

INDUSTRY ENVIRONNEWS

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DENR Chief Urges Aggressive Implementation of Environmental Laws

"We are not just regulators but enablers of sustainable development". This is the mission emphasized by DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun in the Management Conference (MANCON) held at Robinsdale Hotel, Manila, from February 13 to 15, 2003. This was attended by Regional Directors and other key personnel of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) nationwide.

Secretary Gozun urged the participants to be proactive - to go beyond just safeguarding the environment and instead, proactively provide assistance to those in need, particularly to the industries, local government units (LGUs), and NGOs who are DENR's partners in the protection of the environment.

Two major objectives were raised in the MANCON: the preparation of Regional Action Plans to implement the thrusts and priorities of the present administration, and the streamlining of processing of environmental permits to make it more investment/business-friendly. The conference also proposed the reduction in the processing time for various projects to streamline the permitting procedure under the Environmental Impact Assessment Law.

One of the thrusts laid down by DENR Secretary Gozun for EMB for 2003-2004 is the more aggressive coordination in the implementation of R.A. 9003, particularly on the Ecological Solid Waste

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"We are not just regulators, but enablers of sustainable development." Thus exhorted DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun before regional directors and other key personnel nationwide of EMB as she pressed for more aggressive implementation of environmental laws.

8 MMIA LGUs Get Assistance to Develop 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan

Eight LGUs in Metro Manila have been selected by the Asian Development Bank – assisted Metro Manila Solid Waste Management (SWM) Study (ADB-TA3848-PHIL) to be the first recipients of assistance in the development of the 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan. Malabon, Makati, Manila, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Pasig, Quezon City and Valenzuela are among the 17 cities and municipalities to be given assistance by the project, which aims to build the LGUs' capacity in setting up its SWM system, a primary component required by RA 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

As required by RA9003, the 10-year SWM plan of a local government unit must include components on waste reduction; recycling; collection; information, education and com-

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EMB-NCR Partners with Industries in Environmental Management Initiatives

EMB-NCR and EARTHSAVERS Co-organize Circle of PCOs

DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun graced the Oath taking of Pollution Control Officers, co-organized by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-National Capital Region (NCR), and the Earthsavers Movement of the Philippines last January 15, 2003, at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Visitors' Center, North Avenue, Quezon City. In attendance were several pollution control officers (PCOs) who were to gain their accreditation from EMB-NCR.

EMB Central Office Director Julian Amador awarded the PCOs their certificates. As part of the event, Earthsavers and the EMB-NCR also organized a circle of PCOs, to work together in sustaining a healthy environment in the industrial sector. EMB-NCR Director Sixto Tolentino, Jr. explained the purpose of the PCOs' accreditation in the goal of both the government and private organizations in pursuing sound environmental management.

The participants in attendance were grouped according to the sectors they represent such as hotels and housing, manufacturing, electronics, industrial plants, and institutions. Elected as officers for the various sectors were Aurel Mones, Eugene Lim, August Ico, Olive Pullan and Alex Pamplona, among others.

Gozun Signs Pact with Filipino-Chinese Businessmen

DENR Secretary Gozun signed the Memorandum of Undertaking with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industries Incorporated (FFCCCII) at the DENR Office Conference Room last December 30, 2002.

DENR Secretary Gozun expressed her appreciation to the FFCCCII in their willingness to support the Philippine Environment Partnership Program's (PEPP's) objective to enable the industry sector to improve its environmental management and performance through the adoption of Environmental Management Systems and strategies such as cleaner production and pollution prevention. Mr. Henry K.C. Ng, president of the Federation, meanwhile, expressed his gratitude to the DENR and vowed to commit time, effort and resources to help implement the PEPP.

Secretary Gozun further added that "If companies go beyond the standards of the PEPP, incentives would also be in order. The DENR will also technically assist the industries particularly in the how to's of environmental assessments, while streamlining the EMB's permitting systems". She also said that the DENR should be partners to the development of industries, while being guardians of the environment.

Environmental Initiatives Among Industries in Bicol Region

by Grace Madelar, EMB Region 5

In support to the implementation of the Philippine Environmental Partnership Program (PEPP) which encourages industries to adopt Environmental Management System (EMS) and apply Pollution Prevention/Cleaner Production practices, EMB Region 5 conducted seminars for major industries in 2000 through the USAID-funded Industrial Initiatives for a Sustainable Environment Project, which was extended to the region due to the clamor of the industries in Region 5.

Five major industries responded to the program and initiated efforts to adopt EMS namely: Isarog Pulp and Paper Company in Brgy. Kilicao, Daraga, Albay; Albay Agro-Industrial Development in Brgy. Balading, Malinao, Albay; National Power Corporation (NPC) -Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant in Tiwi, Albay; NPC- Bacon-Manito Geothermal Power Plant in Palayan-Bayan, Manito, Albay and Goodfound Cement Corporation in Palanog, Camalig, Albay. In 2001, through the assistance of Chemonics International Incorporated, a series of training-workshops was given to the said industries.

Among them, only Goodfound Cement Corp. pursued ISO 14001 accreditation and was awarded certification last January 16, 2003 by the Certification International Philippines, Inc.

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EMB Central Office Director Julian Amador hands over a certificate to a pollution control officer (PCO) with EMB-NCR Regional Director Sixto Tolentino Jr. (third from the left) during the PCOs' oath-taking ceremonies.

Environmental Initiatives...

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Meanwhile, the Philippine Geothermal, Inc. (PGI) developed an ISO-based EMS known as Environmental Care Management System or ECMS. ECMS is a formal systematic and integrated scheme for managing a wide range of environmental impacts arising from geothermal operations in Tiwi and Makban. As an ISO 14001-based system, it addresses the specification of the international standards and is conceptually grounded on the Deming framework of plan-do-check-act. Recognizing PGI's pioneering effort in EMS development in the region, DENR Region 5 chose PGI-Tiwi to be its first institutional partner. Last December 4, 2002, EMB Region 5 and PGI-Tiwi signed a Memorandum of Agreement for Cooperation in Promoting the PEPP.

Isarog Pulp and Paper Company likewise practices Cleaner Production through the strict implementation of the 5S (sort, systematize, sweep, standardize and self-discipline) or good housekeeping by installing "save-all" screen to recover fine fibers from the wastewater which increases pulp yield and through wastewater recycling in various points of operations thus reducing its freshwater usage.

EMB Region 5 looks forward to other industries to heed the global call to also take their initiatives to promote environmentally sound technologies.

EMB Hosts Seminar on GHS

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources played host to a seminar on Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of labeling and classifying hazardous chemicals last March 3, 2003.

EMB Director Julian Amador said the seminar was participated in by technical staff from various government organizations and the private sector involved in the management, handling and use of chemicals. It sought to familiarize the participants on the GHS, a new system in evaluating and classifying chemicals according to their hazards and of labeling them using pictograms that are universally understandable.

A paper on GHS by the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) describes GHS as a "consistent and coherent approach to evaluating the hazards of chemicals, and providing information on these hazards and associated protective measures to users or those who may be exposed."

Adopted in Geneva last year, the GHS is a product of almost 10 years of extensive work by dozens of experts from around the world, according to the UNITAR paper. It was developed in compliance to an agreement made during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to come up with a "globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labeling system, including material safety data sheets and easily understandable symbols."

The GHS covers all hazardous chemical substances, dilute solutions, and mixtures. Phar-

maceuticals, food additives, cosmetics and pesticide residues in food, however, will not be covered at the point of intentional intake but will be covered where workers may be exposed and in transport.

EMB Conducts Assessment of Environmental Laboratories in Region 7

A team of technical staff from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Bureau of Product Standards and the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines was deployed March 2003 to undertake assessment of five environmental laboratories in Region 7.

Assessed of their capabilities to render environmental analytical services include the University of San Carlos (USC) Water Laboratory, Metro Cebu Water District (MCWD) Laboratory, Chemrock Laboratories, Kaschel Laboratories and the EMB Region 7 laboratory.

EMB Director Julian Amador said the assessment of USC, MCWD and Chemrock stemmed from their requests for renewal of their certificates of recognition as environmental laboratories, while that of Kaschel was based on its application for recognition. Environmental laboratories refer to such, whether owned or operated by local or foreign nationals, that generate environmental data in connection with the Environmental Impact Assessment System, environmental monitoring and research activities in support of the formulation and implementation of policies, rules and regulations and other activities of the EMB.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the EMB instituted the recognition scheme for environmental laboratories by virtue of DENR Administrative Order No. 98-63. It seeks not only to encourage private sector participation in providing laboratory services to companies engaged in development projects but also to ensure harmony of analytical procedures and techniques and to promote the use of quality assessment and control practices in environmental measurements.

According to EMB Director Amador, the recognition scheme for environmental laboratories has been enhanced, covering 27 parameters for water and wastewater, 19 for ambient air and air emissions, and six groups of parameters for sediments and biota.

The recognition process follows a five-level assessment that includes ocular inspection of laboratories, proficiency testing and issuance of certificate of recognition, with a validity period of three years and is renewable for another three years.

EMB records indicate that the number of environmental laboratories issued with certificates of recognition throughout the country has reached 30. Of the total, 14 are located within the Metro Manila area, five are in Region 7, three in Region 4, two each in Regions 3 and 10, and one each in Regions 5, 6, 11 and 12.



Customs, Ports Personnel Trained to Monitor Entry of Ozone-Depleting Substances

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through its Philippine Ozone Desk, conducted last March 25-27, 2003, a training program designed to upgrade the capabilities of customs and ports personnel of the government in monitoring illegal entry of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and other banned chemicals, including hazardous waste at the Estancia Resort Hotel in Tagaytay City.

EMB Director Julian Amador said that the three-day training, funded by the United Nations Environment Programme, was part of the continuing capacity-building program for Philippine customs officials and other key stakeholders.

“Being at the forefront of the country’s effort to combat illegal trade of ozone-depleting substances and other banned chemicals and hazardous waste, it is time we also looked into upgrading the knowledge and skills of our customs and ports officers and personnel, particularly on detecting legal and illegal trade of ODS at the local, regional and international levels and the proper handling of seized ODS and ODS-containing equipment and goods,” Amador explained.

ODS refers to chemical substances that have the potential to destroy the earth’s stratosphere. The stratosphere is that part of the earth’s atmosphere which contain 90% of the ozone gas that serves as a veil or beneficial “shield” that screens the earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiation coming from the sun.

According to EMB Director Amador, there are currently 17 kinds of ODS whose importation and use are being strictly monitored by the EMB, in compliance with the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty requiring nations, including the Philippines, to gradually reduce the consumption and production of ODS. These regulated chemicals include the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). They are commonly used as refrigerants, blowing agents, propellants, solvent and fire extinguishing agents.

Aside from ODS concerns, the EMB chief also stressed that the participants were also oriented on other multilateral agreements that the Philippine government has entered into in consonance with the global effort to protect the environment and its resources. These environmental agreements include Basel Convention for the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste, Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species, Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent, and the Stockholm Convention for Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Participants to the training included officers from the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Ports of Manila, Manila International Containers Port and other stakeholders from the private sector.

Earlier, the EMB through its Philippine Ozone Desk implemented the initial phase of the capacity-building program with the conduct of a National Train-the-Trainers Course on Monitoring and Control of Ozone Depleting Substances in Clark, Pampanga. Said training, participated in by some 30 representatives from the BOC, Tariff Commission, Philippine Ports Authority, Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry, was aimed to develop a core group of resource persons who shall re-echo the ODS training program in various parts of the country. The EMB is set to train some 250 customs and ports personnel this year.



Key actors and participants in the February 2003 National Train-the-Trainers Course for Customs Officers and other Stakeholders on Monitoring and Control of Ozone-Depleting Substances are shown above. Some of them include Mr. Prudencio Calado (third from the left), project manager, Philippine Ozone Desk-EMB/DENR; Mr. Nicomedes Enad (seventh from left), head of the Environmental Protection Unit of the Bureau of Customs; Ms. Cecille Mercado (first from the right), programme officer of UNEP-Bangkok; and Ms. Katarina Axelsson (fourth from the right), research associate of the Stockholm Environment Institute.

Sectoral Consultations Held on IRR for A.O. 42

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently held sectoral consultative meetings with the private sector, government agencies and the EMB Regional Offices to make the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System a more effective tool for environmental management and not as a deterrent to national development.

The consultations were held at the Visitors' Center of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, in Quezon City, Robinsdale Hotel in Manila, and the Natural Resources Development Center in Manila last February 13, 15 and 20, 2003, respectively. Discussed during the meetings were the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs) of Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 42 issued by the Office of the President last November 2, 2002. A.O. No. 42 rationalizes the implementation of the EIS System by putting the system in its proper context as a planning rather than a regulatory tool for development. It is intended to address deficiencies in the current system that hinders its effectiveness as a tool for proper environmental management. It likewise aims to institutionalize the incorporation of environmental concerns in the country's efforts for hastened national development in the most efficient manner so that neither the environment nor national development would be compromised.

The draft IRRs are aimed toward the streamlining of the Environmental Compliance Certificate application and approval process, which is the major objective of A.O. 42 and shall be attained through clarification and updating of the scope of the EIS System, simplification of requirements and streamlining of procedures.

Those who attended the consultative meetings were private sector representatives of Philippine Sugar Millers Association, Philippine Wood Producers' Association, Philippine Environmental Association, Inc., Philippine Exporters' Confederation, Inc., Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Association, Inc., Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation, Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Civil Society Counterpart for Sustainable Development, and, Philippine Association of Environmental Assessment Professionals. From the government sector, represented were the Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health, Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, National Irrigation Authority, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, and the Philippine National Oil Company. The EMB is currently continuing the solicitation of comments regarding the IRR which may be seen at the EMB website (www.emb.gov.ph). The public can e-mail their comments and recommendations at eia@emb.gov.ph.



Seminar on the Adverse Effects of Persistent Organic Pollutants



Dr. Ambrosio Brabante (left) of the Philippine Medical Association discusses the adverse health effects to women (and men) of persistent organic pollutants before inter-DENR office employees (right). The seminar was held at the EMB in line with the Women's Month celebration in March 2003.



DENR Chief Urges Aggressive Implementation...

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Management (ESWM) programs for all DENR offices nationwide, and all government offices and public schools in Metro Manila; at least one LGU-wide system working model per region of the country; and model sanitary landfills with Materials Recovery Facilities in selected key cities/municipalities of the country.

Another major thrust is the implementation of R.A. 8749, or the Clean Air Act (CAA), through more aggressive coordination with concerned sectors in the aspects of emission testing of all government vehicles; monitoring of emission testing as mandatory requirements of all vehicles prior to vehicular registration; working out ways and means, both technically and financially, to assist the transport sector in complying with the CAA; promotion of the use of alternative fuels and renewable energy for transport and industry; and ensuring the capability of Department of Health and the Philippine Hospitals' Association for the management of hospitals' hazardous wastes.

The EMB shall also strive towards greater management to industry to shift towards cleaner production, improve social and environmental performance; maximize public pressure through disclosure programs such as the Ecowatch; strengthen implementation of Toxic and Hazardous Substances and Nuclear Waste Control Act (R.A.6969); promote more vigorously the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments; and more aggressive institutionalized partnership for sustainable development, particularly, but not limited to the youth, leagues of local governments, civil society, indigenous peoples, media, church, chambers of commerce and industry, and women's organizations.

ECC Applications Now Online

Attention all project proponents!

If you wish to know the status of your applications for environmental compliance certificates (ECC), just click on the websites of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (www.denr.gov.ph) or of the Environmental Management Bureau (www.emb.gov.ph).

DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun announced the start of the DENR's "ECC/CNC applications online" project as part of the national effort to make government transactions more transparent and deter opportunities for graft and corruption.

Under the project, Gozun said, both the DENR and EMB will post in their respective websites lists of all ECC and Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) applications received by the EMB central office and its regional offices nationwide. These lists, according to her, contain important details of the applications to include the proponent, nature and location of the project, and the latest action taken by EMB or its concerned regional office.

Gozun also added that the online listings will be updated every week to make the project more responsive to the information needs of DENR clients.

Presidential Decree No. 1586, which established the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, mandates that all environmentally-critical projects (ECPs) as well as projects that are located in environmentally-critical areas (ECAs) shall undergo thorough environmental impact assessment to ensure the protection of the environment as well as the communities living within or near the project site.

Last year, in an effort to rationalize and streamline the implementation of the EIS system, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Administrative Order No. 42 authorizing, in addition to the DENR Secretary, the EMB Central Office Director and its Regional Directors to grant or deny the issuance of ECCs.

Said order likewise sets timeframes for processing ECC applications covering ECPs to 120 working days while those of non-ECPs but located in ECAs to 60 working days.

Aside from the list of ECC applications under review, also posted in the DENR and EMB websites are ECCs that have been issued last year and the current year and also those that were cancelled, recalled and denied.



Personnel of the solid waste management division of Makati City, participate in a pilot waste characterization study organized under the Asian Development Bank-assisted Metro Manila Solid Waste Management Project of the EMB-DENR, last February 13, 2003.

8 MMIA LGUs Get Assistance...

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munication; and disposal.

RA9003 also requires that the LGUs must reduce their non-recyclable wastes by 25% within five years from its enactment. To determine the waste reduction targets, an LGU must undertake systematic characterization of its different wastes from the different sectors within its jurisdiction (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, etc.). The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as the implementing agency for ADB-TA3848-PHIL and represented by the Honorable DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun, and the eight LGUs was held on February 27, 2003. The Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR, which provides secretariat support to the National Solid Waste Management Commission, specifically coordinates the implementation of this project.

In a related development, the aforementioned project has assisted Makati and Muntinlupa in their waste characterization process, while the other six LGUs to do theirs within the next few weeks. Using the results of the waste characterization studies, the LGUs can then set their waste reduction targets, design their Materials Recovery Facilities, and other components of the SWM Plan. A seminar on the preparation of the Plan for all LGUs in Metro Manila was likewise held last March 11, 2003, in Villa Cristina, Antipolo City. For representatives of the eight selected LGUs, a more intensive three-day live-in workshop also followed in Villa Cristina. After the workshop, these LGU representatives should now be able to confidently flesh out a 10-year SWM Plan that meets their needs.

DENR Designates Davao City and Cordillera...

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thority; representative of non-government organizations and people's organizations based in the five key designation areas. The Davao City Airshed Governing Board is likewise created, with similar member-institutions as the above.

The said Governing Board shall be in charge with airshed management, with the preparation of policies and standard setting subject to laws of national applications, preparation of common action plan, coordination of functions among its members, and with the submission and publication of an Annual Air Quality Status Report for the Airshed.

The EMB-Region XI and EMB-CAR, respectively, shall serve as the Technical and Administrative Secretariats of the Governing Boards with the assistance of the Technical Working Groups that are to be formed and whose members shall consist of representatives designated by members of the Governing Board.

Government Urged to Develop Natural Gas Industry...

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Despite the above problems, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has urged various government agencies and the private sector to work hand-in-hand for the use of this indigenous fuel, specifically for the public transport, because of the worsening environmental problems. A mother-daughter fueling system will be set-up in Batangas and in Metro Manila to initially propel the use of the CNG for 100 public buses this year. Several incentive packages and commitments were outlined during the launching of the Natural Gas Vehicle program for Public Transport in late 2002. One of the commitments is for the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to promote and localize the CNG components and conversion.

The PCIERD has been a consistent supporter of the natural gas project, which has resulted in the implementation of subsequent projects now being undertaken by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC). Training modules for CNG conversion are now being developed by PCIERD with the cooperation of the DOE and other schools. A study is also being initiated by the Metals Industry Research and Development Center of the DOST in support of President Arroyo's commitment.



A diesel vehicle converted into a dedicated Natural Gas Vehicle being filled up at a Compressed Natural Gas Refueling facility at San Antonio, Echague, Isabela during its 15,000 km. test-run.



DENR Designates Davao City and Cordillera Autonomous Region Airsheds

DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun recently designated the Davao City and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) airsheds, pursuant to Section 9 of the Philippine Clean Air Act (RA 8749) and Section 1 to 11 Rule XIV, Part V of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2000-81.

The Davao City airshed shall cover the whole area of the City of Davao, while the BLIST airshed shall include the City of Baguio, Municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, and Tuba. The designation of the airsheds was based on the initial characterization of both areas showing the same to have complied with the criteria set forth under Section 2 of DAO 2000-81. Further, pursuant to Section 12, Rule XV, Part V of DAO 2000-81, upon consultation with appropriate government authorities, the DENR Secretary, upon recommendation of EMB, may, from time to time, revise the designation of airsheds, utilizing eco-profiling techniques and scientific studies.

In connection with the designation of the BLIST airshed, an Interim Governing Board is also created, pursuant to Section 4, Rule XV of DAO 2000-81 and Section 9 of RA 8749. The DENR Secretary shall chair the said Interim Governing Board, with members consisting of the following: governor of the Province of Benguet; mayors of the City of Baguio, Municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, and Tuba; representatives from the Department of Transportation and Communication, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Energy, National Economic Development Authority, Department of Tourism, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and Baguio City – Philippine Economic Zone Au-

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Government Urged to Develop Natural Gas Industry

The Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development (PCIERD) has urged the Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to support the development of the natural gas industry.

PCIERD noted that based on a related study, the development of the natural gas industry will benefit the power, industrial, commercial, household and the transport sectors. The Malampaya gas reserve in Palawan serves as source for natural gas reserve deposit of 3.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Its development is expected to provide 3,000 megawatt of electricity for 20 years starting 2002.

In the transport sector, the PCIERD study showed that compressed natural gas (CNG) is a good substitute for diesel. However, the transport market is not capable of utilizing natural gas as fuel as there is no available infrastructure to support the market. Huge capital investment for infrastructure development would be needed.

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