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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2002 - 03
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SUBJECT: Interim Guidelines for the Designation of an Airshed

Pursuant to Section 8 (f) and 9 of Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 (the "Act") and Sections 2 and 3, Rule XV of Department Administrative Order ("DAO") No. 2000-81, the following interim guidelines in the designation of airsheds are hereby promulgated.

Section 1. Basic Policy

It is the policy of the State to formulate a holistic national program of air pollution management that shall be implemented by the government through proper delegation and effective coordination of functions and activities. To achieve said policy, airsheds are to be designated as part of the air quality control action plan mandated under the Act and consistent with the Integrated Air Quality Improvement Framework.

Section 2. Objectives

The objectives of these guidelines are the following:

1. to subdivide the national ambient air into manageable subsets and recognize broader public participation in the management thereof;
2. to allow various meteorological conditions for the prediction of air quality and bring source emissions into compliance with the standards;
3. to recognize geo-political implementation requirements for national attainment of air quality targets and goals by complying with the national ambient air quality guideline values or the protection of public, health, safety and welfare;
4. to recognize regional differences in terms of public needs and standards such as bubble standards and programmatic compliance and;
5. to complement and support the proposed land use regulations of the country.

Let's Go Green!

Section 3. Definition of Terms

- (a) Department – refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- (b) Bureau – refers to the Central Office of the Environmental Management Bureau and its Regional Offices under the Department.
- (c) Major sources – refer to air pollution source equipment that emit equal to or more than 100 tons of pollutant per year.
- (d) Urban areas – refer to areas with population equal to or greater than 200,000 and having at least P50 million annual income.
- (e) Area sources – refer to sources of emission which, in themselves do not emit significant air pollutants, but when considered collectively with other similar sources becomes significant. Paint processing and residential combustion are example of area sources.

Section 4. Criteria for the Designation of Airshed

4.1 General Requirements

The following information/documents shall be used as reference in the designation of airshed:

- a) Meteorology data (wind speed and direction) of the area or areas under consideration;
- b) NAMRIA-generated topographic maps; or GIS, if available; and
- c) Population distribution.

4.2 Other Data Requirements

If available, the following additional data/document shall also be referred to in the determination and designation of an airshed:

- a) Land-use map;
- b) Major sources of emission, point and non-point, or emission inventory; and
- c) Air quality data, if available.

4.3 Screening Procedures for the Identification of an Airshed

The screening procedure shall be applied by the Bureau for purposes of designating an airshed, as required by Section 9 of RA 8749, in areas without, or those with incomplete air quality data.

- a) Using a NAMRIA-generated topographic map or land-use map, divide the areas which have similar geographic features and sharing common boundaries such as those which are bounded by mountain ranges or similar features that may affect dispersion, movement, or diffusion of atmosphere pollutants;
- b) Meteorological data (wind speed and direction) or wind rose shall be used to determine areas which have similar characteristics or profiles that affect dispersion, movement or diffusion of atmospheric pollutants.
- c) Hotspots areas or areas that may possibly be affected by highly irregular or occasional events. This may include but not limited to special economic zones, industrial parks, highly urbanized cities or municipalities, geothermal explorations and reservations, or other economic activities, which in the opinion of the Bureau may significantly affect air quality in that particular area.
- d) An area with a total population of at least one (1) million people [*Ref.: Appendix 4, Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Section 7033000-70306*]
- e) If available, the total annual emission in any of the following shall be considered:
 - i) Total annual NOx emissions of 40,000 tons per year
 - ii) Total annual SOx emission of 19,000 tons per year
 - iii) Maximum annual Lead emissions of 0.5 ton per year[*Ref.: Appendix 4, Title 17, California Code Regulation, Section 703000-70306*]
- f) Data profiles from items (a) to (d) shall be evaluated to assess and determine the boundaries or limits of an airshed. However, if the Bureau finds that there are areas with distinctly different air quality deriving from sources and conditions not affecting airsheds, the Bureau may designate, identify or determine a smaller airshed using political boundary lines to the extent practicable.
- g) Other information such as emission inventories or air quality data are additional determining factors in the boundaries or limits of the airshed, provided that representative data are available.

Section 5. Responsible Agencies

Pursuant to Section 9 of RA 8749, the Department through the Bureau shall be mainly responsible for the designation of airshed. Local government units shall be consulted by the Department, as necessary, in order to designate an airshed.

Section 6. Review of Designation

Pursuant to Section 9 of RA 8749, the Department shall review the designation of airshed boundaries as more data become available or as the need arises. The change of pollution control technology shall also warrant the review of the airshed designation.

Further to Section 9 of RA 8749, revision of the designation of an airshed shall be done upon consultation with appropriate local government authorities.

Section 7. Effectivity

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Approved by:


HERERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary

JUN 19 2002

Recommending Approval:


JULIAN D. AMADOR
Director