



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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JAN 13 2023

DENR MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 2023- 01

SUBJECT : ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTS APPLYING FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) WHICH ARE WITHIN OR WITH CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PROTECTED AREAS (PAs) AND/OR RAMSAR SITES

In line with the implementation of the Presidential Decree 1586 (Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (DAO 2003-30), to ensure the protection and conservation of identified Protected Areas (PAs) and Ramsar sites as an important tool in climate change adaptation and mitigation, the following are additional guidelines in the processing of applications of certain ECCs:

A. Approval by OSEC of ECCs of Non-ECPs Located within the PA or RAMSAR Site

ECCs of Non- Environmentally Critical Projects located within the PA and/or Ramsar Site including their duly approved buffer zones shall require the approval of the Office of the Secretary. The EMB Regional Office shall endorse the ECC application for approval to the Office of the Secretary through the EMB Director within five (5) days after the final EIARC meeting.

B. Clearance of OSEC Prior to Final Formal Scoping Checklist

EMB Central and Regional Offices that are handling the ECC applications of projects to be located within or with close proximity to Protected Areas and RAMSAR sites are required to secure a **Clearance** from the Office of the Secretary (OSEC) prior to the final approval of the technical scoping checklist. The OSEC will review the scoping checklist to add, if necessary, other issues/impacts to be included in the EIA Study. The OSEC shall endeavor to finish its review within ten working (10) days from receipt of the checklist. The project is considered near or in close proximity to PAs and/or Ramsar sites if the proposed project is within the province where the PAs and/or Ramsar sites.

The EMB shall also include in the technical scoping checklist to be submitted to the OSEC the following:

1. The proponent's commitment to perform avoidance, mitigation, rehabilitation, and compensatory activities for the environmental impact caused by the project; and
2. The Social Development Plan (SDP)/Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) shall include the protection of such PAs and/or Ramsar sites.

C. Additional Items in Project Description Report

Proponents of projects that are near PAs and/or RAMSAR sites are directed to indicate in the Project Description Report for Scoping the following:

1. The proximity and potential environmental impacts of the project on Protected Areas (PAs) and RAMSAR sites within ten (10) kilometers from the project;
2. The water and power source to be used in the proposed project; and
3. The names of the Preparer/s of the EIA Study shall be clearly stated in said document.

D. Mandatory Resource Persons in the EIARC

For all ECC applications, the EIARC shall include Resource Persons from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and the Forest Management Bureau (FMB). Should there be no issue or concern for the BMB or FMB in the project, such shall be stated in the Formal Final Scoping Checklist, which shall be attested to by the representatives of said bureaus.

E. EIA RC Chairman Confirmation in ECC

The Chairman of the Environmental Impact Assessment Review Committee (EIARC) is directed to confirm that the post-conditions, if any, in the Chairman's Report are included in the ECC.

This Order shall take effect immediately and remain valid unless revoked in writing.


MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA
Secretary

