

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is the government agency responsible for all the water resources in the Philippines. The NWRB achieved significant accomplishments on its regular activities and major programs in compliance with policy issuances to fight against the effect of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Such accomplishments are part of the agency's coordination and regulatory functions for water resources development, utilization and management. There was 8% increase in the number of water use/water utilities regulated (from 2018 to 2020) while 22% of violators were penalized or with cases filed in court and 15.9% reduction in illegal water use.

Thirteen (13) policies were approved by the Board from January to December 2020. Most of the policies were formulated due to the urgency of water regulation policies in the light of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). One of the 13 policies and plans formulated and approved by the Board in CY 2020 is Resolution No. 07-0720 or Implementation of Online Virtual Inspection in the Issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) and other Related Applications and Conduct of Asset Validation for CPC Grantees in the Face of COVID-19 pandemic. The agency regulates water use based on policies to achieve the optimum utilization of water. A total of 1,404 Water Permit Applications (Conditional Water Permits or CWP) /Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) applications were processed and approved. A total of 185 water use conflicts were resolved. Virtual monitoring of water sources/facilities were also conducted. The Board also granted 463 permits to drill during the period.

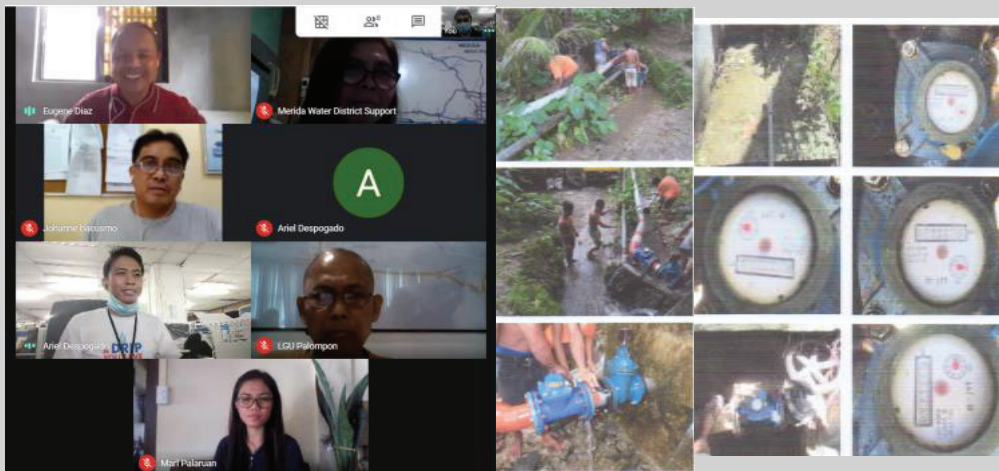


Figure 16.1 Virtual inspection of water sources/facilities conducted in Palompon, Leyte

Figure 16.2 An IEC campaign entitled, "NWRB: Nangangalaga ng Water Resources ng Bansa an Education Campaign" was organized by the NWRB last 5-6 March 2020 in San Rafael, Bulacan.



One of the primary activities of the NWRB is to ensure that the country's water resources is secured and protected by continuously undertaking the following COVID 19 responses and activities: Constant/close monitoring of Angat Reservoir operations to ascertain sustainable water level in the reservoir that could provide steady and sustainable water supply in Metro Manila and adjacent areas and efficient supply of irrigation water in farmlands in the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga; Increase the allocation of water supply for Metro Manila and adjacent provinces (Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite) for a certain period to sustain the steady supply of water in performing preventive measures against the COVID-19, such as frequent handwashing and other hygiene, cleaning and disinfection activities; Activation and establishment of deep wells by MWSS to augment the back-up water supply of Metro Manila; Dissemination of Water Conservation Advisory as part of NWRB's IEC campaign through the use of social media in coordination with Oplan Tubig Para sa Kinabukasan, responsible water use campaign team. In compliance with Memorandum dated March 28, 2020 issued by the Executive Secretary on the Implementation of Temporary Emergency Measures under Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 otherwise known as "The Bayanihan to Heal as One Act", the NWRB in coordination with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems (MWSS) and Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) submitted a weekly report to the Office of the DENR Secretary regarding the updates on the water supply availability for municipal use in Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite and for irrigation in Bulacan and Pampanga as well as operations to fight COVID-19.



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Figure 16.3 Angat Reservoir in Norzagaray, Bulacan

To ease the inconveniences of the water users in the renewal of their water permits and certificate of public convenience and payment of fees and charges and submission of requirements in the light of ECQ, MECQ and GCQ, the following policies were approved for implementation: NWRB Resolution No.04-0320 – "Extension of Validity of Conditional Water Permit in Light of the Enhanced Community Quarantine" which allows all Conditional Water Permits due to expire from March 15 to June 30, 2020, including those with granted extensions, to continue to be valid six (6) months after its/their expiration/s; NWRB Resolution No. 01-0420 - "Extension of Time for the Payment of Fees/Charges and the Filing of Applications/Petitions to NWRB in Light of the Enhanced Community Quarantine" which allows the extension of the deadline for payment of all Water Permit Annual Water Charges, and the fees for Well Driller Registration which become due between March 15 to June 30, 2020, for six (6) months from their due dates without penalties. Filing of all Applications/Petitions for the Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience that are due to expire on March 15 to June 30, 2020, and other related applications for that matter, with their corresponding filing fees, shall likewise be extended for six (6) months from the last date of their validity; NWRB Resolution on the "Extension of Time on the Submission of Annual Report and Payment of Supervision and Regulation Fees in Light of the Extended Enhanced Community Quarantine" which allows the extension of the submission of all Annual Reports due on May 30, 2020 for a period of two (2) Months or until July 30, 2020 without imposition of penalty charges. However, failure to submit or non-submission of Annual Report after July 30, 2020 shall be subject to the policy guidelines as stated under NWRB; Resolution No. 30-0619, the deadline for payment of all Supervision and Regulation Fees which is due on September 30, 2020, shall likewise be extended for two (2) months or until November 30, 2020.

To ensure adequate supply of water for the management and control of COVID-19 pandemic, three Memorandums were issued by NWRB as follows: Memorandum Order No. 2020-01 to all water utilities and water service providers with subject “Continuous and Enhanced Water Supply Services in All Areas of Operation” dated March 20, 2020. The Order specifically directs all NWRB-regulated water utilities/water service providers to perform the actions to ensure adequate and sustainable water supply within their respective service area; Memorandum Order No. 1-A series of 2020 to all water utilities and water service providers to have as their primary concern the provision of efficient water supply services to hospitals or institutions (government or private) performing functions related to the management/control of COVID-19 disease, dated April 1, 2020; Memorandum Circular No. 01 Series of 2020 with subject, “Unimpeded/ Unhindered Access or Movement of Water Utilities Personnel and Regulators” issued on April 8, 2020. Notices on the acceptance of Water Permit Applications and Hearings of NWRB cases in the Water Rights Division during ECQ, MECQ, GCQ were posted in the NWRB website. To minimize person to person interaction and prevent the spread of the disease, the NWRB encourages all those who intend to file their applications to maximize the use of the Water Permit Management Information System (WPMIS), and file their application by accessing tlcpay.ph/NWRB. All hearings in the Water Rights Division scheduled from March 16, 2020 to April 12, 2020 were postponed, since domestic travel is strictly restricted. The NWRB shall issue the necessary Orders for the rescheduling of said hearings.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NWRB accepts online appointment to safeguard health and safety, and to ensure that the client’s concerns are attended. The NWRB assist the clients and guests by scheduling an appointment for an on-site visit, online voice call or live chat. The clients/guests should check on the services that they need and click the corresponding link to fill in the request form for their preferred schedules.

The NWRB was granted ISO Certificate No. 01-100-18-1004TRP on December 10, 2018 and valid until December 9, 2021. NWRB underwent ISO 9001:2015 Surveillance Audit last December 22, 2020 by the TUV Rhienland Philippines, Inc. which resulted in a recommendation on the maintenance of the existing certification of the agency.

(Source: NWRB)