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DENR Administrative Order
No. 2016 -08

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SUBJECT: Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016

Pursuant to Section 19e and 19f of Republic Act (RA) 9275, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, and Executive Order 192 (Providing the Reorganization of the Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources; Renaming it as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) dated 10 June 1987, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hereby adopts and promulgates these Water Quality Guidelines (WQG) and General Effluent Standards (GES).

SECTION 1.0 Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to pursue a policy of economic growth in a manner consistent with the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of our fresh, brackish and marine waters.

SECTION 2.0 Objectives. This Administrative Order is issued to provide guidelines for the classification of water bodies in the country; determination of time trends and the evaluation of stages of deterioration/enhancement in water quality; evaluation of the need for taking actions in preventing, controlling, or abating water pollution; and designation of water quality management areas (WQMA). In addition, this Order is issued to set the General Effluent Standards (GES).

SECTION 3.0 Scope and Coverage. The WQG applies to all water bodies in the country: freshwaters, marine waters, and groundwater; and shall be used for classifying water bodies, determining time trends, evaluating stages of deterioration or enhancement in water quality, and as basis for taking positive actions in preventing, controlling, or abating water pollution. Moreover, this WQG shall be used in the process of designating WQMA.

The GES applies to all point sources of pollution, regardless of volume, that discharge to receiving body of water or land. The GES shall be used regardless of the industry category.

SECTION 4.0 Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Order, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a) **“Annual Average”** means the sum of all values in one year divided by the number of values.

