

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF BELARUS**

' __ ' _____ ' 201_ . No. ____

**APPROVING REGULATIONS ON A PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIZING
AND CONDUCTING PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF ENVIRONMENTALLY
SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS, PUBLICIZING THEM**

On the basis of the second paragraph of Article 15-2 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 26 November 1992 on Environmental Protection, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus RESOLVES:

1. To approve the attached Regulations on a procedure for organizing and conducting public discussions of environmentally significant decisions, publicizing them.

2. To amend the following resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus:

2.1. delete Chapter 3 from the Regulations on the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment, approved by Resolution No. 755 of the Council of Ministers of 19 May 2010 on Several Measures to Implement the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 9 November 2009 on State Environmental Review [Expertiza] (National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2010, No. 131, 5/31876).

2.2 In the Instructions on the procedure for the preparation of legislation by national government bodies and other state organizations subordinate to the Government of the Republic of Belarus, approved by Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 2070 of 31 December 2008 on Several Measures Aiming to Enhance the Role and Quality of the Work of Legal Services (National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2009, No. 19, 5/29149; 2012, No. 9, 5/35086) ('the Instructions'):

add the words “, and also the draft documents referred to in the third subparagraph of the first paragraph of Article 15-2 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 26 November 1992 on Environmental Protection as amended by the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 17 July 2002 (Ведамасці Вярхоўнага Савета Рэспублікі Беларусь, 1993, No. 1, p. 1; National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2002, No. 85, 2/875; 2006, No. 6, 2/1177; No. 107, 2/1235; 2007, No. 147, 2/1335; 2008, No. 1, 2/1395; No. 170, 2/1464; No. 275, 2/1541; 2009, No. 161, 2/1584; 2010, No. 120, 2/1679; 2011, No. 59, 2/1811; 2012, No. 1, 2/1878; 2013, No. 5, 2/2016) ('draft documents that may have an environmental impact');” to point 10.11-1;

amend point 10.11-2 as follows:

“10.11-2. setting deadlines for final revision of the draft documents referred to in point 10.11-1 of these instructions, according to the outcomes of public discussion;”;

add the following point 18-2 to the Instructions:

“18-2. A public authority and (or) other organization producing a draft document (‘the document drafter’) that may have an environmental impact is obliged to make the draft document generally available by means of publishing it in print, disseminating it through other mass media or other generally accessible means of communication, including posting it on its own official website (‘publicizing’ it). In addition to consultation conducted under the Rules of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the draft document being produced may be sent in writing for consultation to public authorities and other organizations, public environmental protection associations concerned, at the discretion of the public authority or other organization.

The period for mandatory public discussion of a draft document that may have an environmental impact is to be determined by the document drafter depending on its complexity and size, specific aspects of relations with the public as laid down by rules, but may not be less than 20 calendar days from the date the draft document is publicized.

The document drafter is to maintain a record of and examine communications from citizens and organizations, submitted during mandatory public discussion of the draft document.

If mandatory public discussion of and consultation on a draft document that may have an environmental impact result in comments and suggestions being expressed by public authorities and other organizations, public environmental protection associations, concerned, the document drafter is obliged to take steps to eliminate disputes, inter alia through organizing and conducting meetings to discuss dissenting positions.

After elimination of any disputes or if there have been none, a draft document that may have an environmental impact may, at the discretion of the document drafter, be posted again on its official website and (or) sent in writing for consultation to public authorities and other organizations, public environmental protection associations, concerned.

No later than 30 calendar days from the date of the end of the period indicated in the second indent of point 18-2 of these instructions, the document drafter is obliged to post on its official website a list of communications received during public discussion of the draft document, with an indication of the reasons permitting these communications to be considered or not considered.

Draft documents that may have an environmental impact are to be submitted to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus with information about the outcomes of public discussion appended to them.”.

3. This Resolution is to come into force from ‘ ___ ’ ‘ _____ ’ 201_.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus

REGULATIONS

ON A PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS, PUBLICIZING THEM

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. These Regulations, produced in accordance with Article 15-2 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 26 November 1992 on Environmental Protection, as amended by the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 17 July 2002 (Ведамасці Вярхоўнага Савета Рэспублікі Беларусь, 1993, No. 1, p. 1; National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2002, No. 85, 2/875; 2006, No. 6, 2/1177; No. 107, 2/1235; 2007, No. 147, 2/1335; 2008, No. 1, 2/1395; No. 170, 2/1464; No. 275, 2/1541; 2009, No. 161, 2/1584; 2010, No. 120, 2/1679; 2011, No. 59, 2/1811; 2012, No. 1, 2/1878; 2013, No. 5, 2/2016), establish a procedure for organizing and conducting public discussions of environmentally significant decisions being made by public authorities, with respect to:

1.1. draft conceptual frameworks, forecasts, programmes, plans and schemes for the development of sectors of industry, the implementation of which is related to the use of natural resources and (or) may have an environmental impact ('draft plan, programme');

1.2. an activity referred to in annex 1 to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, done at Aarhus (Denmark) on 25 June 1998, as well as changes to the operating conditions for that activity, with the exception of an activity referred to in paragraph 5 of this section;

1.2. activities where the installations involved are subject to environmental impact assessment ('EIA') under the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on state environmental review;

1.3. the removal, transplant of flora under the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on flora.

2. These Regulations aim to ensure the right of citizens and public environmental protection associations ('public associations') to participate in public discussions of environmentally significant decisions being made by public authorities.

3. For the purposes of these Regulations, terms are used with the meanings set out in

Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 26 November 1992 on Environmental Protection, as amended by the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 17 July 2002 (Ведамасці Вярхоўнага Савета Рэспублікі Беларусь, 1993, No. 1, p. 1; National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2002,

No. 85, 2/875; 2006, No. 6, 2/1177; No. 107, 2/1235; 2007, No. 147, 2/1335; 2008, No. 1, 2/1395; No. 170, 2/1464; No. 275, 2/1541; 2009, No. 161, 2/1584; 2010, No. 120, 2/1679; 2011, No. 59, 2/1811; 2012, No. 1, 2/1878; 2013, No. 5, 2/2016) ('the Environmental Protection Act');

Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 9 November 2009 on State Environmental Review [Expertiza] (National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2009, No. 276, 2/1606; 2011, No. 82, 2/1845) ('the State Environmental Review Act');

the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, done at Aarhus (Denmark) on 25 June 1998 (National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2003, No. 95, 3/866), alongside the following terms and their definitions:

'public discussion' is a set of measures taken by public authorities and (or) state organizations, ensuring that citizens, public associations, other organizations ('the public') are informed about a draft environmentally significant decision; the opportunity to express public opinion with regard to a proposed decision; taking public opinion into account in decision-making, in the aim of observing the right to a favourable environment; publicizing a decision made;

'the public concerned' is one or more natural persons and (or) legal entities affected or likely to be affected by the implementation of an environmentally significant decision. Public associations undertaking activities in the area of environmental protection are deemed to have an interest in the decision-making process.

4. Public discussions of schemes for spatial development at the level of oblasts and other territorial administrative and territorial units; master plans for cities, towns, other settlements and territorial units; draft district plans for the construction of individual housing; detailed plans produced for undeveloped areas; detailed plans produced for areas with building subject to clearance; architectural and planning construction concept designs (in the absence of detailed plans); draft documentation for architectural design competitions; detailed plans produced for areas of existing housing estates and neighbourhoods with housing subject to rebuilding; draft project documentation for the upgrading of yard areas pursuant to Article 4(8) of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 5 July 2004 on Architectural, Urban Planning and Construction Activity in the Republic of Belarus (National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2004, No. 109, 2/1049), are to be conducted under the procedure established by the Regulations on the Conduct of Public Discussions in the field of Architectural, Urban Planning and Construction Activity, approved by Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus (National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus, 18 February 2014, 5/38435).

5. Public discussions are not to be conducted with regard to environmentally significant decisions:

on installations and (or) activities referred to in the second paragraph of Article 15-2 of the Environmental Protection Act;

on the removal of flora referred to in paragraph 7 of the Regulations on the procedure for permitting removal of flora in human settlements and for permitting the transplant of flora in human settlements, approved by Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 1426 of 25 October 2011 on Several Issues relating to the Treatment of Flora (National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2011, No. 123, 5/34663).

6. The organizer of public discussion of an environmentally significant decision ('the public discussion organizer') is:

6.1. a public authority and (or) state organization taking and (or) approving the decision – where the decision being made is one referred to in point 1.1 of these Regulations;

6.2 Minsk City Council Executive Committee or the executive committee of the city council of an oblast capital (unless otherwise specified, 'the city executive committee') – where the decision being made is one referred to in points 1.2 and 1.3 of these Regulations, if its implementation necessitates the allocation of a plot of land in the City of Minsk or the oblast capital under the Regulations on a procedure for withdrawal and allocation of plots of land in the City of Minsk and oblast capitals to legal entities and individual entrepreneurs for the construction of capital projects (buildings, facilities), approved by Presidential Decree No. 667 of 27 December 2007 ('the Regulations on a procedure for withdrawal and allocation of plots of land');

6.3. a local executive-administrative body (unless otherwise specified, 'the local authority') – where the decision being made is one referred to in points 1.2 and 1.3 of these Regulations, if its implementation necessitates the allocation of a plot of land and if prior agreement on the siting of the installation is required under the Regulations on a procedure for withdrawal and allocation of plots of land; where the construction, restoration, capital repair is being made to an installation referred to in points 1.2 and 1.3 of these Regulations, if the plot of land has already been provided; where the decision being made is one referred to in point 1.4 of these Regulations.

7. Public discussion of an environmentally significant decision includes:

7.1. the provision of information by the public discussion organizer about the proposed decision, the collection of questions, comments, other communications from the public in order to ensure that public interests are taken into account to the maximum extent during decision-making ('informing the public about the proposed environmentally significant decision');

7.2. the organization and conduct of a meeting about making the environmentally significant decision, on application by the public concerned and (or) on the initiative of the public discussion organizer under the procedure provided for by Chapter 5 of these Regulations;

7.3. public discussion of the EIA report, where the decision being made is one referred to in point 1.3 of these Regulations, inter alia by holding a meeting.

8. The public discussion organizer must conduct public discussion of an environmentally significant decision:

8.1. of a type referred to in points 1.1 and 1.4 of these Regulations – before the decision is approved;

8.2. of a type referred to in points 1.2 and 1.3 of these Regulations – at the stage of preliminary agreement about the location of the plot of land requested to carry out the activity. For installations referred to in point 1.3 of these Regulations, the EIA report is also to be subject to public discussion – before submission of the project design documentation to environmental review.

9. The public discussion organizer must:

provide technical and financial support for conducting public discussion of an environmentally significant decision;

make preparations for public discussion of an environmentally significant decision, informing the public about the conduct of public discussion;

set up a committee to organize public discussion of an environmentally significant decision, before conduct of the public discussion begins;

organize and conduct a meeting, if necessary, under the procedure provided for by Chapter 5 of these Regulations;

organize a record of communications received from the public in oral, written or electronic form during public discussion of an environmentally significant decision;

when making an environmentally significant decision, take into account communications received from the public during public discussion of the environmentally significant decision;

publicize information about an environmentally significant decision made, including its text, about the reasons and circumstances for considering or not considering communications received from the public during public discussion of the decision;

maintain a record of environmentally significant decisions made, in the form of publicly available lists, registers;

fulfil other obligations relating to organizing and conducting public discussion of an environmentally significant decision.

9.1. The public discussion organizer must publicize information (‘information on the environmentally significant decision’):

about the proposed environmentally significant decision, its draft – within the time frame provided for by Chapters 2 to 5 of these Regulations;

about a decision made, including information about the extent to which communications received from the public during public discussion were taken into account in the decision – within 10 calendar days of the date the decision was made.

9.2. Methods of publicizing information on the environmentally significant decision, unless otherwise specified by these Regulations, are:

in the media;

on the official website of the public discussion organizer and (or) on relevant pages of the official websites of higher public authorities and (or) state organizations;

on publicly accessible information displays maintained by local authorities, including noticeboards in residential buildings.

9.3. For the purposes of these Regulations, the media include national, regional and local periodical print publications, broadcast television channels, radio broadcasts.

9.4. The fact that information has been publicized must be confirmed by a copy of the print publication or a document of confirmation from the editors of the broadcast television channel, radio broadcast, the structural division of the public authority and (or) state organization responsible for publicizing the information on its official website.

10. The public discussion organizer must compile a list, register of environmentally significant decisions made ('the register of environmentally significant decisions').

10.1. The register of environmentally significant decisions is to be maintained in paper and electronic forms, is to be generally available and is to be posted on the public discussion organizer's official website.

10.2. The register of environmentally significant decisions is to relate to environmental information, is to be compiled and maintained for the purposes of ensuring that the public concerned is informed about environmentally significant decisions made.

10.3. The register of environmentally significant decisions is to contain the following details:

the date of the public notice of the proposed environmentally significant decision and the start of the public discussion procedure;

the draft of the proposed environmentally significant decision;

a list of communications received from the public during public discussion of the environmentally significant decision, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 2 to 5 of these Regulations;

information about the date of approval of the environmentally significant decision, inter alia information about the date of issue of the findings of state environmental review, if one has been conducted pursuant to the legislation, the text of the approved decision, information about the extent to which communications received from the public during public discussion were taken into account, with an indication of the reasons permitting these communications to be considered or not considered.

CHAPTER II

INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT A PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT DECISION

11. The public discussion organizer is to notify the public about a proposed environmentally significant decision and about the start of public discussion by the methods referred to in point 9.2 of these Regulations.

12. The public notice referred to in paragraph 10 of these Regulations ('the public notice') must contain details of:

the date of issue of the notice;

the type of environmentally significant decision being produced;

the location of the plot of land on which it is proposed to put the environmentally significant decision into effect and its approximate area;

environmental information relating to the environmentally significant decision, in the possession of the public discussion organizer and (or) of other public authorities, state organizations;

the public authority and (or) state organization responsible for approving the environmentally significant decision;

the public discussion organizer (name, registered office, postal address, e-mail address, telephone number);

the procedure for public discussion of the environmentally significant decision (public discussion period, opportunities to obtain additional information about the environmentally significant decision, deadline for sending communications about the need for a meeting, about the public authority and (or) state organization that must accept communications from the public and maintain a record of them);

the official website (section thereof) and other methods of publicizing information about the environmentally significant decision;

the fact that the environmentally significant decision is subject to a national or transboundary EIA procedure.

13. The public discussion organizer must publicize the public notice of a proposed decision:

referred to in point 1.1 of these Regulations – early in the production of the draft environmentally significant decision, but no later than 30 calendar days before the decision is to be approved;

referred to in points 1.2 and 1.3 of these Regulations – at the stage of preliminary agreement about the location of the plot of land, if at that stage no decision has been made to refuse the allocation of a plot of land to the person concerned;

referred to in point 1.4 of these Regulations – no later than 15 calendar days before the environmentally significant decision is to be made.

The public notice posted on the public discussion organizer's official website must be kept up to date and continuously available to the public throughout the public discussion period; the date of publicizing the notice must be recorded in the register of environmentally significant decisions.

14. At the stage of informing the public about a proposed environmentally significant decision, the public discussion organizer must:

organize receipt, registration and examination on the merits of communications from the public, taking communications into account in producing the draft environmentally significant decision;

compile a written list of communications from the public and replies to them ('the list of communications');

post the list of communications on the official website and (or) on relevant pages of the official websites of higher public authorities and (or) state organizations.

CHAPTER III

PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF A DRAFT PLAN, PROGRAMME

15. For the purposes of organizing public discussions of a draft plan, programme, the public discussion organizer is to set up a committee to conduct public discussions, which is to include representatives of the public discussion organizer, of the drafter of the plan, programme, of the public concerned, or is to appoint people responsible for organizing and conducting public discussion of the draft plan, programme.

16. The organizer of public discussions of a draft plan, programme must:

issue a notice of public discussions of the draft plan, programme, using the methods referred to in point 9.2 of these Regulations;

post the draft plan, programme on the official website of the organizer of public discussion of the plan, programme and (or) on relevant pages of the official websites of higher public authorities and (or) state organizations;

organize receipt, registration and examination on the merits of communications received from the public concerned during public discussion of the draft plan, programme ('the list of communications about the draft plan, programme'), taking them into account in finalizing and approving the plan, programme;

after the end of public discussions of the draft plan, programme, issue a report on the conduct of public discussions of the plan, programme, including the list of communications about the draft plan, programme with information on why each one was taken into account or rejected, the notice approving the plan, programme and the text of the approved plan, programme, using the methods referred to in point 9.2 of these Regulations.

17. The notice of public discussion of the draft plan, programme must contain details of:

the date of issue of the notice;

general characteristics of the plan, programme being produced,

the draft plan, programme;

the drafter, the public discussion organizer (name, registered office, postal address, e-mail address, telephone number);

the plot of land on which it is proposed to put the plan, programme into effect, and its approximate area;

the public authority and (or) state organization responsible for producing and (or) approving the plan, programme;

the public authority and (or) state organization where the draft plan, programme may be consulted;

the procedure for public discussions (time frame for informing the public, opportunities to obtain additional information, deadline for sending statements about the need for a meeting, the public authority and (or) state organization that must accept communications from the public concerned and maintain a record of them);

the fact that the plan, programme is subject to a national or transboundary EIA procedure.

18. The duration of public discussions of a draft plan, programme may vary depending on the type of plan, programme, but cannot be less than 30 calendar days from the date of the public notice issued under paragraph 13 of these Regulations.

19. A list of communications received from the public concerned during public discussion of the draft plan, programme ('the list of communications about the draft plan, programme') is to appear in the written report on the conduct of public discussions of the draft plan, programme, which is to be prepared by the committee for conducting public discussions, where one has been created, or by those who are responsible for organizing and conducting public discussions of the draft plan, programme.

20. The report on the conduct of public discussions of a draft plan, programme must contain:

information on the number of persons who took part in public discussions of the draft plan, programme, from whom communications regarding the draft plan, programme were received;

the list of communications about the draft plan, programme, including a list of communications received during the stage of informing the public about the proposed environmentally significant decision pursuant to Chapter 2 of these Regulations;

minutes of the meeting (where one was held) in the form provided for by Chapter 5 of these Regulations;

conclusions as to the possibility that the plan, programme will be adopted or the need to revise it taking into account communications received from the public.

21. The report on public discussions of the draft plan, programme is to be signed by members of the committee or by those who are responsible for organizing and conducting public discussions of the draft plan, programme; it is to be approved by the head of the organizer of public discussion of the plan, programme.

21.1. The public authority and (or) state organization accepting and (or) approving the plan, programme, in deciding whether or not to approve the plan, programme, is to reflect the outcomes of public discussion of the plan, programme.

21.2. A meeting to discuss the draft plan, programme may be organized under the procedure provided for by Chapter 5 of these Regulations, on the initiative of the public concerned.

CHAPTER IV

PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF AN EIA REPORT

22. Public discussions of an EIA report that is produced during preparation of environmentally significant decisions referred to in points 1.2 - 1.3 of these Regulations are to be conducted in order to:

inform the public about environmental issues;

implement the public's right to participate in discussions and decision-making on projects subject to EIA;

take account of comments and suggestions from the public regarding environmental issues during the EIA process;

prevent or minimize adverse environmental impact arising from putting the proposed activity into effect.

23. Public discussions of an EIA report are to be conducted by means of:

23.1. inspection by the public of the EIA report and consideration of comments and suggestions;

23.2. if there is public interest, holding a meeting to discuss the EIA report.

24. The procedure for public discussions of an EIA report is to include the following stages:

24.1. notification of public discussion of the EIA report;

24.2. ensuring that the public is acquainted with the EIA report through its issue by the public discussion organizer, including posting it on the organizer's official website, making it available in libraries and other accessible places ('public access to the EIA report');

24.3. inspection by the public of the EIA report;

24.4. if there is public interest:

public notice of the date and place of a meeting to discuss the EIA report;

holding a meeting to discuss the EIA report in the territory of the Republic of Belarus and of affected parties;

24.5 collection and analysis of communications from the public, compilation of a list of communications based on the outcomes of public discussion of the EIA report.

25. The organizer of public discussion of the EIA report, jointly with the developer, is to:

at least 3 working days before publication of the notice of public discussions of the EIA report, set up a committee for the conduct of public discussion of the

EIA report, specify the persons constituting its membership and appoint the chair of the committee from among the deputy chairs of the relevant local authority;

notify the public of the start of the procedure for public discussions of the EIA report, using the methods referred to in point 9.1 of these Regulations;

within 3 working days of the date of a communication from the public stating the need to hold a meeting for discussion of the EIA report, notify the communicant of the date and place of the meeting, and also issue an announcement of the meeting, using the methods referred to in point 9.1 of these Regulations.

By agreement with the local agencies of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection ('the Ministry of the Environment'), their representatives may also be included amongst the membership of the committee for the conduct of public discussions of an EIA report.

26. The notice of public discussions of an EIA report, referred to in point 24.1 of these Regulations, must contain:

26.1 information on the developer of the proposed activity (name, registered office, postal and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers);

26.2. name of, rationale for and description of the proposed activity;

26.3 information on the location of the proposed activity;

26.4 information on the time frame for the implementation of the proposed activity;

26.5. information on the time frame for the conduct of public discussions and the submission of comments on the EIA report;

26.6 information on where the EIA report can be consulted and where to send communications about the EIA report (name of body, postal address, website, full name and job title of contact person, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address);

26.7. information on the registered office of the public authority responsible for decision-making referred to in point 1.3 of these Regulations (its name, postal address, website, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address), and on the deadline for submitting a statement of the need to hold a meeting to discuss the EIA report.

27. At the same time as publishing the notice of public discussions of an EIA report, the public discussion organizer must organize:

public access to the EIA report in accordance with point 24.2 of these Regulations;

receipt, registration and examination on the merits of communications received from the public concerned during public discussion of the EIA report;

issuing a list of communications received from the public concerned during public discussion of the EIA report ('the list of communications about the EIA report'), with information on why each one was taken into account or rejected, using the methods referred to in point 9.2 of these Regulations.

28. The time frame for public discussions of an EIA report may vary depending on the type of environmentally significant decision referred to in points 1.2 - 1.3 of these Regulations, but cannot be less than 30 calendar days from the date of publication of the notice of public discussions of the EIA report.

28.1. A meeting to discuss the EIA report may be held under the procedure provided for by Chapter 5 of these Regulations, on the initiative of the public concerned.

29. After the end of public discussions of the EIA report, but no later than 10 calendar days from the date of its completion, the organizer of public discussion of the EIA report is to compile a record of the public discussions of the draft EIA ('the record of public discussions of the EIA report'), which is to include:

information on the number of participants in public discussions;

the list of communications about the EIA report, including those received during meetings, with information on why each of the communications was taken into account or rejected;

minutes of the meeting (if one was held);

the conclusions of the committee for the conduct of public discussions on the need to take into account communications received from the public.

29.1. The record of public discussions of the EIA report is to be approved by the chair, signed by the members of the committee for the conduct of public discussions of the EIA report and passed to the organizer of public discussions of the EIA report, the developer and the project design organization.

29.2. The record of public discussions of the EIA report is to be appended to the EIA report and submitted to environmental review according to the provisions set out in Article 12 of the State Environmental Review Act.

29.3. Based on the outcomes of public discussions of the EIA report, the developer and the project design organization are to make a decision on whether or not to carry out the proposed activity on the proposed area of land, depending on the environmental, socio-economic and other consequences of carrying it out, are to amend the pre-project (pre-investment) documentation.

30. The organizer of public discussion of an EIA report may suspend the public discussions procedure in order to:

make amendments or additions to design decisions on the basis of the outcomes of public discussions,

analyse communications received from the public regarding collection of additional information,

conduct additional investigations and surveys.

After the final revision of design decisions for the proposed activity and of the EIA report, public discussions are to resume in order to examine different impacts and consequences that were not previously considered.

31. Public discussions of an EIA report in the territory of affected parties are to be conducted in accordance with international agreements and the national legislation of the affected parties.

CHAPTER V MEETING TO DISCUSS A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT DECISION

32. A meeting to discuss a draft environmentally significant decision, with the exception of a decision referred to in point 1.4 of these Regulations, is to be organized and conducted by the public discussion organizer, on application from the public concerned ('the meeting').

The meeting to discuss a draft environmentally significant decision as referred to in point 1.4 of these Regulations is to be held at the initiative of the public discussion organizer under the procedure provided for by paragraphs 9-15 of the Regulations on the procedure for permitting removal of flora in human settlements and for permitting the transplant of flora in human settlements, approved by Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 1426 of 25 October 2011 on Several Issues relating to the Treatment of Flora (National Register of Legislation of the Republic of Belarus, 2011, No. 123, 5/34663)..

33. A meeting is to be held if a relevant statement from the public concerned to the public discussion organizer has been received no later than 10 calendar days from the date of publication of the notice of public discussions of environmentally significant decisions referred to in points 1.1 - 1.3 of these Regulations.

34. The meeting can be held no earlier than 30 calendar days from the date of publication of the notice of public discussions of environmentally significant decisions referred to in points 1.1 - 1.3 of these Regulations.

34.1. The procedure for conducting the meeting is to include the following stages:

- registration of participants in the meeting;

- statement from a representative of the developer of the EIA report, representative(s) of the project design organization(s), the plan, programme drafter and (or) the discussion organizer, inter alia with regard to environmentally significant decisions referred to in point 1.2 of these Regulations, with an oral report and (or) presentations;

- answers to the questions, comments of participants in the meeting that do not require preparation or additional investigations and surveys;

- concluding remarks and closure of the meeting.

34.2. If answers to questions submitted cannot be given during the meeting, answers are to be sent to the questioners at the postal or e-mail address supplied during registration, within 30 calendar days of the date of the meeting.

35. Based on the outcomes of the meeting, minutes of the meeting are to be compiled within 3 working days of the date it was held, with an annex of communications received, in the form of the list of communications about the EIA report, draft plan, programme received during the meeting ('the list of communications received during the meeting'). The list of communications received during the meeting is to indicate the name of the communicant, the content of the communication, the reply on the merits of the communication.

36. The minutes of the meeting are to be approved by the chair, signed by the members of the committee for the conduct of the meeting and passed to the public discussion organizer for compilation of the record of public discussions of the draft

EIA, the report on public discussions of the draft plan, programme, other environmentally significant decision referred to in point 1.2 of these Regulations.