



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**

**NWRB RESOLUTION NO. 11-1220**

**Series of 2020**

**Granting Authority to NWRB to Conduct On-line Hearings  
During the Period of Public Health Emergency**

The NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD, a government institution created and existing under Presidential Decree No. 424 and Presidential Decree No. 1067, with office address at 8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Quezon City, states:

At the meeting of the Board held at the NWRB Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City on December 17, 2020, the following resolution was approved and confirmed, to wit:

**WHEREAS**, the Board is a *quasi-judicial* agency that has original jurisdiction over all disputes relating to appropriation, utilization, exploitation, development, control, conservation, and protection of waters;

**WHEREAS**, it also regulates and controls the operation of private water supply services and acts as an appellate body tasked to review contested water rates of water districts brought before the Board on appeal by water concessionaires pursuant to Sec. 63 of PD 198, as amended;

**WHEREAS**, in the exercise of its jurisdiction, the Board conducts hearings on water rights cases and water utilities cases filed before it, in accordance with Sections 64 to 79 of the Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Water Code of the Philippines and the Commonwealth Act No. 146 or otherwise known as The Public Service Law, respectively;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the entire country was placed in Public Health Emergency, with the onset of the spread of COVID-19, in accordance with IATF Resolution No. 11, series of 2020. Thereafter, various community quarantines were imposed on different parts of the country based on the rate of spread of the virus in an area. As such, limitations and/or restrictions of domestic travel were likewise implemented;

**WHEREAS**, the limitation of movement of persons to the minimum is one of the key strategies in preventing the spread of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, with the limitation of movement, the Board limits the conduct of hearings on cases where the parties and or their counsel are located in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, with less travel restrictions. The cases filed before the Board where the subjects, parties and/or counsels are located in the provinces were not called for hearing;

**WHEREAS**, to prevent the accumulation of unacted cases and petitions filed before the Board and ensure unhampered delivery of services, the conduct of the on-line hearing has to be adopted as an alternative when face-to-face hearing is not feasible;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the Board hereby **APPROVES** the grant of **AUTHORITY** to the NWRB to conduct on-line hearings to fit current health and safety measures, subject to the issuance of guidelines.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, we set our hand this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020, in Quezon City, Philippines.

**Sec. ROY A. CIMATU (DENR)**

Rep: Usec. Rodolfo C. Garcia  
Chairman

**Acting Sec. KARL KENDRICK T. CHUA (NEDA)**

Rep: Asec. Roderick M. Planta  
Vice-Chairman

Members:



**Sec. MENARDO I. GUEVARRA (DOJ)**

Rep: Senior State Counsel Rosario Elena Laborte-Cuevas



**Sec. FORTUNATO T. DE LA PEÑA (DOST)**

Rep: Director Eduardo V. Manalili



**Dr. ROBERTO S. SORIANO (UP-NHRC)**