

August 20th, 2025

AN ADVISORY NOTE TO THE PUBLIC

STATEMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ENViS) – TRANSITION CHALLENGES AND IMPACTS ON THE EIA /EA PROCESS AS PER EMCA 2015.

Since 28th July 2025, the transition from the old NEMA licensing portal to the new Environmental Information Management System (ENViS) has generated numerous queries from proponents, EIA/EA licensed experts, and the public. These concerns relate to delays, incomplete functionality, and financial risks that have affected project licensing and the credibility of experts.

The following are the main system challenges being encountered:

1. System functionality and access gaps

Proponents and experts continue to face slow response times, incomplete modules, and failure to upload documents. Several license renewals and approvals remain unprocessed, stalling validation of projects and compliance.

2. Unlinked facilities and pending renewals

Details of facilities and license renewals from the old system have not been successfully migrated. Users are unable to open tabs or link applications with existing facility numbers, blocking submissions and delaying approvals.

3. Delays in project approvals and renewals

Processing of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEA), and Effluent Discharge License (EDL) renewals has slowed significantly. This has disrupted project timelines, financing schedules, and compliance milestones.

4. Delayed regulatory response

Feedback from the regulator on queries, error resolution, and pending applications has been slower than anticipated. This has left many projects in limbo without clear guidance on timelines for resolution.

5. Financial and contractual implications

Prolonged delays have led to higher project costs, including repeated submissions, consultancy follow-ups, administrative overheads, and potential penalties for late compliance. Project proponents and contractors face increased risks where budgets and schedules are disrupted.

The purpose of this note is to give you clarity on the ENViS transition and explain the reasons behind the current delays affecting your projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a way forward, proponents are advised to recognize that the current delays being experienced are primarily system-related and not attributable to **EIA/EA experts**. To mitigate risks, it is recommended that you engage experts early in the project cycle to anticipate potential bottlenecks and factor extended approval timelines into your project budgets and schedules. Additionally, please ensure that proper offline records of all submissions, receipts, and correspondence are maintained for accountability purposes. In the event of any issues arising during the licensing process, you are encouraged to reach out directly to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) for clarification.

It is important to note that engagements are ongoing with a view to finding solutions to the current challenges and restoring efficiency in overall service delivery.

Contact the Environment Institute of Kenya (EIK) via email: info@eik.co.ke or Call/WhatsApp: 0769 484 895 for further assistance.

REGARDS
EIK COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF KENYA

ABOUT EIK

The Environment Institute of Kenya is a professional body established in 2014 to regulate and support environmental practitioners, with the aim of enhancing professionalism, ethics, and integrity in the sector. With a membership of over 6,000, the Institute provides a platform for capacity building, networking, knowledge sharing, and advocacy on environmental matters. Guided by its vision to be a global leader in empowering environmental professionals and promoting sustainability in development, and its mission to advance professionalism and integrity in environmental governance towards sustainable development in Kenya, EIK continues to play a central role in shaping the country's environmental practice.