

INSTITUTIONALIZING POLLUTION DISCLOSURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Jakarta, Indonesia

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BRIEF TIMELINE

Early 2010: Scan of policies, initiatives on access to information in the Philippines

August 2010: PRTR factsheet for the Philippines produced by PRTR expert, Beverley Thorpe of Clean Production Action

Sept. 2010: NGO Skillshare on PRTR

Sept. 2010: First meeting with DENR

July 2011: Legal review for policy development

Sept. 2011: Draft Administrative Order (AO) completed; NGOs consulted

Dec. 2011: AO and primer finalized

http://issuu.com/gpph/docs/prtr_primer/5



BRIEF TIMELINE

July 2011: Greenpeace launches Deox campaign globally

Dec. 2011: Senator Miriam Defensor – Santiago files Senate Bill 3087, a bill establishing PRTR based on draft AO.



Sept. 2012: Right to Know Water Patrol Expedition results in **Marikina City Council issuing a resolution endorsing the establishment of PRTR**

Feb. 2013: DENR Secretary Ramon Paje, in a meeting with Greenpeace, commits to disclosure starting with making all Self-Monitoring Reports of industry publicly available by end of May 2013.

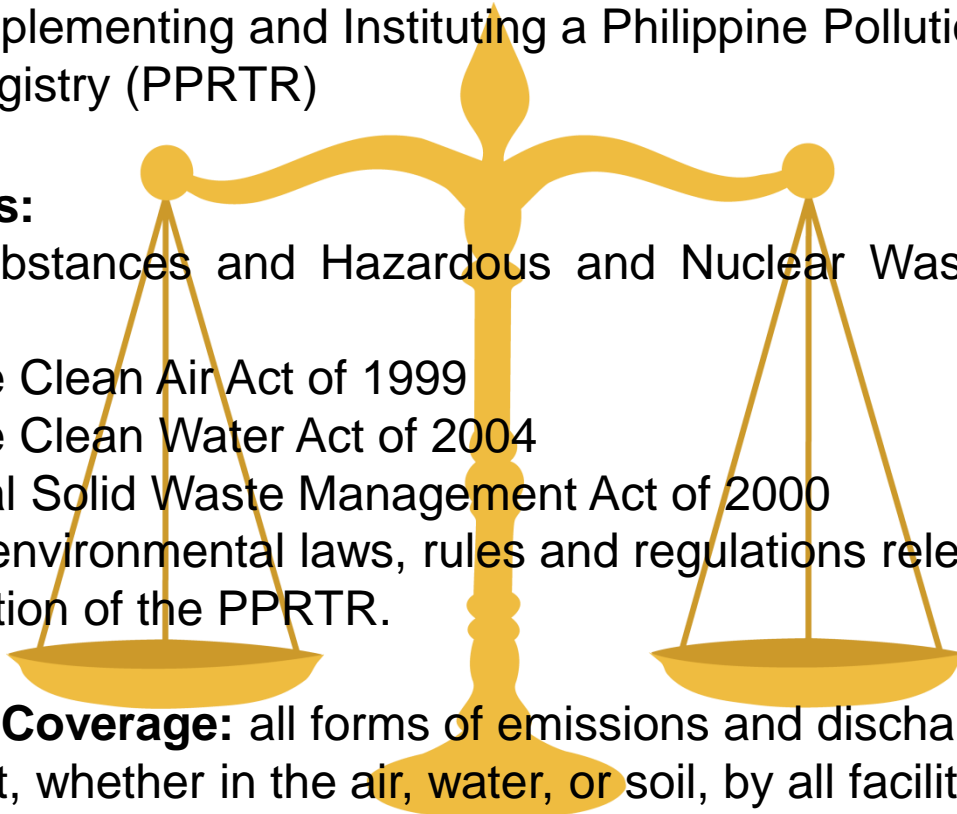
DRAFT DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Subject: Implementing and Instituting a Philippine Pollution Release and Transfer Registry (PPRTR)

Legal bases:

1. Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990
2. Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999
3. Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004
4. Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000
5. All other environmental laws, rules and regulations relevant to the implementation of the PPRTR.

Scope and Coverage: all forms of emissions and discharges to the environment, whether in the air, water, or soil, by all facilities and industries operating in the Philippines [including transfers], subject to the rules and regulations of this Order



DRAFT DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Lead/Implementing Agency: PPRTR office under the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to be headed by an Executive Director

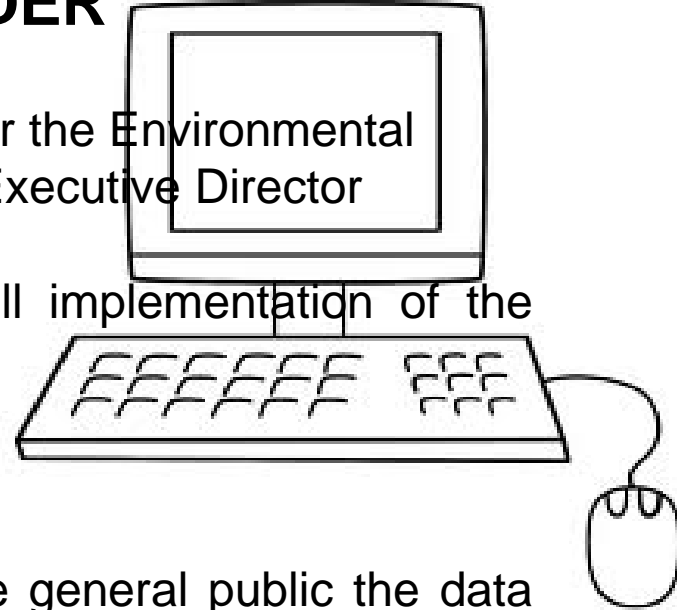
Assessment of existing infrastructure for the full implementation of the PPRTR;

Information and dissemination campaigns;

Collect, manage, sort, and make available to the general public the data and information collected in the system;

Maintain a database of covered industries, facilities, and establishments;

Cite non-compliant industries, facilities, and establishments, and recommend to appropriate agencies the imposition of fines and penalties;



DRAFT DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Lead/Implementing Agency: *continued*



Issue reports and updates regarding the PPRTR for the general public;

Conduct research and studies on pollution control, prevention, and mitigation;

Coordinate with other government agencies and the private sector for the effective and efficient implementation of the PPRTR;

Issue guidelines for the implementation of the PPRTR; and

Perform such other powers and functions as may designated by the DENR Secretary.

DRAFT DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Contents of guidelines and procedures:

List and schedule of covered substances and the classification of the same;

List of covered facilities, establishment and industries;

Procedure and method for obtaining, reporting, and disseminating data and information;

Procedures for citing non-compliant and violating facilities, establishment and industries.

Guidelines to ensure timely and relevant public access to information on the PPRTR, taking into consideration the right of businesses and industries to the protection of trade secrets and other intellectual property and related rights.

Campaign Strategies and Tactics

1. Highlighting toxic pollution particularly in freshwater
 - Scientific research
 - Bearing witness to pollution cases
 - Exposing polluters
 - Taking non-violent direct action against polluters
2. Establishing community-based water patrol units
3. Engaging relevant government agencies, Local government units, barangay officials
4. Mobilizing existing CSO partners including church groups, health groups, celebrities, etc
5. Developing an outline reporting mechanism for communities (i.e. Hotspots map)
6. Active online engagement with partners, supporters
7. Successful global Detox campaign reinforces national campaign



Challenges:

1. Awareness on toxic pollution is generally very low across sectors, much less pollution disclosure.

2. Some units within the DENR seem to be resistant to establishing a PRTR system.

3. Provision on Confidential Business Information (RA 6969) is being used as a barrier from accessing pollution information

4. Lack of funds is a common excuse to not establish PRTR.

5. The absence of an FOI law is making the lobby for pollution disclosure more difficult.



A large reservoir with a wooden dam in the background and a small boat in the water. The water is a deep green color, and the surrounding hills are covered in dense green forest. The sky is clear and blue. The foreground shows a rocky, light-colored shoreline.

THANK YOU!

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