



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MANILA

007.13 DPWH

9-15-03

SEP 15 2003

DEPARTMENT ORDER) SUBJECT : IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NO. **245**) SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
Series of 2003 *Stamp 9-15-03*) MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
OPERATIONS MANUAL

In line with the policy direction of the Department to fast-track implementation of infrastructure projects with the demand for integrating social and environmental requirements for sustainable development, the Social and Environmental Management System (SEMS) Operations Manual is hereby adopted for strict compliance in the preparation and implementation of social and environmental impact assessments (EIA), environmental monitoring for infrastructure projects, and other environment-related activities of the Department.

I. OBJECTIVES

The SEMS Operations Manual aims to:

1. Enhance the Department's social and environmental performance;
2. Provide guidance in complying with Philippine environmental laws and other activities;
3. Ensure social acceptability of projects through a process of public participation and consultation;
4. Avoid delays in project implementation arising from the lack of environmental permits and social acceptability;
5. Avoid penalties from non-compliance to environmental laws;
6. Streamline operations and standardize reports; and,
7. Streamline the review of reports and procedures.

II. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. The SEMS Operations Manual shall be applied in all infrastructure projects, particularly those covered by the Philippine EIS System (PD 1586). Whenever possible, other projects not covered by the EIS System shall still be implemented in a manner compliant with the environmental management plan recommended in the SEMS Operations Manual.
2. The Implementing Office concerned shall ensure that the costs of implementing the environmental compliance and monitoring activities as indicated in the SEMS Operations Manual are included in the project budget. The required SEMS-related activities shall be determined during the preparation of the feasibility study for a project.
3. The Implementing Office shall prepare an annual budget incorporating the costs of implementing the activities in the SEMS Operations Manual such as the monitoring and the conduct of environmental studies.

4. A SEMS Committee shall be created to conduct an annual review of the SEMS Operations Manual and suggest possible amendments and/or revisions. The committee shall be headed by the Planning Service Director, with members from concerned offices, namely: Monitoring and Information Service (MIS), Environmental Impact Assessment Project Office (EIAPO), Project Management Office for Feasibility Studies (PMO-FS) and other offices to be determined by the Undersecretary for Planning. A revised version of the Manual may be released as often as necessary.
5. All Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for projects of the Department must be reviewed and recommended for approval by the EIAPO. Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Reports and IEE checklists and applications for Certificates of Non-Coverage (CNCs) must be reviewed and recommended for approval by the REIAO of the region concerned.
6. All EISs, IEEs, IEE checklists and CNCs must be approved by the implementing office concerned to whom these documents were prepared before they are released.
7. Compliance to the conditions of the Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs), and implementation of the mitigating measures as contained in the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs), including the implementation of the Environmental Monitoring Plan (EmoPs) shall be the responsibility of the Implementing Office, to be monitored by EIAPO.
8. To ensure compliance to these above-mentioned conditions and mitigating measures, the tender documents for infrastructure projects subject for bidding will be included in the contractor's contract which will include special provisions for such environmental measures under "Environmental Clauses."
9. The cost of implementing these conditions and mitigating measures in the ECCs and EMPs/EmoPs shall be included in the project budget of the Implementing Office concerned.

Copies of the Operations Manual may be obtained from the EIAPO and electronic copies may also be accessed through the DPWH Website (www.dpwh.gov.ph).

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall supersede all previous issuances or any provision thereof that are inconsistent herewith.


FLORANTE SORIQUEZ
Acting Secretary