



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
**MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU**  
**MIMAROPA Region**

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02 February 2023

**Ms. Jee Y. Geronimo**

Editor, Environment  
Rappler Inc.

**Dear Ms. J. Y. Geronimo:**

This refers to your 01 February 2023 e-mail requesting for information on the mining activities of Altai Philippines Mining Corp. (Altai) in Sibuyan Island, Romblon.

Please be informed of the following facts:

1. The Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 304-2009-IVB was granted to Altai on 23 December 2009 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) pursuant to Republic Act No. 7942, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations;
2. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau – Central Office (MGB – CO) issued a Cease-and-Desist Order (CDO) to Altai on 19 December 2022 due to environmental and social issues.

On 09 September 2021, the CDO was lifted by the DENR stating that the concerns on environment and social issues can be addressed during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Before it can operate, Altai shall be required to secure an Environmental Compliance Certificate, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program and Final Mine Rehabilitation and/or Decommissioning Plan;

3. The first renewal of the Exploration Period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB was granted by the MGB – CO on 12 July 2022 which represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of its exploration period;
4. A Performance Bond in the amount of PhP8,807,000.00 was issued by Milestone Guaranty and Assurance Corporation to guarantee the faithful performance of Altai of its obligations in connection with the exploration period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB. This Performance Bond can be forfeited in favor of the government in case of violation/s to the mining and environmental laws;
5. The Exploration Work Program (ExWP) and Environmental Work Program (EWP) of Altai was approved by MGB – CO on 12 July 2022.

An addendum to the approved ExWP was approved on 21 December 2022 by the MGB – CO which includes the conduct of "Metallurgical Bulk Sampling and Analysis."

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IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE."**

6. The Mineral Ore Export Permit (MOEP) No. DENR-MGB-22-008 was issued by the MGB – CO to Altai on 29 December 2022 for the purpose of bulk testing for 50,000WMT of ore per its approved ExWP.

The MOEP was requested by Altai on 07 December 2022 to “ship out [its] sample ore to a reliable DSO pyro-plant and testing company in order to complete the necessary metallurgical study.”

7. This Office issued Ore Transport Permit (OTP) No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA pursuant to the 21 December 2022 Memorandum of the MGB – CO instructing this Office that the *“issuance of the OTP may be given due course considering that APMC submitted an Addendum to its approved Exploration Work Program incorporating the conduct of metallurgical bulk sampling and analysis of its ores.”*;

An amendment to the OTP was issued on 25 January 2023 per request of Altai due to the non-consummation of the previous OTP; and

8. The OTP No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA (Amended) was forwarded to MGB – CO for its further evaluation, should it consider to amend the unconsummated MOEP No. DENR-MGB-22-008.

Rest assured that this Office shall monitor all the activities of Altai under its MPSA contract and strictly enforce all the relevant laws and policies for the protection of the environment while strengthening the economy.

We hope that the matter has been clarified. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE**  
Regional Director

cc:

**The Secretary**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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**The Director**  
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**The Regional Executive Director**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
MIMAROPA Region

**The PENRO**  
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