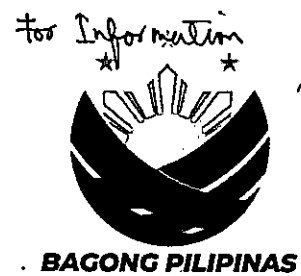


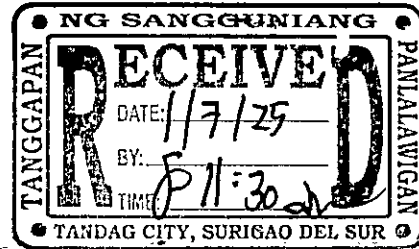
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. XIII
Km. 2 National Highway, Surigao City
Tel. No. (+6386) 826-5256; E-mail: region13@mgb.gov.ph



MMD-MTES-IC24-11-04-10913

November 26, 2024

Mr. Edgar G. Perez II
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Surigao del Sur
Capitol Hills, Brgy. Telahe
Tandag City



Dear Mr. E.G. Perez II:

This refers to the Resolution No. 2068-24, Series of 2024, of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Surigao del Sur, in re: "Earnestly Requesting His Excellency President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos, Jr. thru Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Department of Energy, for the Extension of **Small-Scale Coal Mining Permits** in Bislig City, Province of Surigao del Sur".

The subject Resolution was forwarded to this Office by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by virtue of a Memorandum dated 19 September 2024, which we received on 26 September 2024, for appropriate action.

Through a Letter dated 1 October 2024, this Office forwarded the subject Resolution to the Department of Energy (DOE)-Mindanao Field Office in recognizing their jurisdiction over exploration, development, utilization and distribution of energy resources, which include coal.

Consequently, on 31 October 2024, we received a letter-reply dated 28 October 2024 from DOE informing that it has coordinated and discussed the intent of the Resolution with the Sanggunian member of the Province of Surigao del Sur. A copy of the 28 October 2024 Letter is attached, for detailed information and reference.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

LARRY M. PERADEZ
Regional Director

Encl.: As stated

c.f.: **Hon. Josellin Marcus E. Fragada, CESO III**
Undersecretary for Field Operations and Supervising
Undersecretary for MGB and EMB Mindanao
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City

Engr. Nilo J. Geroche
Director III
Department of Energy
Mindanao Field Office
3rd Floor, Tolentino 2020 Building
Candelaria Avenue Ecoland
Malina Pangli Road, Davao City

Tangrapan ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan	
DATE: _____	TIME: _____
OSSP-SDS-2024-4369	
Telephone No.: (086) - 211 - 5832	
E-Mail: tpsurigaosur@yahoo.com	
Received by: _____	



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. 13, Surigao City
OC24-11-27-9763
16:00:12 Letter



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
(Kagawaran ng Enerhiya)

October 28, 2024

LARRY M. NERADEZ

Regional Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Regional Office No. XIII



Dear Dir. Neradez:

This has reference to your letter dated October 01, 2024 which was received by this Office on October 25, 2024, endorsing Resolution No. 2068-24 Series of 2024 of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Surigao del Sur, entitled: "Earnestly Requesting His Excellency President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr., thru Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Department of Energy, for the Extension of Small-Scale Coal Mining Permits in Bislig City, Province of Surigao del Sur".

Please be informed that on July 25, 2024, Hon. Conrad C. Cejoco, SP member of Surigao del Sur District 1 visited the DOE- Mindanao Field Office (MFO) and discussed with us the intent of the afore-mentioned SP Resolution, specifically on the possible extension of DOE permits for all existing Small-Scale Coal Mining Permittees (SSCMP) in Surigao del Sur, which are set to expire on C.Y. 2024. During the meeting, the MFO emphasized to Hon. Cejoco that the DOE is strictly adhering to Section 59 of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) Law, wherein all SSCMP new applicants including the existing permittees are required to obtain a Certification Precondition (CP) or Certificate of Non-Overlap (CNO) from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). The said document is one of the pre-requisites for the issuance/renewal of permits, service contracts, or similar instruments for all energy projects including the Small- Scale Coal Mining Operations as highlighted in our approved Citizen Charter. In consideration of the authority of NCIP as the primary agency tasked to implement the IPRA law and its IRR, we deem it proper that the said Resolution be conveyed to and consulted with the said Office, requesting them to facilitate the issuance of the required CP, CNO or a Certification in lieu thereof, as basis of DOE and other concerned government agencies to proceed for the processing and issuance/renewal of relevant permits for SSCM operators.

Further, the MFO, providing a provisional solution, likewise advised Hon. Cejoco that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Surigao del Sur may make a representation with the Regional Office of NCIP-Caraga requesting from them a Certification or official communication/ letter addressed to the DOE-MFO stating that the Regional Office of NCIP-Caraga willfully

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
(Kagawaran ng Enerhiya)

permits the DOE-MFO to process and issue/renew the necessary permits of all existing SSCM applicants while the application for CP or CNO is still pending in their Office pursuant to IPRA Section 59 requirement. However, the MFO has not received any updates relative thereto to date.

Rest assured that MFO will continuously coordinate this matter with the SP of Surigao Sur for possible resolution of the raised issue at hand and to provide your Office with updates thereof.

For further clarifications on this matter, you may reach us through the contact details indicated below.

For your reference and information. Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,


NILO J. GEROCHE
Director III

EPO/ASM/EGDU