

### Summary of the Public Hearing for the Proposed Semirara Coal Mine Expansion Project

Project Title: Semirara Coal Mine Expansion Project

Project Location: Brgy. Semirara, Semirara Island, Municipality of Caluya, Province of Antique

Project Proponent: Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC)

Venue: Barangay Hall, Barangay Semirara, Semirara Island, Municipality of Caluya, Antique

Date: 11 February 2020

Time Started: 9:00 AM

Time Ended: 11:30 AM

Public Hearing Officer: Atty John Edward Ang  
DENR-EMB Central Office

ATTENDEES:	
Stakeholder	No. of Representatives Attended
EIA Review Committee	5
Local Government Unit	56
DENR-EMB	10
BFAR	1
EIA Preparer (RHR Consulting Services Inc.)	6
Barangay Health Workers	9
Women's Organization	8
Senior Citizen	3
SEMTODA	5
Housing	15
Fisherfolks	17
Community	46
SMPC	444
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation plans to expand its Total Footprint Area from 3,369.25 hectares to 4,369.25 hectares- still within the boundaries of the 13,000-hectare amended COC No.5; and Mine Pit Area increasing from 1,200 hectares to 1,630 hectares. Specifically, modifying the area of the Narra pit (from 400 to 550 hectares), Molave pit (from 400 to 680 hectares), and Panian pit with still 400 hectares for the rehabilitation (no changes). This proposed expansion shall contribute to the national economic development through its promising future in the coal production and delivery both in the domestic and international arena. Furthermore, the project is expected to boost the economic progress at the regional and local level as well as its social development through taxes, employment and livelihood opportunities, improvement of social development programs and local infrastructures, and provision of subsidized electricity.

In compliance to the DENR Administrative Order 2017-15: “Guidelines on Public Participation under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS)”, the Public Hearing is required for all Environmentally Critical Projects (ECPs) for which public scoping was undertaken and for PEIS-based applications; and is a formal process initiated and conducted by DENR-EMB to promote dialogues and communication between and among the project proponent, DENR-EMB, relevant government agencies, LGUs and stakeholders.

This Public Hearing Documentation Report summarizes the notification methods, presentation of results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and the comments, and concerns received at the Public Hearing.

## 2 NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

### 2.1 Invitation Letters

Invitations were sent to the stakeholders at least 10 days prior the schedule of the Public Hearing. The received invitation letters are attached in **Annex 1**. The list of invited stakeholders is presented in the table below:

**Table 1. List of Invited Stakeholders**

Stakeholder Group	Representative	Barangay Address
Barangay Semirara	Brgy. Chairman Catherine Lim	Barangay Semirara, Caluya, Antique
	Barangay Councilors	
	Sannguniang Kabataan	
	Farmer’s Sector	
	Fisherfolk’s Organization	
	Peoples Organization	
	Religious Organization	
	Senior Citizen Organization	
	Women’s Organization	

<b>Barangay Alegria</b>	Brgy. Chairman Modesta Pionelo	Barangay Alegria, Caluya Antique
	Barangay Councilors	
	Sannguniang Kabataan	
	Farmer's Sector	
	Fisherfolk's Organization	
	Peoples Organization	
	Religious Organization	
	Senior Citizen Organization	
	Women's Organization	
<b>Barangay Tinogboc</b>	Brgy. Chairman Romeo Malixi	Barangay Tinogboc, Caluya Antique
	Barangay Councilors	
	Sannguniang Kabataan	
	Farmer's Sector	
	Fisherfolk's Organization	
	Peoples Organization	
	Religious Organization	
	Senior Citizen Organization	
	Women's Organization	
<b>Municipal LGU of Caluya</b>	Mayor Rigil Kent G. Lim	Municipality of Caluya, Antique
	Vice Mayor Genevive G. Lim-Reyes	
	Municipal Councilors	
<b>Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office</b>	For. Cynthia Blanca	Binirayan Hills, San Jose, Antique

## 2.2 Newspaper Advertisements

The Notice of Public Hearing was posted twice on Manila Bulletin on 25 January 2020 and 01 February 2020 (**Annex 2-** Affidavit of Publication from Manila Bulletin).

## 2.3 Flyers and Postings

Notices were posted at public areas such as barangay and city offices a week prior the event. The postings were documented in the following figures:

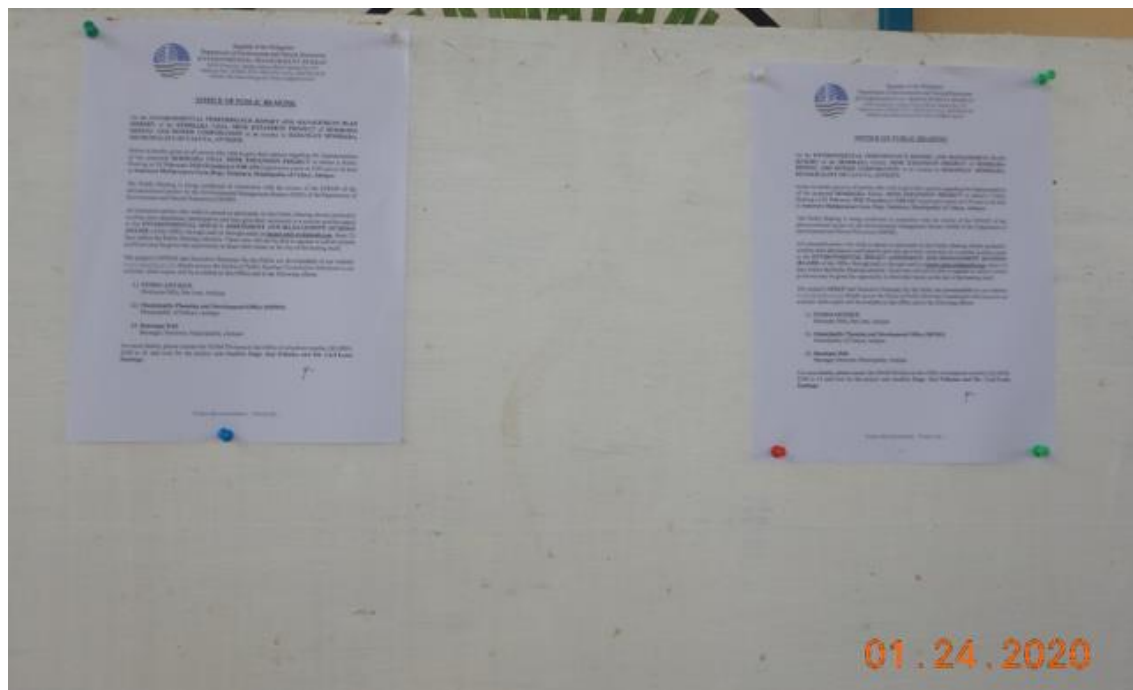


Figure 1. Notice of Public Hearing at Barangay Hall of Barangay Semirara, Caluya, Antique



Figure 2. Notice of Public Hearing at Barangay Hall of Barangay Alegria, Caluya, Antique



**Figure 3. Notice of Public Hearing at Barangay Hall of Barangay Tinogboc, Caluya, Antique**

## **2.4 Other Notification Media**

The notice of Public Hearing was posted at the EMB Website ([www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph)) with the Project's Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) as an attachment that is publicly available for download. Moreover, hard copies of the EPRMP are also available at PENRO Antique, Municipality Planning and Development Office (MPDO) of Caluya, and Barangay Hall of Barangay Semirara.

### 3 PUBLIC HEARING

#### 3.1 Location and Attendance

The Public Hearing was held on 11 February 2020 at the Barangay Hall of Barangay Semirara, Municipality of Caluya, Province of Antique. This was attended by 223 participants from various stakeholder groups (**Annex 3-** Attendance sheets). **Table 2** summarizes the attendance per general stakeholder groups.

**Table 2. Summary Table of Attendees per Barangay**

Stakeholder Group/Sector	Number of Participants/Representatives
Barangay Semirara	91
Barangay Alegria	34
Barangay Tinogboc	13
Other Organizations (SMPC, DENR, BFAR, PRA, DOE, EIA Preparer, Review Committee, Municipal Representatives)	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>

#### 3.2 Event Format and Content

The following table shows the annotated program of the Public Hearing. The presentation materials used are attached in **Annex 4**.

**Table 3. Program for Public Hearing**

<b>Project Title:</b> <u>Semirara Coal Mine Expansion Project</u> <b>Project Location:</b> <u>Barangay Semirara, Caluya, Antique</u> <b>Project Proponent:</b> <u>Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC)</u> <b>Date and Time of Hearing:</b> <u>February 11, 2020 9:00 AM</u> <b>Venue/Address:</b> <u>Barangay Hall, Brgy. Semirara, Municipality of Caluya, Antique</u>	
Program of Activities	Person Responsible
Registration	RHR Consulting Services, Inc. and SMPC Staff
Opening Prayer	
National Anthem	
Welcome Remarks	Hon. Catherine Lim Barangay Captain
Briefing and Orientation on the Purpose of the Public Hearing and EIS System	Engr. Joel G. Polintan, Case-Handler EMB Central Office
Presentation of House Rules on the Conduct of the Public Hearing	Atty John Edward Ang Public Hearing Officer, EMB Central Office
Presentation of the Semirara Molave Coal Expansion Project: Existing and proposed Amendment	Engr. Janesto Diaz, Jr. Semirara Mining and Power Corporation



Presentation of EPRMP Study	Mr. Jess Addawe/Engr. Ronald Pahunang Mr. Benjamin Francisco RHR Consulting Services, Inc.
Open Forum	Atty John Edward Ang Public Hearing Officer
Synthesis and Integration/ Summary of Issues/Concerns/Impacts raised by the public and Response of the Proponent	
Closing Remarks and Next Steps in the EIA Process	Mr. Carl Louie Santiago EMB Central Office
Mr. Carl Louie Santiago Master of Ceremony	



**Plate 1. Venue of Public Hearing and Registration**

At 8:00 in the morning, the official registration for the Public Hearing was facilitated by a staff from EIA Preparer's Team and staff from the side of the Project Proponent. A total of \_\_\_\_ registered on the said event, composed of representatives from various stakeholder groups coming from the Barangay up the Provincial level. The national anthem and opening prayer were facilitated by the Master of Ceremony- Mr. Carl Louie Santiago of the DENR-EMB Central Office.

The Public Hearing officially opened with the welcoming remarks from Hon. Catherine Lim- Barangay Chairman of Semirara. She emphasized that the environmental wealth of Semirara is for everyone and that the number one priority of the proposed mining expansion project must be the welfare of the residents of Semirara.

Following this welcoming remarks, Engr. Joel Polintan of DENR-EMB Central Office briefly discussed the purpose of the Public Hearing and the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS). This was succeeded by Atty. John Edward Ang's presentation on the House Rules on the Conduct of the Public Hearing.



**Plate 2. Welcoming Remarks, EMB's Discussion of PEISS, and SMPC's Discussion of Project Details**

Subsequently, the Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) as represented by Engr. Janesto Diaz Jr. discussed the expansion project's background and details.

Afterwards, the RHR Consulting Services, Inc., a duly accredited and recognized EIA Preparer, presented the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) covering various modules, namely: Land, Water, Air, and People. Furthermore, they also presented their recommended preventive, mitigation and enhancement measures as well as the plans/frameworks necessary to ensure environmental security, stability, and sustainability.

The open forum followed, and this was administered by the Public Hearing Officer- Atty. John Edward Ang of DENR-EMB Central Office. The Public Hearing Officer reminded the participants regarding the guidelines to properly identify himself/herself (name, organization and/or position) before airing their clarifications, questions, comments, and concerns. The participants were also informed that the open forum



will be properly documented to accurately note their statements and proponent's responses. This was followed by the recapitulation/synthesis/summary of the issues/concerns raised during the open forum and the responses received from the proponent. The event formally ended with the ways forward and next steps in the EIA Process as presented by Mr. Carl Louie Santiago.



**Plate 3. EIA Preparer's Discussion of Results of EIA on various Modules**



**Plate 4. Open Forum**

### 3.3 Public Hearing Comments/Issues/Concerns

The Open Forum, facilitated by Atty. John Edward Ang – Public Hearing Officer, was a venue for the participants to ask, clarify, suggest, comment, and raise their concerns with respect to the proposed project. **Table 4** shows the issues/concerns aired by the participants during the Open Forum. The transcription of the hearing and open forum is in **Annex 5**.

**Table 4. Issues and Concerns raised during the Open Forum**

Issues and Concerns	Entity/Group Who Raised the Issue	Response
Request for widening of their canal located at the center/East Dike Area. This was raised before in other venues.	<b>Musilini Frankli</b> Fisherfolk Association	<p><b>Engineer Janesto S. Diaz Jr.:</b></p> <p>We already discussed this in the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Scoping. And after that, we conducted site inspection and it was agreed among the proponent and fisherfolks that we will mound/pile the joint/link of the east dike and then cover the entry path to reduce waves.</p> <p>Due to discontinuous coordination with Narra, no action was done up to now. But rest assured, that it is already included in our program and we will do it; but we will have to wait for the return of the backhoe from our limestone source which is in Palawan.</p>
The dust dispersion from coal blending stockpile has worsen compared to the previous years of operations. We just want to have a continuous and additional watering to avoid this dust situation.	<b>Lina Roldan</b> President of fisherfolk	<p><b>Engineer Janesto S. Diaz Jr.:</b></p> <p>We never intentionally stopped the watering activity since there is a water sprinkler in the conveyor lines/coal conveyor systems and atomizers area also installed in critical areas. This maybe due to some technical problems on the water lines entering the stockpile area. But this noted, we will increase the water supply upon inspection if there is really a need to do such in order to address the dust situation.</p> <p><b>Antonio C. Olizon:</b></p> <p>The worsening dust dispersion is not mainly because of the operation but because of the climate change which causes lesser rainfall and stronger winds.</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We want to see the SMPC's mitigation measures and plans for the worst-case scenario considering that climate change results to unpredictable extreme weathers with stronger winds and currents which may adversely affect our coral reefs.</li> <li>2. We have no baseline data and monitoring on the corals of Semirara and other areas in Caluya. We can recommend a management area for enhancement so we can increase the fishes that will be beneficial in the future. At the end of the day, the LGU is still the one responsible on continuing the sustainability mechanisms that SMPC have started.</li> <li>3. We need policies that is initiated by LGUs and with assistance from the SMPC gearing towards sustainable harvesting of aquatic and marine resources even after the mine-life.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Lorna Agosta</b> BFAR representative</p>	<p><b>Mr. Benjamin Francisco</b> RHR Consulting Services, Inc. -Marine Biologist</p> <p>The best thing to do is establish a marine sanctuary in other areas within Caluya and make a program like "Adopt-a-coral-program". Since the eggs are dispersed by currents, it is best to have a networking of these MPAs. By this, we are expanding the areas where they can stay and grow.</p>
<p>We would like to ask regarding your plans on Unong Pit since it is under rehabilitation status. What are your plans for the landowners? are you going to return these lands since there are no activities in Unong Pit?</p>	<p><b>Kagawad Ismael Madarcos</b> Barangay Tinogboc</p>	<p><b>Engineer Janesto S. Diaz Jr.:</b></p> <p>As of now, the top management have no plans to to return the lands in Unong Pit as it is still under protection and rehabilitation. Legal options may be considered on the process of returning these to the rightful owners.</p> <p>We will have to consult relevant agencies like DOE on the proper process of returning these lands. As an update, there is a continuous coordination regarding the matter.</p> <p><b>Antonio C. Olizon:</b></p>



		<p>Proper coordination with various agencies is needed before releasing/returning these lands. Consunji treasures this place so much that is why it is very hard to let it go without the proper rehabilitation and turn it into a much more beautiful state.</p> <p><b>Forester Cynthia Blancia-PENRO:</b> DENR oversees titling of lands. The area is under Presidential Proclamation 649. Since then, all issuances of land titles have been stopped. Land titles cannot be issued until the Presidential Proclamation 649 is amended. Moreover, it is under a COC and so the jurisdiction is under DOE as well.</p> <p><b>Atty. John Edward Ang-Public Hearing Officer:</b> This must be resolved in another venue as it is not relevant to the proposed expansion project.</p>
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