

APPLICATION AND ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

As part of its initiative to make document and project application requests easier online, the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR), has recently made possible the online application for Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC).

According to DENR Undersecretary and Concurrent EMB Director, Atty. Jonas R. Leones, the online system will be specifically available for Category B projects that require Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Checklist Report Forms. Category B projects are also known as Non-Environmentally Critical Projects.

ECC applicants may go to the EMB's Environmental Impact Assessment Division's web pages at <http://www.emb.gov.ph/portal/eia/Home.aspx> to create their own online account with the required information. Once the project is qualified, the website will then ask to fill out the IEE checklist, and as well as a Statement of Accountability.

An Order of Payment will then be generated. Payments can be made at any Landbank branch nationwide. Simply include a scanned copy of the transaction slip, IEE checklist, and other required documents (in PDF format). All documents submitted will then be reviewed by the respective EMB Regional Office where the project is situated, and the result will then be forwarded to the proponent's online account.

The application may either be approved, or additional requirements may be needed, depending on the assessment by EMB. Once approved, the ECC may be accessed by the proponent through online account for printing.

Leones said the recent addition to EMB's online services aims to promote transparency and improve efficiency, which are very important aspects of good governance.

"Early this year, we launched several online systems to improve transparency and provide better service to the public," Leones added.

To date, online services are now available for the following: processing of Certificate of Non-Coverage and Certificate of Conformity; registration for hazardous waste generators, transporters and Treatment, Storage and Disposal facilities; registration for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) and PCB-containing equipment; and application for Priority Chemical List and Pre-Manufacture Pre-Importation Notification.

The online systems are based on EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2015-008, issued last June 9, 2015, and within the framework of Republic Act No. 8792, or the Philippine E-Commerce Law, and the DENR Administrative Order 2003-30, which requires the simplification of ECC applications.###