

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Project Location:	Haiti
Project Title:	Health System 2004 (Phase 2: HS 2004)
Project Number:	521-0267
Funding:	US\$1,000,000 for Track 1.5 sub-agreement
Life of Project:	FY 2000 - FY 2005 (HS-2004)
IEE Prepared by:	Jean Wesnel C. Saint Cyr, MEO USAID/Haiti
Clearance:	Jeffrey Miller, REA (Caribbean)
Reference:	LAC-IEE-03-79
Recommended Threshold Decision:	Categorical exclusion/Negative determination with conditions
Bureau Threshold Decision:	Concur with Recommendation

Comments:

Under most circumstances the components of this program are basically training, counseling and technical assistance, thus, would have no negative impact on the physical environment or pose any significant risk on the welfare of the surrounding community as well as non-target organisms. Nevertheless, the MEO recommends that all Mitigative Measures, guidelines, BMPs for medical waste handling and disposal, as outlined under the two previous phases of the HS-2004 program and the establishment of the GHESKIO facility for HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, are strictly implemented by MSH for the management of medical and sanitary wastes generated by these centers as a result of their activities (Re: LAC-IEE-95-11/LAC-IEE-98-20/LAC-IEE-00-05).

USAID recognizes the capacity of MSH to implement BMPs and to mitigate potential environmental consequences resulting from the activities as both GHESKIO and MSH received special training from the MEO in several occasions on environmentally sound medical waste management practices and they are very familiar with the WHO guidelines for medical waste handling and disposal.

A **Categorical Exclusion** is issued for activities such as training, public information, operational research, monitoring, education and counseling will have no direct effect on the environment, thus fall under the class of actions eligible for a categorical exclusion.

A Negative Determination with conditions is issued for activities involving the handling and disposal of medical and sanitary waste within the centers. All Best Management Practices, Mitigative measures, and guidelines recommended under previous phases of HS-2004 as well as under the establishment and development of the GHESKIO facility are still valid and must be strictly implemented by MSH.

The Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) will conduct spot checks to ensure that proper waste plans are in place under this sub-agreement to ensure that all activities are implemented in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner in full accordance with all salient Agency and USG policies and regulations.

Date _____
George R. Thompson, P.E.
Acting Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Copy to : David Adams, Director, USAID/Haiti
- Copy to : Jean Wesnel C. Saint Cyr, MEO, USAID/Haiti
- Copy to : Jeffrey Miller, REA
- Copy to : Sukhi Dosanjh, LAC/CAR
- Copy to : IEE File