any relevant thresholds or ceilings are close to being exceeded, or where the project is likely to cause additional loading which cannot be sustained by the carrying capacity of the environment;
- (vii) densely populated areas;
- (viii) landscapes, sites and features of scenic, historical, cultural or archaeological significance; and
- (ix) natural and semi-natural habitats, or any other environmental features of known or potential scientific, geological, ecological or other natural heritage value.

3. Type and characteristics of the potential impact

The likely or possible significant effects of the project on the environment must be considered in relation to the criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Schedule, taking into account:

- (a) the nature of the impact;
- (b) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, the geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (c) the transboundary nature of the impact, if relevant (especially in the case of projects located close to the national frontier, or projects which could give rise to significant effects far removed from the site of the project);
- (d) the intensity and complexity of the impact, including direct impacts as well as indirect implications of interaction with natural processes or with other impacts;
- (e) the probability of the impact occurring;
- (f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and degree of reversibility of the impact;
- (g) the cumulation of the impact with the effects of other projects that are existing, approved, or foreseeable; and
- (h) the possibility of effectively reducing or avoiding the impact, and the reliability with which the impact can be predicted, determined, monitored, managed and addressed.