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**Environmental Assessment**  
**Mazar-e-Sharif Industrial Park**  
**Balkh Province, Afghanistan**

*Final*

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***March 29, 2007***

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## Appendix A Environmental Issues Associated with the Proposed Action

The following table summarizes environmental issues and potential concerns associated with the proposed action.

<i>Environmental Issue</i>	<i>Potential Concerns</i>
Geology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geotechnical information will be collected to support all site design parameters.</li> <li>• A topographic survey, soil borings and soil testing will be performed to verify site conditions.</li> <li>• All activities shall be in accordance with applicable ASTM standards and good geotechnical practice.</li> </ul>
Seismic Considerations	All construction will comply with the International Building Code, 2003 edition.
Transportation	The proposed action would result in additional traffic on area roads. Existing roads should be able to handle the increased traffic adequately, with little effect on other users.
Noise	There are no nearby communities that would be affected by site noise.
Cultural/Historical Resources	Cultural and archeological resources should not be affected by the proposed action. Should there be any inadvertent archaeological discoveries, IPDA/AISA and local authorities shall be notified.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual sources may have minor air quality impacts. Cumulative impacts may be a potential concern unless commitments were made to limit manufacturing industries to the light and medium categories, which would minimize overall emissions from the industrial park.</li> <li>• Minor pollution from increased operational traffic as a result of development of facilities.</li> <li>• Generators may result in an increase in air pollutants, mostly nitrogen oxides (NOx).</li> <li>• Temporary and intermittent air quality impacts would be associated with site preparation and facility construction activities.</li> </ul>
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the distance to the nearest surface water, impacts are likely to be minimal.</li> <li>• Groundwater impacts from properly managed activities would be insignificant. All construction – e.g., septic systems – would adhere to best engineering practices.</li> </ul>
Floodplains	Flash flooding is a potential concern. Engineers will assess the benefits of constructing a floodway. The site will be laid out to maximize storm water control, thereby minimizing flooding concerns.
Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither uncommon plant communities nor</li> </ul>

	<p>threatened species were identified on the site. Construction may affect some plants, but the loss is expected to be insignificant. Site development may result in an increase in populations of animals that favor recently modified habitats. Some of these species might become a "nuisance" in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No aquatic communities would be affected.</li> <li>• No sensitive aquatic animals will be affected.</li> <li>• There are no expected impacts on threatened or endangered species or their habitats.</li> </ul>
Prime Farmlands, Wetlands, Managed Areas and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No prime farmlands will be affected.</li> <li>• No wetlands will be affected.</li> <li>• There would be no effects to managed areas or recreational opportunities.</li> </ul>
Socioeconomic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed action could lead to increases in employment, income, and population.</li> <li>• It is estimated that this industrial park can provide employment for over 3,000 workers. With additional jobs from multiplier effects, the total increase in jobs could exceed 5,000.</li> <li>• Increases in jobs and in population may lead to a need for additional housing and to an increase in the needed level of community services, such as schools, fire and police protection, and medical services.</li> <li>• Due to the incremental nature of the anticipated growth, insignificant impacts on housing and community services would be expected.</li> </ul>
Visual Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed action would change the existing landscape from a level of common scenic attractiveness to an area of urban-scale industrial and commercial development.</li> <li>• Area residents would notice an increase in background sky brightness.</li> <li>• By adopting development standards, visual impacts would be minimized.</li> </ul>
Solid/Hazardous/Special Wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid waste collection points will be provided.</li> <li>• The park's waste management strategy will emphasize cleaner production and pollution prevention.</li> <li>• Solid waste can be disposed of in a properly designed landfill, mitigating any potential environmental impact.</li> <li>• Hazardous and special wastes will be managed on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>
Landslides	<p>All development will proceed by reducing the potential impacts of land movement. Where appropriate, a soil engineer or engineering geologist will assess issues associated with development.</p>
Cumulative Impacts	<p>Cumulative impacts are not expected to be significant.</p>