

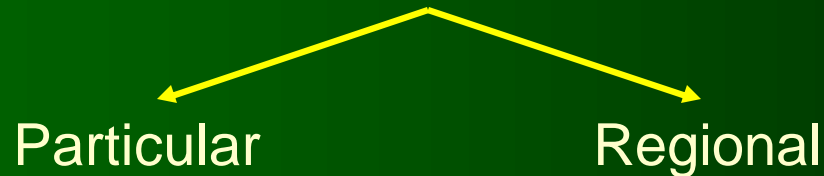
THE WRITING OF EIS FOR ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN MEXICO

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EIS REVIEWING BY THE AUTHORITY (SEMARNAT)

Two types of EIS according to Mexican legislation



- SEMARNAT has up to 60 working days (around 3 months) to review an EIS
- Time period can be extended up to 60 additional days if SEMARNAT considers that the project is exceptionally big and complex

THE EIGHT CHAPTERS OF EIS IN MEXICO (1 – 4)

Chapter	Contents
1	General information about the project, the promoter and the person responsible for the EIS
2	Project description
3	Entail with the planning and law regulations
4	Description of the regional environment system and discussion of the development and deterioration of the region

THE EIGHT CHAPTERS OF EIS IN MEXICO (5 – 8)

Chapter	Contents
5	Identification, description and evaluation of the environmental impacts to be produced
6	Preventive and mitigation measures to be applied regarding environmental impacts
7	Foreseable environmental scenarios of the region and, if the case, evaluation of alternatives
8	Description of the methodology and technical elements used to make the EIA

DATA OF 29 EIS FROM CFE PROJECTS

Chapter	Pages	Words	Tables	Figures	Photos
1	7.7	1060	1.9	0.7	0.0
2	48.9	13520	17.4	5.6	6.1
3	23.6	6772	4.2	3.8	0.1
4	110.5	31916	50.4	21.7	8.8
5	43.1	10646	19.4	6.7	0.1
6	10.5	3298	1.7	0.5	0.0
7	12.3	2980	1.7	2.2	0.5
8	18.4	4565	3.8	1.0	10.5
Appendixes	59.2	12582	16.1	15.2	25.2
Totals	334.2	87340	116.5	57.5	51.5

PROGRAMMING AN EIS

- Leader

- Issuing authority

- EIS control group (reviewers/discussers)

SCHEDULE: SCOTT (1984) RECOMMENDATION

Four-stage approach:

Draft 1	to get the skeleton right
Draft 2	to get the content right
Draft 3	to get the style right, and
Draft 4	to get the presentation right

One hour per 1,200* words (approximately four pages)

Unit of measurement for scheduling = Half days

SCOTT'S SUGGESTION - 12,000 WORDS DOCUMENT

Activity	Half days
Preliminary discussion and preparation	2
Secondary preparation and dictation of Draft 1	3
Colleague's reading time and discussion	2
Draft 2	3
Discussion	2
Draft 3	3
Discussion	2
Draft 4	3
TOTAL	20

TIME TO PREPARE AN EIS (87,000 WORDS)

Activity	Half days
Preliminary discussion and preparation	3
Secondary preparation and dictation of Draft 1	18
Colleague's reading time and discussion	10*
Draft 2	18
Discussion	10
Draft 3	18
Discussion	10
Draft 4	18
TOTAL	105 = 4.8 months

TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EIS PREPARATION

Activity	Time unit (weeks, months, etc)						Months to prepare the EIS				
	1	2	3	n		1	2	3	4	5
Analysis of the project and its alternatives	■										
Identification of the project actions	■	■									
Determination of the study area	■	■									
Environmental inventory	■	■	■								
Identification of environment factors		■	■								
Identification of potential impacts		■	■								
Characterization of the significant impacts			■								
Identification of impact indicators			■	■							
Impacts appraisal				■	■						
Evaluation of significant impacts				■	■						
Identification of interested social groups	■	■	■	■	■						
Appraisal of the total impact					■	■					
Mitigation measures proposal					■	■					
Appraisal of the corrected impact					■	■					
Environmental monitoring program						■	■				
Engineering design of the project	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Environmental impact statement (EIS)							■	■	■	■	■

EPILOGUE

- Preparing an EIS is a difficult task
- It can only be successfully approached within a multi / inter / trans-disciplinary team
- The writer must comply with two competing objectives



Plain language

Clear technical picture

3-D VISION OF AN EIS → SUSTAINABLE PROJECT

