



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



JAN 21 2026

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 2026 - 03

SUBJECT : AMENDING SECTION 14 OF DAO NO. 2018-14 OR THE GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF AREA CLEARANCE FOR RECLAMATION PROJECTS AND PROCLAMATION/SPECIAL PATENTS OVER RECLAIMED LANDS

In line with the objective of further streamlining the application process for an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), ensuring alignment with Section 6 of Executive Order 74, S. 2019 and promoting the efficient implementation of government infrastructure and development projects while ensuring environmental protection and regulatory compliance, Section 14 of DAO 2018-14 is hereby amended.

This amendment emphasizes the adoption of a holistic and ecosystem-based approach to assessing projects within reclaimed areas, ensuring that every individual project is evaluated in the context of its collective environmental footprint. Specifically, Section 6 of Executive Order No. 74 mandates that reclamation projects, along with detailed horizontal and vertical development plans, be evaluated based on their cumulative impacts. By aligning with this provision, the amendment aims to safeguard environmental integrity while supporting sustainable development in coastal and reclaimed areas, thereby promoting the country's blue economy goals.

In view of this, Section 14 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2018-14 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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“Section 14. Development Projects/Activities Within Reclaimed Lands. All Government Development projects with approval from the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development Investment Coordination Committee – Cabinet Committee (DepDev ICC-CC) to be undertaken or introduced within the reclaimed area shall be subject to the applicable provisions of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Memorandum Circular (MC) 2014-05 ¹.

Other Developments within the Reclaimed Area shall undergo Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) requirements in consideration of each ECC of the Government Development Projects.

¹ EMB MC No. 2014-05 entitled “Guidelines for Coverage Screening and Standardized Requirements under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS) Amending Relevant Portions of MC 2007-002”



Each ECC of the Government Development Projects shall be required, as part of their ECC Condition, to be reviewed and updated to reflect the outcome of the Programmatic EIS to ensure that the environmental impacts identified are also addressed. This dual approach ensures that both the specific environmental impacts of each project and the synergistic effects of multiple developments are comprehensively assessed

All proposed projects shall be required to submit detailed development plans, ensuring that the design and implementation are fully aligned with the overall master plan for the reclaimed area. The development plans must consider key elements, including but not limited to:

1. Infrastructure integration, ensuring connectivity with existing and planned infrastructure within and beyond the reclaimed area;
2. Alignment with environmental protection and climate adaptation objectives, incorporating resilient design features that mitigate risks from climate change, natural hazards, and environmental degradation; and
3. Sustainable land use and zoning considerations promote efficient space utilization, minimize environmental impacts, and ensure that land use supports long-term economic, social, and ecological sustainability.

The ECCs of Development Projects/Activities within Reclaimed Lands may be revoked upon the discontinuation of the Reclamation Project due to the loss of permits from the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) or other legal grounds as may be determined by EMB that will warrant the cancellation of the ECCs of the development projects.

The DENR may issue Cease and Desist Orders should there be violations of issued ECCs, whenever warranted."

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All other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

This Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of the receipt of the copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
Secretary

Publication: The Manila Times
January 29, 2026

Acknowledgement: ONAR, U.P. Law Center
January 29, 2026

