

Large Scale and Long Term Impacts Practical Lessons from Big Projects

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‘To console Practitioners and to Challenge
Academics and Legislators’



ROLES



EIA Guidelines

- Generic
- Roads
- Wind
- Visual

Assessment of EIS's

- Hydropower (Iceland)
- Mining (Ireland)
- Landfill (Italy)
- Offshore Energy (Ireland)



Large Scale EIS

- Biotechnology
- Wafer Fab
- Railway
- Motorway
- Power Systems



OUTLINE

- 5 Lessons on Preparing Large-scale EIS's
- 5 Lessons on Assessing Large-scale EIS's
- General Conclusion

PREPARING LARGE IMPACT STATEMENTS

- Large Projects are Different
- Unique Challenges
- Critical Actions

LARGE PROJECTS ARE DIFFERENT

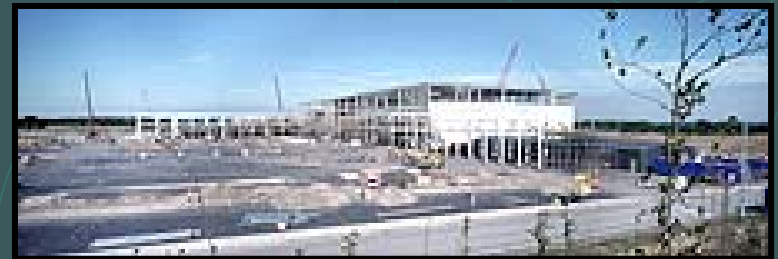
- Contractual Autonomies
- Extensive Sites
- Diffuse, Cumulative, Secondary Impacts
- Long Term and Remote Impacts



Intel, Ireland

UNIQUE CHALLENGE TO EIA TEAM

- Early Influence
- Critical Preliminary Judgements
- Confidence Bridging

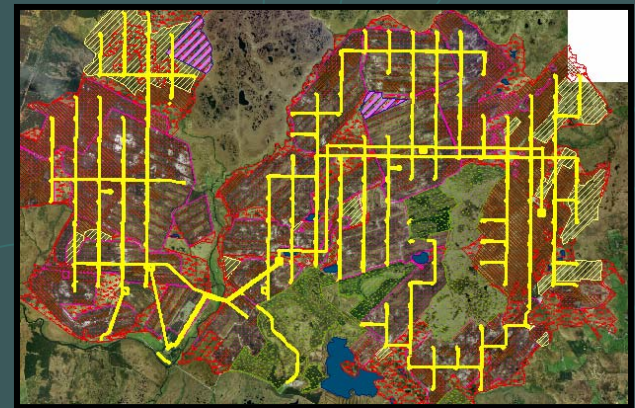


Wyeth Pharmaceutical, Ireland

CRITICAL ACTION BY TEAM LEADER

- Setting Trajectories by:-
 - Influencing Methods, Designs and Resources
 - Establishing Project Values

- Leading the EIA Community
 - Not just the EIS Team



Oweninny Windfarm, Co. Mayo
Ireland

5 LESSONS ON PREPARING LARGE IA'S

- 1. Big is Different - Spread the Word**
- 2. Influence the Acorn - Not the Oak**
- 3. Sustainability is an Attitude - Infect them**
- 4. 90% IMPACT IN FIRST 10% OF PROGRAMME**
- 5. Leading is More than Overseeing**

ASSESSING LARGE IMPACT STATEMENTS

- 6P's
- Big projects - Big Impacts
- Big Decisions!
- Advising or Deciding?
- Politics

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a mountain range, with contour lines and peaks visible. The rest of the slide has a dark teal background with faint, light blue contour lines.

6 P's

- 1. Pressure**
- 2. Proximity**
- 3. Paralysis**
- 4. Panic**
- 5. Politics**
- 6. Perspective**

BIG PROJECTS - BIG IMPACTS

- Is Big Bad?
- Proportionate Impacts
- Environmental Versus Other Impacts



**Norolingaolduveita Dam
Ramsar site, Iceland**

BIG DECISIONS!

- Extinction or Inconvenience?
- Reversibility and Time Content
- When to Say No



**Karahnjúkar Hydropower Project
Iceland**

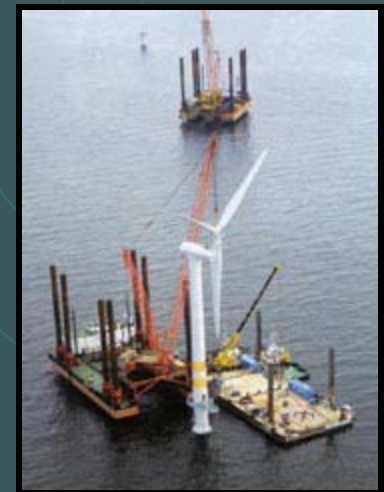
ADVISING OR DECIDING?

- Consequences of Decisions
- Alternatives
- Uncertain versus Unknown
- The Worst Case



Arklow Bank, Ireland

Source: Airtricity





POLITICS

Environment = Decisions = Value System = Culture

- **EIA Advises - Politics Decides**
- **Expending Environmental Capital?**
- **Environmental Imperialism ?**

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a coastline, with white contour lines and a yellow line indicating a path or boundary.

5 LESSONS ON ASSESSING LARGE EIS'S

- 1. Big is not always Bad**
- 2. Reversibility is the Golden Rule**
- 3. Can't Decide about the Unknown**
- 4. Advise Politics of Consequences**
- 5. KEEP PERSPECTIVES - Read More History**

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a mountain range, with contour lines and a yellow line indicating a path or boundary.

CONCLUSION

**Quantitative Considerations become
subservient to Qualitative issues on very large
projects.**

**Often dismissed as 'Politics - but it's who we
really are.**