

## **EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS: MEETING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION THROUGH WASTE MINIMIZATION**

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The Pakistan Environmental Protection Council under the Chairmanship of than Chief Executive of Pakistan (now President) has approved the revised Environmental Protection Standards and announced that the Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (EPA 1997) must be immediately enforced. It was also agreed that the guidelines on Environmental Monitoring and SelfReporting and determination of Pollution Charges developed under the statutory cover of EPA, 1997 will be implemented from 1 July 2001.

In this context, the oil and gas production operations are classified among most hazardous (category- I) industries. Thus legally binding E&P companies to submit to the Environmental Protection Agency environmental monitoring data on monthly basis and adopt measures to minimize and control effluents, emissions and wastes, contrary to which pollution charges will be imposed.

This paper discusses the recent legislative changes and position of onshore E&P operations in the light of legislative requirement and discusses the options for waste minimization and control available to E&P operations.