

Environmental Management Practices of the Oil and Gas Companies in Lebanon

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ABSTRACT

There is no doubt that the oil and gas sector plays a dominant role in today's global market; nevertheless, the activities that are related to oil exploration, production, processing and distribution causes alterations to and adverse impacts on the environment. Rationally, adopting efficient and effective environmental management practices is highly commended and important when activities have high possibility of adverse environmental impacts. Unfortunately, it is not always the practice. In light of the potential commencing of petroleum production in Lebanon, this study will assess the environmental performance and management practices of the existing national and multinational oil companies (MNOCs) operating (primarily storage and distribution) in the country. This research is timely and constitutes a first attempt at a systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental practices of the oil and gas companies in Lebanon which is expected to provide baseline information needed for future regulatory and developmental national projects. Accordingly, a survey questionnaire will be administered to evaluate the environmental management practices of oil and gas distributing companies and assess the incentives, barriers and limitations for implementing an Environmental Management System. Moreover, in-depth interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders to explore the potential concerns regarding the environmental performance and prospects of the oil and gas sector in Lebanon.