

PRESS RELEASE

Effect of Proposed DENR Administrative Order on Nickel Asia

Taguig City, April 24, 2018 - Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC; PSE:NIKL) is issuing this press release in reaction to a number of articles today on government's plan to prescribe for maximum allowable mining areas within approved nickel tenements tied to production volumes. NAC, the country's largest nickel producer, believes that based on industry briefings from the Dept. of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the proposed Administrative Order, the area limits will not impact its production volumes.

NAC's two largest operations, Taganito and Rio Tuba, both supply ore on long term supply arrangements to NAC's two affiliate domestic processing plants, Taganito HPAL and Coral Bay. The proposed Administrative Order provides for larger mining areas to mining operations supplying ore to domestic processing plants. Of its two smaller operations, its Cagdianao mine is within the maximum allowable area while its Hinatuan operation will be able to maintain its production volume within the allowable mining area.

In the context of lateritic nickel deposits, NAC's deposits are relatively deep, requiring less areas for mining for a given production volume compared to deposits that are relatively shallow. "The impact of the Administrative Order to the Company, should it be issued in the form that we anticipate, will be to accelerate rehabilitation of disturbed areas within the prescribed time frame, which we can comply with", says Emmanuel L. Samson, Senior Vice President, Finance. "Progressive rehabilitation has been a feature of our mining operations for many years now", he said.