

IAIA08: Training course #3

The Concepts, Process and Methods of Social Impact Assessment: A Basic Course

Making Social Impact Assessment Count in the Planning and Environmental Assessment Process

Rabel J. Burdge and C. Nicholas Taylor

Level: The foundation SIA course is designed for persons who have no prior experience and those with some experience but who wish to update their SIA skills against common international practice.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites, although a general awareness of the EIA process is helpful.

Language and Duration: The training course will be conducted in English and last for two days.

Number of Participants: Minimum 10 and maximum 35

Contact Details:

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Section 2-Course Description

Purpose of the training course

To provide participants with the basic knowledge, understanding and technical skills to do social impact assessment at the community and project level for a variety of development and policy proposals for both developed and developing countries. To achieve this goal the course will cover the steps in the SIA process with special emphasis on: 1) öscoping,ö 2) determining significant social impacts, 3) using SIA variables for

developing enhancement and mitigation programs, and 4) the participatory elements of the assessment process.

Target Audience

The introductory SIA course is designed for planners; Department of Environment personnel; development workers for domestic and international aid and donor organizations, extension and community development workers; consultants in the private sector as well as faculty and students in planning, environmental studies, engineering, the social sciences; and any person wanting or required to do social impact assessment.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the framework for doing a social impact assessment within the context of the planning/decision process for a proposed action.
- Be able to implement scoping within the SIA-EIA process as used by government and private sector agencies as well as international aid and donor organizations.
- Understand how to identify and gather data for the description and measurement of key social impact assessment variables at the project and community level.
- Be familiar with the approaches utilized to enhance and mitigate significant social impacts within a variety of assessment processes and settings.
- Understand the participatory elements of the assessment process.

Format

A portion of the class will be devoted to lecturing, how to use the three SIA books and discussion of social impact assessments completed by the instructors. However, much of the time will be devoted to working in groups developing an SIA for the case study a proposed diamond mine on Aboriginal land.

Detailed Description of the course structure and content

Day One

-Introductions, course resources, instructor and participant learning objectives, and individual experiences-flipchart recording.

-Citizens learn about social impact assessment-a short cartoon series on how a small community responds to the proposed arrival of a big box store at the town edge.

-Social impact assessment, its definition, history and conceptual background--slide and lecture presentation with a handout.

-Presentation and discussion of the basic steps in the SIA process slide and lecture presentation with a handout.

Presentation and discussion of Scoping and the initial identification of social impacts slide and lecture presentation with a handout.

-Introduction to the case study and group interactive exercise on **Scoping** utilizing the proposed Snap Lake Diamond Project. **A brief discussion of the case study:** De Beers Canada Mining Inc. has submitted applications for a Class "A" Land Use Permit and a Class "A" Water Licence for the proposed SLDP (Snap Lake Diamond Project) to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for the following developments:

ÉDevelopment of a 3,000 tonne per day underground diamond mine with an operating life of 22 years;

ÉConstruction of support facilities, including a camp complex for up to 350 people, process plant, paste plant, cement plant, processed kimberlite (PK) containment area, explosives factory, storage buildings, waste disposal systems, and power plant;

ÉExpansion of existing facilities, including tank farm, airstrip, and explosive storage;

ÉEstablishment of annual winter access and esker access roads along existing routes; and,

ÉQuarrying of esker material as required for construction and operational purposes.

-The goal of the scoping exercise is to identify as many of the social impacts (in scoping language that means key issues or effects) which should be addressed in the Social Impact Assessment work plan. Each participant will be given a copy of the 20 page baseline study (community profile) for the proposed mining project

-*Working Lunch* (complete work on the scoping exercise as necessary).

-Groups share the results of the scoping exercise on social impacts and evaluate the usefulness of the chaining and linking exercise.

-Presentation on participative social impact assessmentô slide and lecture presentation with a handout.

-Presentation and group interactive activity on stakeholder identification and the linkage of stakeholder analysis to identified social impacts for the SLDP. In this exercise, participants are asked to identify the interested and affected parties (stakeholders); e.g., proponents, communities, First Nations, voluntary associations, municipal, village, Shire, State, Provincial and Federal governments, non-governmental organizations, interested citizens, etc.?

-Presentation on understanding, identifying, and the conceptual rationale for the proposed 28 social impact assessment variables. The SIA variables are; 1) Population Impacts, and 2) Community and Institutional Arrangements 3 Communities in Transition; 4) Individual and Family Level Impacts; and 5) Community Infrastructure Needs.

-Summary and questions on the day's activities followed by the homework assignment which is to do the quizzes at the end of Chapters 1-5 of the *Guide* and answer questions on environmental and social impact assessment acronymsô handout (answers the next day).

Day Two

-Answer questions from the homework and sharing of SIA and other assessment experiences.

-Presentation on the use of surveys and questionnaires in SIA researchô lecture and class discussion.

-Presentation on sources of data and applying data to social impact assessment variablesô lecture and class discussion and review of book materials.

-Group interactive activity on finding sources of data and measuring the identified social impacts. In this exercise the participants will begin to analyze social impacts identified as potentially significant in the previous exercises on issue and stakeholder identification utilizing data provided in the detailed community profile (baseline study).

-Difference between Public Involvement and Social Impact Assessmentô short lecture and class discussion as time permits.

Working Lunch (participants continue to work on measurement of the identified SIA variables using the information provided in the baseline study).

-Discussion and comparison of the results of each work group in measuring and identified significant social impacts.

-Presentation and discussion on mitigation, enhancement, evaluation and monitoringô lecture, slide presentation and handout.

-Group interactive activity on mitigation and enhancement programs identified significant social impacts for the proposed Snap Lake Diamond Project. In the exercise participants outline a Mitigation/Enhancement Plan of Action that involves both the community and the proponent.

-Group sharing and discussion of suggested mitigation and enhancement programs and variables for monitoring social impacts.

-Presentation and discussion comparing the administrative and legal requirements for SIA in different parts of the worldô lecture, slide presentation and discussion of handout.

-The Lesotho Highlands Project--Participants test their knowledge by identifying possible social impacts for a proposed series of water impoundments inside the Kingdom of Lesotho surrounded by South Africa.

-Discuss sources of help to do SIA and net-working opportunities and complete course evaluation.

Description of materials received during the course:

Each participant will receive the following three books as part of the course feeô a US\$58 value.

- Rabel J. Burdge, 2004. *Concepts, Process and Methods of Social Impact Assessment*,
- Rabel J. Burdge, 2004. *A Community Guide to Social Impact Assessment*, 3rd edition.
- C. Nicholas Taylor, C. Hobson Bryan and Colin G. Goodrich. 2004. *Social Assessment: Theory, Process and Techniques*, 3rd Edition.

Each participant will receive the 20 page baseline study (community profile) for the proposed Snap Lake Diamond Mine which will be used as the case study. In addition, participants will receive six sets of handouts covering the slide presentations and the worksheets for the case study.

Provisions for Pre- and Post Conference Communication with Participants:

Course outlines will be sent to participants who pre-register. In addition, the course evaluations along with an updated roster are sent to all participants after the conference. Burdge updates SIA literature for previous SIA course participants via e-mail. Burdge and Taylor are active in the SIA section of IAIA and are responsible for maintaining and updating the SIA key citation index. Burdge provides periodic updates on SIA information for an e-mail network of interested persons to include previous IAIA/SIA workshop participants. Both instructors will attend the Perth conference and be available for consultation.

Section 3 Qualifications of the Trainers.

Brief resumes.

Rabel J. Burdge is a Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies at Western Washington University and Professor Emeritus, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he held tenure appointments from 1975-1996 in the Institute for Environmental Studies, and Departments of Agricultural Economics (Rural sociology) and Urban and Regional Planning. In 1994, Burdge received the IAIA Rose-Hulman Award for distinguished contributions to the field of impact assessment. In addition to teaching SIA and public involvement courses in two universities for almost three decades, Burdge has done SIA-EIA, public involvement, technological assessment and environmental management workshops and courses for the both UNEP and UNDP, World Bank Affiliates, US state and federal land management agencies, the Cooperative Extension Service as well as such professional societies as the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Community Development Society (CDS), International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) and the Rural Sociological Society (RSS). Burdge was the informal leader of the Interorganizational Social Science Committee that developed both the 1993 and 2003 version of the *U.S. Principals and Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment*. The third editions of his two SIA books listed above were revised in 2004. In 2003, he edited two issues (Nos 2 & 3) of *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* titled "The Practice of Social Impact Assessment."

C. Nicholas Taylor is a founding Director of Taylor Baines & Associates. He has been involved since the early 1980s in the development of approaches and techniques for social impact assessment. He has edited a special issue on SIA for *Project Appraisal* and has a major text, *Social Assessment: Theory, Process and Techniques*, first published in 1990, revised in 1995 and again in 2004. Taylor has worked on a wide range of public and private sector projects, and for multilateral development agencies. His particular interests are in social impacts of agriculture and land use change, major projects in rural communities and natural resources management. He is active in social assessment

networks including the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment core group, and committees of IAIA. He has led numerous, successful courses on SIA around the world and has worked on SIA capacity building initiatives in South Africa, Australia and Malaysia. He was a candidate for President-elect of IAIA in 2007.