



DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2026-08-0019

**RECONSTITUTION OF THE REVIEW AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (REC),
THE REC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (REC TWG), AND THE SECRETARIAT
OF THE PHILIPPINE CONVENTIONAL ENERGY CONTRACTING PROGRAM
(PCECP) FOR COAL AND PETROLEUM**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7638, as amended, otherwise known as "*The Department of Energy (DOE) Act of 1992*", mandates the DOE to prepare, integrate, coordinate, supervise and control all plans, programs, projects and activities of the Government relative to energy exploration, development, utilization, distribution, and conservation;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 972, as amended, otherwise known as "*The Coal Development Act of 1976*", provides that the Government shall undertake by itself the active exploration, development and production of coal resources or execute coal operating contracts;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of PD No. 87, as amended, otherwise known as the "*The Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972*," provides that the Government may directly explore for and produce indigenous petroleum or indirectly undertake the same under service contracts;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the foregoing mandates, the DOE issued Department Circular (DC) Nos. DC2017-09-0010 and DC2017-12-0017, which adopted the Philippine Conventional Energy Contracting Program (PCECP) to institutionalize a transparent, open, and competitive process for the awarding of coal operating contracts (COCs) and petroleum service contracts (PSCs), created/reconstituted the Review and Evaluation Committee (REC), and organized the REC Technical Working Group (REC TWG) and Secretariat to assist the REC in all activities related to PCECP and in the coordination and administration, supervision and regulation of COCs and PSCs;

WHEREAS, DOE issued DC No. DC2023-11-0031 adopting the policy that the exploration, development and production of naturally occurring hydrogen shall be governed by PD 87, as amended, and shall be implemented under the rules, regulations, issuance and procedures issued by the DOE relevant to the conduct of petroleum exploration, development and production;

WHEREAS, DOE issued DC Nos. DC2023-12-0033 and DC2026-02-0004 prescribing guidelines on the awarding of PSCs and COCs, respectively, for development and production. Section 6 of DC2023-12-0033 provides that the REC, REC TWG, and Secretariat created pursuant to DC2017-12-0017 are directed to perform the function and responsibilities provided therein while Section 8 of DC2026-02-0004 provides that the provisions of DC2017-12-0017 shall have suppletory application in the implementation thereof;

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend DC Nos. DC2017-09-0010 and DC2017-12-0017 for the purpose of updating the composition of the REC, the REC TWG, and the

Secretariat to strengthen coordination, enhance administrative efficiency, and ensure alignment with the current DOE organization structure;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises, the DOE hereby issues, adopts, and promulgates the following:

Section 1. Purpose. This Circular shall prescribe amendments to DC Nos. DC2017-09-0010 and DC2017-12-0017, particularly on the composition of the REC and REC TWG. It aims to strengthen coordination and enhance administrative efficiency in the selection, evaluation, processing, and regulation of COCs and PSCs under the PCECP.

Section 2. Reconstitution of the REC. The REC for Coal and Petroleum is hereby reconstituted as follows:

Chairperson	:	Supervising Undersecretary for Energy Resource Development Bureau (ERDB)
Vice Chairman	:	Assistant Secretary
Members	:	Director of ERDB Director of Financial Services Director of Legal Services Representative/s designated by the Secretary

Section 3. Reconstitution of the REC TWG and Secretariat. The REC TWG and Secretariat shall be composed of the following:

A. REC TWG and Secretariat for Coal

REC TWG Head	:	Assistant Director of ERDB
REC TWG Members	:	Chief of Coal and Nuclear Mineral Resources Development Division (CNMRDD) Chief of Conventional Energy Resources Compliance Division (CERCD) Chief of Upstream Conventional Energy Legal Services Division (UCELSD) Representative/s designated by the Secretary
Secretariat Head	:	Supervising Science Research Specialist from CNMRDD

Secretariat Members : Exploration and Geosciences Research
Section (for Exploration, Development and
Production COCs)

Mine Development and Production Research
Section (for direct Development and Production
COCs)

B. REC TWG and Secretariat for Petroleum

REC TWG Head : Assistant Director of ERDB

REC TWG Members : Chief of Petroleum Resource Development
Division (PRDD)

Chief of Conventional Energy Resources
Compliance Division (CERCD)

Chief of Upstream Conventional Energy Legal
Services Division (UCELSD)

Representative/s designated by the Secretary

Secretariat Head : Supervising Science Research Specialist from
PRDD

Secretariat Members : Petroleum Research and Evaluation Section
(for Exploration, Development and Production
PSCs)

Petroleum Engineering Section
(for direct Development and Production PSCs)

Petroleum Geology and Geophysics Section
(for Hydrogen PSCs)

Section 4. Support from other DOE Units. The DOE Luzon Field Office (LFO), DOE Visayas Field Office (VFO) and DOE Mindanao Field Office (MFO) shall assist the TWG in the performance of its functions in their respective area/s of jurisdiction.

Section 5. Authority to Further Reconstitute. The Secretary shall have the continuing authority to reconstitute the REC, REC TWG, and Secretariat, whenever deemed necessary, through the issuance of Special Order.

Section 6. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Circular and its Guidelines is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. The provisions of DC2017-09-0010 and DC2017-12-0017, as well as all other circulars, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Circular, are hereby repealed, amended, modified, or superseded accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity. This Circular shall take effect immediately after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. A copy of this Circular shall be filed with the University of the Philippines Law Center – Office of the National Administrative Register.

Issued this 28 AUG 2026 at DOE, Energy Center, Rizal Drive corner 34th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.


SHARON S. GARIN
Secretary

