



08 AUG 2018

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

077.13 DPWH
08-10-2018

DEPARTMENT ORDER)
NO. **116**)
Series of 2018)

SUBJECT: Tree Cutting and Earth-balling Permit Application Process and Requirements for DPWH Infrastructure Projects

08.10.18

In compliance with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2018-16 regarding the new guidelines in the processing and issuance of Tree Cutting and Earth-balling Permit, all Project Proponent (PP)/ Implementing Offices (IOs) shall strictly observe the following procedures and requirements for the application of Tree Cutting permit, which shall cover the removal and relocation of trees for the construction of roads, bridges, flood control and other infrastructure projects of the DPWH.

Project Proponent/ Implementing Offices within DPWH shall prepare the following requirements for the application and shall be submitted directly to the concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).

Requirements:

- a.) Appropriate Infrastructure Plan with tree charting (*Straight Line Diagram* e.g. road alignment, bridge/flood control plan) indicating the location of trees to be affected by the project. Trees identified for removal/ relocation must be numbered, geo-tagged and vetted by the concerned PP/IOs.
- b.) Environmental Clearance of the project (ECC/ CNC).
- c.) Endorsement from the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU).
- d.) Waiver/consent from the owner, for trees within the *private lands*.
- e.) Appropriate Land Tenure Instruments (LTIs), for trees within the *forest land and public forest land* (as determined by the DENR) (*e.g. Authority of the project site that the project is within Road Right of Way (RROW)/ Land Title under Republic of the Philippines*).

Evaluation of **complete requirements** shall only be **acted** by the CENRO. Incomplete documents for application shall be returned immediately to the PP/ IOs by the decision authority. Tree Cutting / Earth-balling Permit shall be issued by the CENRO within three (3)

working days after the conduct of ocular inspection and verification of submitted requirements.

All operational cost for consultation meeting for pre-project activities, cutting activities, transfer and replacement of trees and other computation of forest charges shall be shouldered by the PP/ IOs. Removal and relocation operations, including turnover and transport of logs, shall only be done under the presence and close supervision of the DENR.

To further guide the PP/ IOs on the guidelines on the Tree Removal and Relocation and other considerations, refer to the same DENR Administrative Order No. 2018-16.

This Order supersedes the Tree Cutting Permit Application stipulated in DO 57 series of 2016 and shall take effect immediately.



MARK A. VILLAR
Secretary

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JUL 18 2018

DENR Administrative Order
No. 2018- 16

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES IN THE PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS ON THE REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF TREES AFFECTED BY DPWH PROJECTS

Pursuant to the Presidential Decree 705 as amended, Presidential Decree No. 953, Executive Order No. 23 S. 2011, Executive Order No. 26 S. 2011, other relevant laws, rules and regulations, and in order to fast track the processing and issuance of permits on the removal or relocation of trees affected by infrastructure projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the following guidelines are hereby prescribed for compliance of all concerned.

Section 1. Scope and Coverage

This Order shall cover all applications for removal and relocation of trees for the construction of roads, bridges, flood control and other infrastructure duly certified as government projects of the DPWH.

Section 2. Application Requirements

The following requirements shall be submitted by the DPWH to the CENRO with jurisdiction over the projects, to wit:

1. Appropriate infrastructure plan with tree charting (e.g. Road Alignment Plan, Building Plan) indicating the geotagged location of individual trees affected by the project, to be numbered sequentially, and shall be vetted by the DPWH as basis of validation by the DENR during actual cutting operations;
2. Appropriate Environmental Clearance (CNC/ECC);
3. Endorsement from the concerned Local Government Units;
4. Waiver/Consent corresponding to appropriate infrastructure plan in the case of tree cutting within private lands; and
5. Appropriate Land Tenure Instruments (LTIs) for tree cutting within forestlands.

Section 3. Guidelines in Tree Removal and Relocation.

- 3.1 Evaluation of the complete requirements shall be done upon receipt thereof. Application with incomplete requirements shall not be acted upon and returned to the applicant immediately.

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The concerned CENR Office shall issue the corresponding Tree Cutting Permit and/or Earth-balling Permit (TCP/EP) within three (3) working days indicating the number of trees based on the analysis of the appropriate infrastructure plan with tree charting or if necessary, on the result of actual ocular inspection.

The CENR Office may conduct ocular inspection to verify the correctness of the submitted requirements in coordination with the DPWH before issuance of the TCP/EP on the third day as may be warranted.

- 3.2 Determination of the number of trees, location and its species nomenclature/common name, classification if naturally grown or planted, and corresponding volume shall be verified and determined upon the conduct of geotagging and tree scaling by CENRO concerned during the actual tree cutting activities. These shall serve as basis for determining the tree replacement and schedule of hauling logs and to the concerned DENR office, computation of forest charges, among others.
- 3.3 Tree removal and relocation operations, including turnover and transport of logs, shall only be done under the presence and close supervision of the DENR. Correspondingly, the DPWH shall shoulder all operational costs.

Section 4. Other Considerations. The following shall be considered in the processing and issuance of tree removal and relocation permits:

- 4.1 In case of tree removal and relocation in public forestlands, TCP/EP applications shall only be processed upon issuance of appropriate LTI secured by the DPWH from the concerned Regional Directors, subject to existing regulations.
- 4.2 To further facilitate issuance of TCP/EPs, concerned DENR Office are required to attend consultation meetings during pre-project activities of the DPWH.
- 4.3 The design of the road projects should always consider the least number of trees to be affected.

Section 5. Transitory provisions. All existing regulations in earth-balling and tree replacement shall remain in force and executory.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. All circulars, orders, memoranda, and issuances inconsistent herewith shall be amended or repealed accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation and upon submission of three (3) copies thereof to the Office of the National Administration Registrar (ONAR) from the UP Law Center.


ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary

