

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1st QUARTER 2023
MINE REHABILITATION FUND COMMITTEE MEETING
Coral Bay Nickel Corporation
(MPP No. 006 – 2004 – IVB)

MGB MIMAROPA Conference Room, Ermita, Manila
16 March 2023 | 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

MRFC Members:

- | | |
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| 1. Engr. Glenn Marcelo C. Noble | Chairperson and Regional Director
MGB MIMAROPA Region |
| 2. Ms. Bibianilyn Lyn T. Aguha | Representing Dir. Lormelyn E. Claudio, CESO IV
Co-Chairperson and Regional Exec. Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region |
| 3. Engr. Mark Angelo S. Rogel | Representing Mr. Joe Amil M. Salino
Regional Director, EMB MIMAROPA Region |
| 4. Ms. Rhoda B. Roque | Representing Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta
Executive Director, PCSDS |
| 5. Atty. Noel E. Aquino | Representing Hon. Victorino Dennis M. Socrates
Provincial Governor, LGU – Palawan |
| 6. For. Reynaldo M. Rivera | Representing Hon. Abraham M. Ibba
Mayor, MLGU – Bataraza
NGO – Haribon Palawan |
| 7. Mr. Inocencio C. Magallanes | Social Action Director, AVPP |
| 8. Fr. Jasper A. Tabangay | Vice President – Envi. Mgt., SMMPH – CBNC |
| 9. Engr. Benjamin Armand A. Tansingco | |

Not Present

- | | |
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| 1. Ms. Marie Grace T. Pascua, PhD | Regional Director, NCIP MIMAROPA |
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Guests and Participants:

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| 1. Ms. Maria Mary Anne O. Baribar | Community and Public Relations Manager,
SMMPH |
| 2. Mr. Jeb B. Badlon | EMQCS Supervisor, CBNC |
| 3. Engr. Antonio O. Sanone | Mine Environmental Protection and
Enhancement Officer, CBNC |
| 4. Ms. Hamera U. Gabinete | Community Relations Supervisor, CBNC |
| 5. Ms. Reya Magdalena A. Belaro | Sr. Envi. Mngt. Supervisor, SMMPH |

MMT Members:

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| 1. Engr. Al Janry S. Tuazon | Sr. Science Research Specialist, MGB MIMAROPA |
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Secretariat (MGB MIMAROPA):

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| 1. Engr. Alvin S. Requimin | Division Chief, MSESDD, MGB MIMAROPA |
| 2. Engr. Hanna Lee B. Arriesgado | Supv. SRS, MGB MIMAROPA |
| 3. Engr. Venus V. Jesoro | Sr. Environmental Mgt. Specialist, MGB MIMAROPA |

52 **I. PRELIMINARIES**

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54 Engr. Glenn Marcelo C. Noble, Chairperson and MGB MIMAROPA Regional
55 Director, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. upon confirmation of a quorum
56 (9 out of 10) by the secretariat.

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58 **II. MEETING PROPER**

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60 **A. Review and Approval of the Provisional Agenda**

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62 As requested by Mr. Inocencio C. Magallanes (Haribon Palawan), Cross-visit in
63 Surigao was included in "Other Matters." With no other additional item to be
64 included, the provisional agenda was approved upon motion of Mr.
65 Magallanes, seconded by Ms. Rhoda B. Roque (PCSDS).

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67 **B. Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of the 4th Quarter 2022 MRFC meeting**
68 **held on 13 December 2022**

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70 Among the minor comments on the draft minutes for the 4th quarter 2022 MRFC
71 meeting were as follows:

- 72 • Line 26: Ms. Roque asked the secretariat to remove the word *Acting* as
73 Atty. Matta is the PCSDS' Executive Director not *Acting*;
- 74 • Line 131: Revised from "rehabilitation target **was already**
75 accomplished" to "rehabilitation target **will be** accomplished"
- 76 • Line 176: Revised from "Presidential Mineral Industry **Excellence** Award"
77 to "Presidential Mineral Industry **Environmental** Award"

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79 With the above listed corrections, the draft minutes was approved upon
80 motion of Mr. Magallanes, seconded by Fr. Tabangay.

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82 **C. Matrix of Issues and Concerns and Matters Arising from the 4th Quarter MRFC**
83 **Minutes of the Meeting**

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85 **1. Relocation of Informal Settlers in the Coastal *Sitios* of Marabajay and**
86 **Tagdalungan**

- 87
88 • For. Rivera requested for a copy of the 08 March 2023 Letter that was
89 sent via e-mail on 09 March 2023 as he will discuss the matter to Mayor
90 Abraham M. Ibba upon returning to Palawan. He informed the body
91 that the site development plan for *Sitio* Marabajay is with the Municipal
92 Planning and Development Office. Furthermore, the project for
93 constructing a sea wall along the said *sitios* was already approved with
94 a budget allocation of approximately PHP200 million that will come
95 from the DPWH.
 - 96
97 • The Chairperson noted For. Rivera's update and said that the
98 committee shall wait for the Mayor's response.
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2. MMT Insurance

- When the Chairperson asked on the status of the insurance, Mr. Jeb B. Badlon (CBNC) responded that the MMT members were provided with an insurance during the recent monitoring.

3. Provision of Necessary Documents to the MRFC Members

- According to Engr. Hanna Lee B. Arriesgado (MGB MIMAROPA), the documents were included in the flash drives that were distributed last MRFC meeting. A google drive link will be provided by the secretariat for the said documents, she added.

4. Presentation of Highlights of the 3rd Quarter 2022 MMT Validation

- Regarding the improvement of *Sitio* Bohoy access road that was requested by a claimant [which was raised by Mr. Boyet Patio (IP representative to the MMT)], the Chairperson asked the MMT to take note of this and requested For. Rivera to ascertain whether the area is a titled property.

D. Technical Reports

1. Presentation of Highlights of the 4Q2022 MMT Validation

Engr. Arriesgado presented the findings and recommendations during the 4th quarter 2022 MMT monitoring of Coral Bay Nickel Corporation. Below are the salient discussions during and after the presentation:

- As agreed, a cross-visit in Surigao Del Norte will be conducted which is tentatively scheduled on 16 – 20 May 2023. It will be a 5-day trip that will include a visit to MGB Regional Office No. 13, Taganito HPAL, Taganito Mining Corporation and a courtesy call to Mayor Georgia D. Gokiangkee. The secretariat to draft the necessary letters regarding the activity.
- Ms. Roque inquired why the cost for maintaining the bamboo plantation almost doubled to which Mr. Badlon responded that this is due to the increase in fuel cost. He explained that most maintenance activities such as grass-cutting involve fuel utilization. The same applies to other activities in the AEPEP that needed fuel, he added.
- Noting that there was a variance in the operating days of the air pollution control facilities, the Chairperson asked the MMT to take note of the operating days per line (i.e., Line 1 and Line 2) while Engr. Mark Angelo S. Rogel (EMB MIMAROPA) suggested to include the number of days for the maintenance activities.
- Ms. Roque requested to include remarks/information for activities with physical and/or financial accomplishments that were beyond or below 100%.

- In terms of reporting the AEPEP physical and financial accomplishments, the Chairperson asked Engr. Arriesgado not to normalize nor use the scoring/checklist but to report the accomplishment as is (i.e., if 120% then present as 120%). The latter noted the Chairperson's comment and said that this will be done in the next reporting.

2. Presentation of Highlights of the 1st Quarter 2023 Water, Air and Noise Monitoring

On behalf of the MMT sampling group, Ms. Swin R. Tanduyan (EMB MIMAROPA) reported the results of the 1st quarter 2023 water, air and noise monitoring. Based on her presentation, the results were all within the DENR and NPCC standards except for the noise level of some sampling stations (which was due to the barking dogs or activities within the community).

Below are the salient discussions during and after the presentation:

- When the Chairperson asked regarding the number of discharge permit for the TSFs, Mr. Badlon explained that one (1) discharge permit applies to both TSFs since TSF 2 and TSF 3 has a single discharge point, specifically along the causeway. Related to this, Engr. Rogel explained that the discharge permit covers the outfall.
- Regarding the monitoring of hexavalent chromium (Cr⁺⁶), Mr. Badlon explained that it is being monitored even if the company is not required to since the project is within the MPSA of RTNMC. This is to prove that the TSF's discharge does not contain Cr⁺⁶, he added.

3. Presentation of compliance with the 4Q2022 MMT's field findings and recommendations and presentation of physical and financial accomplishments, including updating and established Funds.

Mr. Badlon presented the company's compliance with the 4th quarter 2022 MMT field findings and recommendations. Below were the salient discussion during his presentation:

- Regarding TSF, the Chairperson advised the company to continue with the planting activities along the embankment of TSF 2 and other activities to improve the aesthetic of the said structure.
- When the Chairperson inquired on the design of TSF 3 (i.e., twin cell), Engr. Benjamin Armand A. Tansingco (SMMPH – CBNC) replied that the company ensured that the southern portion is available by 1st quarter of 2023 as development of the northern portion was delayed due to RTNMC's late endorsement.

E. Presentation of recent drone shots/videos of rehabilitation areas

Already included in Mr. Badlon's presentation earlier.

F. Other Matters

1. ASDMP for 2022 Presentation

Ms. Hamera U. Gabinete (CBNC) presented the ASDMP accomplishments of CBNC for 2022.

- The Chairperson inquired why the utilization is still low. Ms. Gabinete explained that this is due to a big project, the Level 2 water system (budget of PHP58 million), which is not yet implemented as the NCIP has not released the Certification Precondition. The Chairperson took note of this and said that he will discuss the matter to Dir. Pascua.
- Engr. Alvin S. Requimin (MGB MIMAROPA) asked on the unimplemented activities under IEC. As the IEC Coordinator/Head was not present during the meeting, Ms. Gabinete requested for the details to be sent via email to which Engr. Requimin agreed.
- Engr. Requimin requested for the company's support re: abandoned/legacy mine in Balabac. The ~10-ha. titled land needs to be rehabilitated and an IEC must be conducted, he added. The company asked Engr. Requimin to send a letter regarding this request.
- Atty. Aquino requested to be provided with the matrix of activities for the legacy mine so the latter can make the necessary comments/recommendations.

2. Updates on the National Unified IEC

- Ms. Rocelyn F. Rebullante (MGB MIMAROPA) informed the body regarding the National Unified IEC, which is an initiative of MGB Central Office. She shared that a Technical Working Group (TWG) was formed to formulate a unified IEC plan and a Memorandum was released by MGB CO in 2022 requiring mining companies to deposit the needed amount to the Chamber of Mines and other associations who were assigned to craft projects related to the said initiative.
- As for Ms. Baribar's request for liquidation, Ms. Rebullante advised the company to send a letter to MGB MIMAROPA requesting for liquidation for the PHP16 million that CBNC deposited. This letter will be forwarded to the TWG/MGB CO.

3. Issuance of Commendation to CBNC for the Bamboo Plantation

- Mr. Magallanes proposed a commendation for the 40-ha. bamboo plantation that CBNC established. Atty. Aquino suggested to wait until the 4th quarter of 2023 before bestowing the commendation to see whether the bamboo plantation will be maintained, and Engr. Requimin agreed with Atty. Aquino's suggestion. As agreed, an MRFC

255 resolution resulting to commendation shall be presented to CBNC by
256 4th quarter of 2023.

- 257
- 258 • On a separate matter, Mr. Magallanes requested for a copy of CBNC's
259 Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The SIA will be included in the google
260 drive link.

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262 **III. ADJOURNMENT**

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264 Prior adjournment, Mr. Badlon asked the committee if they may still present the
265 result of the geotechnical study conducted for TSF No. 2 and the design of TSF
266 No. 3. Mr. Magallanes and Atty. Aquino opted to forego the discussion as it was
267 already presented during the MMT while Engr. Rogel asked for the government
268 agency assigned in approving the TSF design.

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270 The Chairperson responded that MGB MIMAROPA will look into it as there is an
271 existing DENR Administrative Order regarding TSFs.

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273 When Fr. Tabangay requested for a copy of TSF No. 2/3 design, the Chairperson
274 commented that this may be included in the google drive but it must be noted
275 that this is only for the MRFC's consumption (not to be distributed to others). He
276 instructed the secretariat to put a "For Utilization of MRFC Members Only"
277 watermark on the document.

278

279 All matters properly discussed and there being no other issue/concern for
280 deliberation, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm upon motion of Atty.
281 Aquino, seconded by Mr. Magallanes.

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283 Attesting to the correctness of the foregoing:

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286 **LADY MENDELYN J. CATALUÑA/HANNA LEE B. ARRIESGADO**

287 Secretariat

288 MRFC/MGB MIMAROPA

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291 Approved by:

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294 **GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE**

295 Regional Director, and

296 Chairperson, MRFC for CBNC