Republic of the Philippines

## Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU

INVIRONMENTAL MANAD

8:5704

RELEASED

TIME:

Regional Office No. VIII Tacloban City, Philippines

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IN RE: CANCELLATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL

COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

(08-070731-0057) OF

ARTURO A. ANGUREN, JR.'S MOUNTAIN QUARRY PROJECT

AT BARANGAY 7, TINAGO, QUINAPONDAN, EASTERN

SAMAR

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## ORDER

This Order is being issued in view of the on-site project validation conducted by technical personnel of this Office upon the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), with Reference No. 08-070731-0057, issued to Mr. Arturo A. Anguren, Jr. last August 22, 2007, for a proposed Mountain Quarry Project to be located at Barangay 7, Tinago, Quinapondan, Eastern Samar.

The validation conducted was aimed at ascertaining the validity of the subject ECC *vis-à-vis* the requirements of existing and new policies.

## **Facts**

On August 16, 2021, technical personnel from the PEMU Eastern Samar of this Office conducted an on-site project validation upon the proposed Mountain Quarry Project to be located at Barangay 7, Tinago, Quinapondan, Eastern Samar.

The findings revealed that the proposed project has failed to commence project construction/implementation since the issuance of the ECC by this Office in 2007. The project is not in operation at the time of monitoring. According to the owner through a phone call, the project was not undertaken, due to some issues encountered. The inspector was not able to locate the area since the owner was not around at the time of inspection. The owner was in Manila, and his family members doesn't know the exact location of the proposed project. The inspector was not able to locate the area since the owner was not around at the time of inspection. Likewise, there is no submission of CMR. Based on

the foregoing grounds, the validating personnel has recommended for this Office to cancel the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued for the said project

## Ruling

This Office finds that the ECC should be cancelled because the Project Proponent failed to implement the project within five (5) years from its ECC issuance.

Under Section 5.4.3 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-30, or the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System, it states that:

...The ECC of a project not implemented within five (5) years from its date of issuance is deemed expired. The proponent shall have to apply for a new ECC if it intends to pursue the project. The reckoning date of project implementation is the date of ground breaking, based on the proponent's work plan as submitted to the EMB.

Item 1.0 (10) (d) of the Revised Procedural Manual for DAO No. 2003-30, meanwhile, provides for the following, to wit:

(d) ECC Validity and Expiry. Once a project is implemented, the ECC remains valid and active for the lifetime of the project. ECC Conditions and commitments are permanently relieved from compliance by the proponent only upon validation by the EMB of the of the successful implementation environmental aspects/component of the Proponent's Abandonment/ Rehabilitation/ Decommissioning Plan. This pre-condition for ECC validity applies to all projects including those wherein ECC expiry dates have been specified in the ECC. However, the ECC automatically expires if a project has not been implemented within five (5) years from ECC issuance, or if the ECC was not requested for extension within three (3) months from the expiration of its validity. If the baseline characteristics have significantly changed to the extent that the impact embodied in the assessment Environmental as Management Plan (EMP) is no longer appropriate, the EMB Office concerned shall require the proponent to submit a new application. The EIA Report on the new application shall focus only on the assessment of the environmental component, which significantly changed. (emphasis and underlining supplied)

Here, the findings reveal that the project proponent did not commence its operation/construction since the issuance of the ECC. Under the existing rules and regulations, the ECC issued to the project is deemed cancelled, unless otherwise the project proponent is able to show substantial evidence to the contrary.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, this Office finds that Environmental Compliance Certificate, with Reference 08-070731-0057, issued to Mr. Arturo A. Anguren, Jr. for the proposed Mountain Quarry Project to be located at Barangay 7, Tinago, Quinapondan, Eastern Samar is hereby CANCELLED.

The Project Proponent, **Mr. Arturo A. Anguren, Jr.**, is hereby given an opportunity within a period of **Fifteen (15) days** from receipt of this Order to submit its position/explanation on the matter, the failure of which to do the same shall be deemed a waiver of its right to contest the cancellation and the cancellation shall be deemed final and executory.

SO ORDERED. 0 4 FEB 2022

Tacloban City, Philippines.

ENGR. REYNALDO B. BARRA
OIC Regional Director

Copy furnished:

Arturo A. Anguren, Jr. Barangay 3, Quinapondan, Eastern Samar