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DENR SPECIAL ORDER NO. 542
Series of 1989

SUBJECT: Designation of lawyers to compose the Panel of Investigators in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Offices.

In furtherance of the policy of government decentralization as embodied in Executive Order No. 192 reorganizing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, three (3)lawyers shall be designated by the Secretary to act as a panel of investigators upon the recommendation of the Regional Executive Director concerned who shall have direct supervision over them.

The designated members of the panel of investigators shall investigate and make reports and recommendations concerning conflicting or adverse claims, protests or other kinds of opposition involving mining claims, rights, leases or permits.

The hearing of such conflicts shall be conducted within one (1) week after issues are joined. The investigation shall be summary in nature and if possible to be finished within one sitting. The report and recommendations of the designated investigators shall be submitted to the Regional Executive Director within fifteen (15) days from the termination of the investigation and the latter shall decide the case within fifteen (15) days from the submission of such report.

Any party not satisfied with the decision or order of the Regional Executive Director may, within five (5) days from receipt thereof, file an appeal to the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. From the decision of the Secretary, an appeal may be taken within five (5) (15) days to the Office of the President.

The decision of the Regional Executive Director shall be immediately executory, notwithstanding the appeal, unless the Secretary directs otherwise.

The designated members of the panel of investigators shall, as much as possible, be relieved of their ordinary duties in the course of their investigation and preparation of their report.

This Order takes effect immediately.

ECIO S. FACTORAN, JR. Secretary

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