



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

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-1016**

**October 12, 2016 – 159<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

**AUTHORITY TO CANCEL ALL UNCLAIMED WATER PERMITS ISSUED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 2015**

WHEREAS, Article 13 of the Water Code of the Philippines and the Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations states that “No person, including government instrumentalities or government-owned or controlled corporation, shall appropriate water without a water right, which shall be evidenced by a document known as a *water permit*”;

WHEREAS, Article 79 further states that “The administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Code including the granting of permits and the imposition of penalties for administrative violations hereof, are hereby vested in the Council, now Board, and except in regard to those functions which under this Code are specifically conferred upon other agencies of the government, the Board is hereby empowered to make all decisions and determinations provided in this Code”;

WHEREAS, based on the inventory of approved water permits, there are *2,097 water permits* approved from 2003 to 2015 that are still unclaimed by the grantees;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned water permits are not paying the corresponding annual water charges;

WHEREAS, the discharge granted on the unclaimed permits were already allocated from the available water resources which may not be beneficially used;

WHEREAS, there are some areas wherein the available water is rapidly depleting due to drastic increase in water demand brought by rapid population growth and migration, social and economic development including the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, in order to have an effective management and equitable allocation and to augment the available water supply, there is a need to cancel the unclaimed water permits to be able to reallocate the volume granted in the water permit to new water permit applicants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to adopt the following policy guidelines for the unclaimed water permits:

1. All unclaimed water permits issued on or before October 31, 2015 shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation for three (3) consecutive weeks with a “Notice to the Public” directing all grantees to claim their issued water permits from the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) within thirty (30) days from the date of publication. Any unclaimed water permit within the prescribed period shall be considered cancelled.

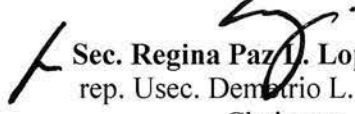
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2. The water permit grantee may claim the water permit within the prescribed period, provided that he/she shall settle the accumulated arrears including the applicable penalties for the annual water charge as provided in the Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Water Code of the Philippines prior to the release of the permit.
3. The permittee whose water permit was cancelled by virtue hereof shall be disqualified from filing a new application on the same source.
4. Those with cancelled water permits are immediately directed to cease and desist from further appropriating water from its source.

RESOLVED further to authorize the Executive Director to cancel outright all unclaimed water permits issued on or before October 31, 2015.

RESOLVED finally that henceforth, all approved water permits not claimed within one (1) year from the date of issuance shall be considered automatically revoked.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand this October 12, 2016 in Quezon City.

  
**Sec. Regina Paz A. Lopez, DENR**  
rep. Usec. Demetrio L. Ignacio Jr.  
Chairman

  
**Dir. Gen. Ernesto M. Pernia, NEDA**  
rep. DDG Rolando G. Tumpalan  
Vice Chairman

Members:

  
**Sec. Vitaliano N. Aguirre II, DOJ**  
rep. Atty. Ruben F. Fondevilla

  
**Sec. Fortunato T. Dela Peña, DOST**  
rep. Dir. Eduardo V. Manalili

  
**Dr. Roberto S. Soriano**  
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