Adoption of the Guidelines on the Closure and Rehabilitation of Disposal Facilities

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. (RA) 9003 mandates the closure of all open dumps or their conversion to controlled dumps within three (3) years from the effectivity of the Act on February 16, 2001;

WHEREAS, RA 9003 mandates the closure of all controlled dumps after five (5) years from its effectivity;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the said provisions of RA 9003, all open dumps should have been closed or converted to controlled dumps on February 16, 2004 and all controlled dumps should be closed by February 16, 2006;

WHEREAS, majority of open dumps used by Local Government Units (LGUs) for disposal of solid waste have not been closed or, if closed, the closure was not done properly;

WHEREAS, the deadline for the closure of controlled dumps is fast approaching;

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide guidelines for the closure of existing dumps as well as controlled dumps to ensure that the closure will be done in a proper manner, with environmental protection measures and safeguards in place;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to require all municipalities and cities to comply with the following guidelines in the closure of open or controlled dumps:

Section 1 Pre-closure Assessment

All dumpsites shall be subjected to an assessment before undertaking any dump closure to determine the extent of work needed. This is important as most of the existing dumpsites operated or used by LGUs are small and may not require the measures usually employed for large city dumps.
Section 2  Scope of Pre-closure Assessment

The pre-closure assessment should include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

1. Review of available records, files and information regarding the dumpsite;
2. Evaluation of potential or existing impacts on the ecological and human environment;
3. Determination of potential contaminants (if any) which could get into the local environment and formulation of appropriate remedial and mitigating measures, where necessary.

The aspects which will be covered by the assessment will include, among others, the following: location, access, area, lot owner, terrain, surrounding landuse, surrounding surface features, nearby human receptors, hydrogeologic setting, wells, springs and surface water bodies near site, daily waste volume, waste pile dimensions and volume, extent of exposed waste, period of operation, slope, drainage if any, evidence of contamination, presence of squatters and waste pickers, reports or evidence of spontaneous combustion, reported dumping of hazardous wastes and number and types vehicles which bring in waste.

Section 3  Components of the Closure and Rehabilitation Plan

Following the site assessment, a closure plan must be prepared by the municipality or city for its dumpsite. The following components shall make up the basic closure plan to be implemented by the LGU.

1. Site Clearing
2. Relocation of Informal Settlers at Dumpsite
3. Site Grading and Stabilization of Critical Slopes
4. Application and Maintenance of Soil Cover
5. Provision of Drainage Control System
6. Leachate Management
7. Gas Management
8. Fencing and Security
9. Prohibition of burning at the dumpsite
10. Putting up of Signage
Where necessary, the appropriate remedial and mitigating measures for identified contaminants shall be implemented.

**Section 4 Closure Plan Implementation**

The LGU shall submit the closure plan to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Regional Office for review and approval and the same shall be implemented as soon as the Authority to Close (ATC) is issued.

**Section 5 Role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)**

The Provincial/Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO/CENRO) shall provide technical assistance in the pre-closure assessment and preparation of the closure plans of the LGUs.

The EMB Regional Office shall review the closure plan submitted by the LGU. If found adequate, it shall issue an ATC within 15 days upon receipt of the request.

The PENRO/CENRO shall conduct regular inspection and monitoring of the dumpsite during the actual closure activities and, thereafter, shall ensure that the site is not utilized as an open dump. In cases where the closed site is reused as an open dump, the DENR shall impose sanctions in accordance with the provisions of RA 9003 and PD 984.

The DENR is requested to issue the appropriate DENR Administrative Order for the operationalization of this Resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect upon approval.

Done this 15th day of DECEMBER, 2005, Metro Manila, Philippines

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Chairman, National Solid Waste Management Commission

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Department of Interior and Local Government

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Department of Science and Technology

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Department of Public Works and Highways

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Department of Health