



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'19 DEC 10 P 3:34

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SENATE

P.S.R. No. 262

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

URGING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ISSUANCE OF ECCS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS NEAR ENVIRONMENTALLY-CRITICAL AREAS WITHIN NARRA, PALAWAN AND BARANGAY TUGBO, MOBO, MASBATE

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) previously issued Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) in favor of the DMCI Power Corporation (DMCI) *vis-à-vis* the construction of 15 Megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plants in Barangay Bato-Bato, Narra, Palawan, and Barangay Tugbo, Mobo, Masbate;

WHEREAS, more than 10,000 residents of Narra, Palawan signed a petition opposing the construction of a coal-fired power plant in their municipality citing various alleged irregularities in the issuance of the ECC for the project, such as the use of low-quality coal from Semirara island;

WHEREAS, concerns were also raised that the existence of a coal plant in the area would negatively affect the province's rich and unique biodiversity as well as the health of residents;

WHEREAS, the Palawan Island Power Development Plan states that the use of coal as an energy source is not a least-cost option for the province;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Masbate City promulgated Resolution No. 083-14 strongly objecting to the construction and operation of a coal-fired power plant in Barangay Tugbo, Mobo, Masbate;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned resolution states that the location of the proposed coal-fired power plant is 20 meters from the nearest residential area and 800 meters from the Buntod Marine Sanctuary, a 218-hectare protected area where human access is restricted to maintain its biodiversity;

WHEREAS, coal is widely-accepted to be the biggest polluter among energy sources, releasing 867 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per gigawatt per ton, and is the primary cause of global warming, smog, acid rain, and toxic air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the use of coal also releases 14,100 tons of sulfur dioxide and 10,300 tons of nitrogen dioxide emissions per year, taking a major toll on public health in the form of increased susceptibility to asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGE THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ISSUANCE OF ECCS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS NEAR ENVIRONMENTALLY-CRITICAL AREAS WITHIN NARRA, PALAWAN AND BARANGAY TUGBO, MOBO, MASBATE.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator