RISHI JAVERI · PROJECT CONTROLS DIRECTOR · EXECUTIVE ONE-PAGER

10 Questions Before You Accept a Baseline

A baseline becomes the yardstick for progress, delay and entitlement for the life of the contract. These are the questions to settle before it is accepted.

01 **Does the baseline reflect the contract as signed?**
Dates, milestones, sectional completion and constraints should trace to the contract — not to aspirations or later negotiations.

02 **Is the full scope in the programme?**
Missing scope reappears later as “new” work and muddies every delay discussion that follows.

03 **Is the logic complete and genuine?**
Every activity should be driven by real dependencies, with no open ends and no hard constraints standing in for logic.

04 **Can the critical path be explained in one sentence?**
If no one can say what drives completion and why, the programme cannot be used to manage time.

05 **Are durations based on quantities and resources?**
Durations that cannot be traced to a basis are guesses, and guesses do not survive scrutiny.

06 **Is float realistic — neither hidden nor inflated?**
Constraints, long lags and padded durations disguise where the real time risk sits.

07 **Are design, approvals, procurement and interfaces modelled?**
Most major-programme delay starts upstream of site works; if it is not in the baseline it cannot be measured.

08 **Are calendars, working time and restrictions right?**
Wrong calendars quietly distort every forecast — seasonal, religious and authority constraints included.

09 **Does it support how progress will be measured and reported?**
Coding, WBS and activity granularity decide whether monthly updates and earned value will mean anything.

10 **Is there a recorded basis for accepting it?**
Review comments, responses and the version accepted should be documented — this is the reference point every later argument returns to.

Go further: run the free in-browser **5-Minute Baseline Check** at rishijaveri.com/baseline-check — nothing is sent, nothing is stored.

Executive one-pager · Method guidance, not a certification or legal advice