

ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION

February 27, 2023

Engr. GILBERT C. GONZALES

Director

Environment and Management Bureau (EMB)

DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue

Diliman, 1101 Quezon City

DENR MIMAROPA RECORDS SECTION RECEIVED	
MAR 02 2023	
<input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING	<input type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING
BY: <u> </u>	DATS NO. <u> </u>

**SUBJECT: Request for Clarification on Separate ECC Application
for Causeway Project --- A Component of ECC Application
for the Proposed Altai Philippines Mining Corporation
(APMC) Nickel Mining Project
(IIS No. CO-2022-023418/Company ID EMBR4B-1416000-117209)**

Dear Director Gonzales:

We write your good office to seek clarification anent the advice of EMB-Region 4B-MIMAROPA to us during the Technical Conference on February 7, 2022 concerning the subject ECC Application.

As a brief backgrounder, may we respectfully direct your attention to the following antecedents:

(1) APMC filed an online application for ECC at EMB Central Office for its mine site which includes the causeway project at Sitio Bato, Barangay Espana, San Fernando, Romblon. This online application was duly acknowledged by EMB Central Office through a letter dated June 14, 2022. In a letter dated June 20, 2022, APMC submitted to EMB Central Office its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Report for review and evaluation and the same was received by EMB Central Office on June 21, 2022. We have attached as **Annexes "A" and "B"** the copies of these letters for your easy reference.

(2) APMC's proposed causeway project was designed as an integral component of the APMC/Sibuyan Nickel Mining Project for its approved MPSA. The project area is within APMC's privately owned land. The causeway facility with an estimated loading capacity of 3,000,000 wet metric tons (WMT) for direct shipment per year is intended to exclusively serve the shipment activities of APMC's nickel mining operation. It shall be operated as a private non-commercial port specifically designed to accommodate up to six (6) barges loading two (2) vessels at a time to achieve its target annual production.

APMC's application for the ECC of its mine site is still undergoing the EIA process, specifically, it is under Scoping stage. APMC conducted Public Scoping on January 19, 2023 at San Fernando, Sibuyan Island, Romblon with the assistance of EMB-

MIMAROPA. APMC is in the process of preparing a scoping report for submission to EMB Central Office for review and approval so that Technical Scoping can be conducted as well in due time.

(4) On October 25, 2022, the EMB Central Office issued to APMC a Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) for its Proposed Bato Causeway, a copy of which is attached as **Annex "C"** for your easy reference. It is thus exempted from the requirement of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) under Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 1586. The CNC is a certification issued by the EMB certifying that a project is not covered by the Environmental Impact Statement System (EIS System) and that the project proponent is not required to secure an ECC.

(5) APMC constructed a temporary causeway at its Bato Port on the strength of the aforesaid CNC, with intention to temporarily use the same for the one-time shipment of bulk metallurgical sample for testing abroad. Its construction was terminated as of January 15, 2023.

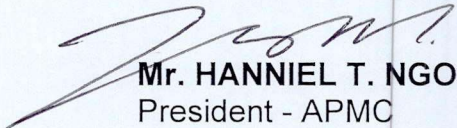
(6) The processing of APMC's ECC application is currently saddled with an issue as to whether or not a separate ECC for the causeway—as differentiated from the ECC for mine site, (which although required, is not yet currently necessary until the mining phase is started)—must be secured. A separate ECC for APMC's causeway is being taken into consideration since APMC has to undergo bulk metallurgical sampling of nickel ores for testing to a capable laboratory abroad. This activity is part of APMC's approved Exploration Work Program that will necessarily entail the use of the causeway at its Bato Port. **This matter was openly broached and discussed with DENR for the first time only during the Technical Conference last February 7, 2023 at EMB-MIMAROPA Office after a Notice of Violation dated February 2, 2023 for an alleged violation of P.D. 1586 for constructing a causeway without ECC was issued and received by APMC on February 4, 2023.**

(7) During the above-mentioned Technical Conference, the need to secure a separate ECC for the causeway project was discussed although it was settled that the causeway is a component of APMC's Mine Site for which the ECC is being applied for. According to EMB-MIMAROPA, should a separate ECC for the causeway need to be secured, the same can be processed at the Regional Office but since APMC's ECC application is pending at EMB Central Office, APMC need to make a written inquiry from EMB Central Office about the matter and await its reply. APMC committed to follow the February 7, 2023 advice of EMB-MIMAROPA and the latter assured of their prompt assistance in the event that the separate ECC for the causeway has to be processed at the Regional Office.

Consistent with the commitment made by APMC during the aforesaid Technical Conference to clarify who between the EMB Central Office or EMB Regional Office will facilitate the ECC application for the causeway, we are hereby formally requesting for clarification from your good office on this matter.

We trust that you will give your prompt response to this request so that APMC can proceed accordingly should a separate ECC for its causeway be necessary. APMC commits to cooperate with your office to ensure continuing compliance with environmental laws, rules, and regulations.

Truly yours,



Mr. HANNIEL T. NGO
President - APMC

Copy Furnished:

Mr. JOE AMIL M. SALINO

Regional Director

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)

6th Floor DENR By the Bay Building, 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila 1000

Engr. GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE

Regional Director

Mines and Geosciences Bureau – MIMAROPA

7th Floor DENR By the Bay Building, 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

Ms. LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV

Regional Executive Director

DENR-MIMAROPA Region

3rd Floor DENR By the Bay Building, 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila 1000

Atty. DANILO U. UYKIENG

OIC Director

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)

MGB Compound, North Avenue, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City

Atty. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA

Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City

Ms. MARIA ANTONIO YULO-LOYZAGA

Office of the Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City

ANNEX A



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos.: 927-1517/18, 426-4332, 928-1215, 825-5324, 920-2241/43



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT

June 14, 2022

Greetings!

This is to Acknowledge Receipt of your OTHERS with the Subject : **EMAIL DTD JUNE 13, 2022 FROM APMC Sibuyan ., RE: LETTER DTD JUNE 06, 2022 RE: IEC AND RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR THE ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION (APMC) PROPOSED NICKEL MINING PROJECT. (w/ ATTACHMENTS).**, submitted on June 14, 2022, 8:04am.

Your transaction has been tagged as IIS No. **CO-2022-023418** with Company ID **EMBR4B-1416000-117209**. For follow-ups, you may provide the given details.

For further inquiries, you may contact our designated EMB Office in your area from Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. office hours, or email us at recordsco@emb.gov.ph.

Please be guided accordingly.

Thank you.



ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION

20 June 2022

ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO
EMB Director
DENR-EMB Central Office
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

ALTAI
PHILIPPINES
MINING
CORPORATIONRECEIVING
COPY

Subject: Submission of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
(EIS) Report for the Proposed Altai Philippines Mining
Corporation (APMC) Nickel Mining Project

Dear Director Cuñado:

In relation to our on-going Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) application for the above-captioned project, we are pleased to submit herewith our Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Report for your review and evaluation.

We hope you find the above requirements in order and we are looking forward to your immediate and favorable action on the application.

Thank you.

Respectfully,


HANNIEL T. NGO

Chairman and President





IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED PROCEDURAL MANUAL FOR
DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 30, SERIES OF 2003 OF PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1586, THIS

CERTIFICATE OF NON-COVERAGE
(CNC-OL-R4B-2022-10-01928)

Issued to

ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION

On

October 25, 2022

For its

PROPOSED APMC BATO CAUSEWAY

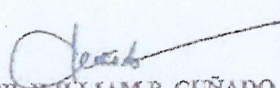
Sitio Bato, Brgy España, Municipality of San Fernando, Romblon Romblon, Romblon Province, R4B

Classified as

ITEM 3.5.3 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS/OTHER TRANSPORT FACILITIES/SEA PORT, CAUSEWAYS,
AND HARBORS(INCLUDING RO-RO FACILITIES) - WITHOUT RECLAMATION
(Declared Project Size: 0.4563 Hectare Based on project area (e.g., title, lease contract))

THE ISSUANCE OF THIS CERTIFICATE SHALL NOT EXEMPT THE GRANTEE FROM COMPLIANCE WITH
APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS INCLUDING THE PERMITTING
REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES NEITHER CREATE ANY RIGHT NOR BE USED AS
AN AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT, YOU MAY PROCEED WITH THE
IMPLEMENTATION ONLY AFTER SECURING ALL THE NECESSARY AND RELEVANT PERMITS FROM
OTHER PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

MOREOVER, ANY EXPANSION AND/OR MODIFICATION OTHER THAN SPECIFIED ABOVE SHALL BE
CONSIDERED AS A VIOLATION OF P.D. 1586 (EIA SYSTEM) AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO IMPOSITION
OF FINES/PENALTIES AMOUNTING TO PHP 50,000.00.


ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO
Director

