

Mission Statement, Principles & Policies

Department of Health, Safety and Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources
Kurdistan Regional Government

Prepared by
Dr Hallo Askari
HSE Advisor
May 2013

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in accordance with the provisions of Article 53 of Law 22 of 2007, the Department of Health, Safety and Environment at the Ministry of Natural Resources has been created.

MNR is the primary regulator of the oil and gas industry in the Kurdistan Region. Under the Kurdistan oil and gas law, MNR regulates the construction, operation, reporting and abandonment requirements for oil field operations and the management of crude oil and prior to refining. MNR is also responsible for the region's oil and gas industry including encouraging investments, operation of infrastructure, planning, and recommending and overseeing policies.

Mission Statement

The Health, Safety and Environment Department of Ministry of Natural Resources strives for the development of Kurdistan's hydrocarbon resources in a socially and environmentally responsible manner to meet the growing demands of the local population.

Principles

In order to achieve its mission statement, The Health, Safety and Environment Department's activities will be carried out in accordance with the following principles:

- Responsible Economic Development & Environmental Management: Protect the region's biodiversity, wild habitat and water resources and promote environmentally sound activities while seeking the optimal-level of exploitation of regional natural resources.
- Accountability & Transparency: Adhere to the Extractive Industries Transparency Standard and its requirements, and practice transparency and accountability in all dealings and activities.
- Integrity & Ethics: Promote the dignified treatment of governmental and industry workers, and adhere to the Ten Principles of the Global Compact of the United Nations in all dealings and activities;
- Collaboration & Communication: Encourage active collaboration and communication between industry, government and the public.

Policies

The Health, Safety and Environment Department's Environmental Policy includes:

- Manage and regulate oil and gas activities to ensure compliance with the provisions of applicable legislation, regulations, accepted standards and guidelines for health and safety, and environmental protection;
- Develop effective monitoring, inspection and management systems to identify and reduce environmentally damaging behaviour at all stages of exploration, development, production and rehabilitation.
- Work and collaborate with appropriate government departments and agencies to develop laws, regulations, policies, and procedures to protect the environment and sustainable extractive practices.
- Monitor, inspect, and help ensure the implementation of environmental components of Petroleum Contracts, Environmental Impact Assessments, and other agreements;
- Develop and execute health, safety, environmental and community risk management strategies that are based on sound science and effective communication.
- Continuously improve health, safety and environmental performance in addressing risks posed by oil and gas activities to employees, contractors and the public.
- Reduce the impact of operations on the environment, public health and safety to as low as reasonably practicable to prevent pollution, conserve resources and to an acceptable level by using the best available technology and management practices.
- Establish and implement emergency response plans and procedures for oil-related disasters that can be responded to in a timely and effective manner, and monitor the response plans and efforts of oil companies during an emergency, ensuring compliance with response standards and guidelines.
- Ensure that adequate waste management practices are carried out based on the prevention, minimisation, recycling, treatment and disposal of wastes.
- Provide adequate training to enable employees and contractors to adopt environmentally responsible work practices and to be aware of their stewardship responsibilities.

- Endorse research to advance scientific knowledge concerning the conservation of resources, minimisation of wastes, improving the understanding of risks and impacts and to cost effectively minimise these, to improve environmental protection.
- Initiate capacity development programs in all relevant institutions in the environment sector, for areas identified as relevant/critical to the oil and gas sector with particular emphasis on managerial skills.
- Promote public awareness to improve understanding of the impact of oil and gas activities on the environment and to encourage environmental protection as a responsibility of all;
- Continually update regional standards based on international best practices;

Through these activities, The Health, Safety and Environment Department will be able to:

- Help ensure the responsible development of the region's hydrocarbon resources in order to achieve sustainable prosperity;
- Identify, encourage, and reward existing and future beneficial environmental performance;
- Protect the health and safety of the employees and the local population;
- Impart sound advice to the industry and government based on international best practices;
- Coordinate with government in implementing current legislation, and work towards the development of future, environmentally protective legislation and regulation;
- Perform research and lead open discussions at a variety of forums.