



### Summary of Updates

## 1. What are the EHS Guidelines?

The Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). They are referenced in the World Bank's **Environmental and Social Framework** and in IFC's and MIGA's **Performance Standards**. The EHS Guidelines contain the performance levels and measures that are normally acceptable to the World Bank Group, and that are generally considered to be achievable in new facilities at reasonable costs by existing technology.

## 2. Why are the EHS Guidelines being updated?

The first generation of EHS Guidelines date back to 2007. The EHS Guidelines are being updated to:

- Reflect the latest GIIP
- Update key references to relevant mitigation measures, standards, and performance indicators
- Incorporate emerging sustainability topics, where applicable
- Integrate advancements in industry standards and technology

## 3. What are the proposed changes to the **Electric Power Transmission and Distribution (ETD) Guidelines**?

The proposed updates to the [EHS Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution \(2007\)](#) include:

### Design and Siting Section

- A new section emphasizing the **importance of early-stage risk avoidance** through route planning, siting and design for electric transmissions lines.
- Additional guidance regarding siting criteria to avoid and reduce direct **impacts on sensitive receptors**, including surrounding communities and biodiversity impacts through screening, collocation and line alignment.
- Emphasis on the importance of **infrastructure design and material selection** in ensuring electrical safety and reducing fire hazards.
- Integration of **climate resilience** into siting and design and explicit reference to **grid modernization**.

### Environmental Section

- Updated strategies for **reducing impacts on terrestrial and aquatic habitats and wildlife**, including risks related to wildlife electrocution and collision with power lines.
- Additional measures to protect terrestrial and aquatic habitats and biodiversity during **right of way establishment**, and related impacts during the construction phase (e.g., setbacks, dredging).
- **Strategies to prevent pollution**, such as managing chemical use and waste, handling of hazardous materials and minimizing runoff into natural habitats.
- Approaches for the **avoidance and phasing out sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**, with management measures.

- Monitoring **approaches and controlling measures** for invasive species to preserve native ecosystems and updated guidance on **wood preservatives**.

### Occupational Health and Safety Section

- **Physical hazards** from live conductors, energized components, arc flashes, and working at heights, and the relevant safety measures (include training, certification, and emergency response).
- Additional guidance regarding **exposure to hazardous materials** such as herbicides, insulating gases, and chemical preservatives is addressed, with guidance on handling and safety measures.
- Updated **minimum approach distances and EMF exposure limits** following ICNIRP.
- Integration of **climate risks** (e.g., heat stress, extreme weather).

### Community Health and Safety Section

- Expanded guidance on **health and safety risks to communities** including those related to electrocution and fire related hazards, noise (including infrastructure maintenance).
- Updated guidance on **exposure to electromagnetic fields** based on ICNIRP, and emphasis on awareness-raising initiatives to the public.
- Aircraft and vessel navigation hazards.
- Additional guidance regarding **emergency preparedness and response**, including community engagement and awareness.

### Performance Indicators and Monitoring Section

- Updated **EHS performance indicators and benchmarks** that reflect current industry standards and best practices, allowing for more accurate monitoring and reporting of EHS performance.
- Updated tables for EMF exposure for workers and the public, minimum approach distance.
- New section on post-construction fatality monitoring (PCFM) of birds and other wildlife.

### References Section

- Key updated references that align with current global practices include:
  - **Design references** including US DOE, IEC.
  - **Updated environmental references**, including the US EPA and the EC.
  - **Biodiversity references** including UNEP, APLIC, Life Elia, and other leading industry practices for managing habitat and wildlife impacts from transmission lines
  - **Construction and operational safety** aspects including ICNIRP, IHSA and UK HSE.

## 4. How can I participate in the consultation process?

The updated EHS Guidelines will undergo a 45-day public consultation period, with start and end dates listed on the EHS Guidelines website. To provide feedback:

1. From the EHS Guidelines website, click on the "Update and Consultation" link.
2. Select the guideline you wish to review.
3. Submit your feedback by clicking the "Submit Feedback" button.
4. A summary of consultation feedback will be published with aggregated and unattributed feedback.

Feedback is welcomed on the **technical content** of the guidelines, the **clarity and flow** of the text, **references** and examples of real-world **implementation challenges and successes**.