MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR: 2020-010

TO: Economic Zone Developers
    Economic Zone Locator Enterprises

FROM: BGen Charito B. Plaza MNSA, PhD
       Director General

SUBJECT: DENR's Clarification on Applicability of Discharge Permit and Payment of Corresponding Permit Fee

DATE: 27 February 2020


The issuance clarifies the following concerns:

1. Operators of wastewater treatment plant (WTP) within the economic zones shall secure Discharge Permit (DP) and pay the corresponding fee;
2. If the WTP is a centralized system, the WTP operator shall issue a Certificate of Interconnection (Col) to all economic zone enterprises who are connected to the WTP;
3. Economic zone enterprises who discharge directly to centralized WTPs within the scope of jurisdiction of the DENR-EMB are no longer required to secure individual DP and pay the corresponding permit fee from the appropriate DENR-EMB Regional Office, but are required to secure a Col from the WTP operator as proof that the wastewater discharge is being treated; and,
4. Economic zone enterprises who are not connected to a WTP are required to secure DP from the DENR-EMB or Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) depending on location and pay the corresponding permit fee as prescribed by the Philippine Clean Water Act.

Individual DP is no longer a requirement for CCO / PCL application. In the past, the DENR-EMB has required companies to secure individual DP even those who are connected to a centralized WTP. This was done through a memorandum from the DENR-EMB dated 20 June 2018 regarding the implementation of the Wastewater Charge System and that all establishments are required to secure a DP regardless of volume of wastewater discharge. The individual DP was required to be secured as prerequisite of other DENR-EMB permits covered by a Chemical Control Order or use of materials with chemical components classified in the Priority Chemicals List (PCL). With the issuance of EMB MC 2020-06, individual DPs are no longer required to be secured by companies who are connected to centralized WTPs, instead, affected enterprises may just present the Col issued by the WTP operator.

Notice to IT enterprises. PEZA-registered IT enterprises are requested to coordinate with the IT building or IT ecozone administrator to be able to secure the Col.

Establishments in the LLDA Region. PEZA-registered enterprises located in the Laguna Lake Development Region are encouraged to directly coordinate with the LLDA since Board Resolution No. 565 is still in effect and the policy prescribes individual DP even for those who have zero discharge. PEZA is also coordinating with the LLDA, a policy update will be provided as necessary.

For your guidance and compliance.
MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 06
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RULES 13.8 AND 14.18 OF DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2005-10

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9275 also known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2005-10 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9275, the following are the provisions of Rules 13.8 (Wastewater Charges in ECOZONE) and 14.8 (Pollution Sources Connected to Sewerage Systems) of DAO 2005-10:

1. The wastewater discharge fee shall be paid by the operator of the wastewater treatment plant (WTP) located within ECOZONES. Provided, that industries within ECOZONES that are not connected to the WTP shall be liable for the wastewater charges individually.

2. Pollution sources currently discharging to existing sewerage systems with operational wastewater treatment facilities shall be exempt from the permit requirement. Provided that, in the absence of, or pending the establishment of a sewerage system, pollution sources shall be covered by the permit requirement.

As such, the following are the clarification in the implementation of Rules 13.8 and 14.8 of DAO 2005-10:

- Water service providers, Economic Zones (ECOZONES), Business Districts, Industrial Estates and similar business parks shall put up adequate WTP, secure a Discharge Permit (DP), and pay the corresponding wastewater discharge fee.
- Malls and buildings that are not connected to centralized WTP are similarly required to put up their WTP and secure DP.
- Locators and establishments that are not connected to existing WTP are required to secure Discharge Permit (DP) individually and shall be liable for its wastewater charges.
- Locators and establishments/stores that are connected to existing WTP of ECOZONES and malls/buildings, respectively are exempted from securing DP. However, a certificate of interconnection/connection must be issued by the operator of the said WTP and said certificate must be submitted to the concerned EMB Regional Office.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO

[Signature]

[Stamp: Department of Environment and Natural Resources]

[Stamp: Office of the Director]

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