



EMB MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 2024 - 003

JUL 10 2024

SUBJECT: PROJECT THRESHOLDS FOR WATER SUPPLY PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1586 AND ITS IRR

In line with the implementation of Presidential Decree 1586 (Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (DAO 2003-30) and to facilitate the effective and efficient processing of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) applications for Water Supply Projects, this Memorandum Circular is hereby issued.

SECTION 1. Coverage. This Circular covers the thresholds or limits of the water supply initiatives, as identified under Item 3.1.3, Annex A of EMB Memorandum Circular 2014-005, "Guidelines for Coverage Screening and Standardized Requirements under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System".

SECTION 2. Service Levels of Water Supply Projects. The following are the definitions of the service levels of water supply, as defined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)¹:

- **Level I (point source):** This service level provides a protected well or a developed spring with an outlet without a distribution system. Users go to the source to fetch water. Rural areas (where houses are thinly scattered) are generally adaptable to Level I sources. These sources serve an average of 15 households within a radius of 250 meters.
- **Level II (communal faucet system or standpost):** This refers to a piped system whose components include a source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network, and communal faucets. Each communal or public faucet usually serves four to six households within a radius of 25 meters. Users still go to the supply point (communal faucet) to fetch water. This simple piped system is generally suitable for rural and urban fringe areas with densely clustered houses.
- **Level III (waterworks system):** This system includes a source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network, and individual household taps. It is generally suited for densely populated urban areas where the population can afford individual connections.

¹ NEDA Board Resolution No. 12, Series of 1995



SECTION 3. Project Thresholds for Water Supply Projects. The thresholds stated in Item 3.1.3, Annex A of EMB Memorandum Circular 2014-005 shall be revised as follows:

Project	Category A	Category B		Category D
	EIS	EIS	IEE (Online)	CNC Online
Water Supply Projects	For Surface water sources with impoundment (e.g. dams and reservoirs) <i>Refer to Item 3.1.1 Dams</i>	With water source (e.g. groundwater, surface water, etc.) and water treatment facilities, including reverse osmosis (RO) processing water volume >5 million liters per day (MLD)	With water source (e.g. groundwater, surface water, etc.) and water treatment facilities, including reverse osmosis (RO) processing water volume ≥1 million liters per day (MLD) but less ≤5 MLD Level III (waterworks system)	Level I (point sources including deep wells, springs, infiltration galleries) Level II (Communal faucet system) Water Refilling Station (regardless of capacity)

Level III water supply projects with only water disinfection as their treatment (e.g., chlorine dosing) are only required to submit an IEE for ECC application, which can be filed through the online system.

Also, all water refilling stations, even with reverse osmosis in their operation, are outside the purview of the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System and have the option to secure a CNC.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Circular shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. All other existing Circulars and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administration Registrar (ONAR), UP Law Center.


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Director

Published : The Manila Times
Date : July 18, 2024

