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DENR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2008 - 08

SUBJECT : Clarification of the Role of LGUs in the Philippine EIS System in Relation to MC 2007-08

Pursuant to Malacañang Administrative Order 42 on Rationalizing the Implementation of the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System and the DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-30, Implementing Rules and Regulations for the Philippine EIS System, requiring the conduct and evaluation of the environmental impacts of proposed projects at the earliest stage of the project cycle, the role of the LGUs is hereby clarified as follows:

1. On the participation and consultation of LGUs in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

The LGUs shall be consulted during the entire EIA process for inputs on the actual environmental conditions in the project area and proposed project's compatibility with the locality's development plan. They shall participate in the following stages of the EIA process:

- During the scoping sessions where the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study which is a requirement for ECC applications is defined
- During the conduct of the EIA Study to provide important data needed for the study.
- During public hearings or consultations where they will be expected to raise issues and provide critical inputs in the review of the EIA Report

2. On project implementation approval upon issuance of the ECC or CNC;

The issuance of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is not an automatic approval of the project. Through the EIA Process critical issues that should be addressed by the various government agencies are identified for guidance on environmental considerations of final approving entities.

3. LGU endorsement in relation to project implementation;

Although LGU endorsement of the proposed projects is not mandatory in the processing of the ECC applications, it should inevitably be required and subsumed under the local government's permitting requirements where the results of the EIA and recommendations in the ECC should be considered along with other factors. It is believed that the LGU has the ultimate mandate over the approval of proposed projects. Hence, the results of the EIA process is an input to the LGU endorsement of proposed projects.

All DENR and EMB Regional and other Field Offices are hereby instructed to conduct Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign on this matter.

Henceforth all related previous instruction and other issuances, shall be reviewed and made consistent with this circular


JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Secretary

 Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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