

‘Fast-tracking’ option for retroactive project activities

Effective as of May 17th, 2010

In response to concerns expressed with regards to the timeline associated with the pre-feasibility assessment of retroactive project activities, The Gold Standard Foundation has decided to revise the ‘fast-tracking’ process, previously available to ‘GS experienced’ project proponents only, and to make it an available option for all submitted retroactive project activities (inc. those within PoAs) as long as the DOE contracted for validation complies with one of the following three criteria¹:

1. The DOE has submitted at least 10 validation reports to GS overall in the year prior to the start of validation of the project activity proposed for the ‘fast-track’ process, and at least 3 validation reports for project activities making use of the same methodology than the project submitted through the ‘fast-track’ process.
2. An auditor of the validation team taking care of the submitted project activity has attended a GS DOE training workshop within the last 6 months prior to the start of validation of the project activity proposed for the ‘fast-track’ process.
3. An auditor of the validation team taking care of the submitted project activity has attended a GS DOE training webinar within the last 6 months.

All pre-feasibility assessments, whether ‘fast-tracked’ or not, are subject to the pre-feasibility assessment fee, as per the Gold Standard fee schedule (Annex L of the Gold Standard Toolkit).

When opting for the fast-track option for a given project activity, project proponents will be provided with a check-list of items project proponents shall pay particular attention to so as to allow for smoother and faster validation and registration processes and increase chances of approval at the stage of registration review. A generic check-list will be used as a starting point, but more specific check-lists will be developed and made available over time, by type of activity and possibly by region, building up a library as project activities are being submitted.

Project proponents will also be granted a 2-hour consultation with the relevant GS Regional Manager early on in the project cycle to discuss the likely most sensitive issues associated with the submitted project activity; this will provide an informal, non-exhaustive, but worthwhile feedback at the very beginning of the project cycle.

For project proponents opting for the regular pre-feasibility assessment process, rules remain as per the latest version of the Gold Standard Requirements, with the exception that validation is now allowed to take place in parallel with the GS pre-feasibility assessment. Project proponents can make use of this option at their own risk; the Validation Report will still have to address all issues raised in the pre-feasibility assessment, even if this means a supplementary site-visit.

¹ DOEs that are interested in a GS training workshop, please contact Dr. Ayse Frey, ayse@cdmgoldstandard.org

The Fast-track process consists of the following steps:

- 1) Project proponent applies for the fast-track process by first contacting the Gold Standard Secretariat (relevant GS Regional Manager²) and by providing the proof of compliance (i.e. a list of project activity ID numbers, auditor names, webinar/workshop dates, etc) with the criteria listed above for the DOE.
- 2) GS Secretariat checks whether the project activity submitted for the fast-track process meets the eligibility criteria and if so, sends a project-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to project proponent.
- 3) Project Proponent signs the project-based MoU and sends back to GS Secretariat.
- 4) GS Secretariat signs the project-based MoU and returns to the project proponent, together with a check-list, and then “lists” the project in the registry.
- 5) Project proponent arranges a 2-hour consultation with the relevant GS Regional Manager, and revises the project documentation in the light of feedback received and the generic check-list provided.
- 6) Project proponent uploads the revised project documentation (PDD, Passport, etc.) into the GS registry and submits for validation by a GS experienced DOE, as defined above.

² <http://www.cdmgoldstandard.org/Contact-U.s.56.0.html>