



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
National Capital Region  
DOLE-NCR Building, 967 Maligaya St., Malate, Manila

**FOR THE SECRETARY**

**THRU : Undersecretary ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**  
**FROM : Director RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE**  
**SUBJECT : Clean-up of the Manila Thermal Power Plant**  
**DATE : 19 August 2009**

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May we respectfully inform the Secretary of the inspections conducted by the DOLE-NCR at the Manila Thermal Power Plant.

**13 AUGUST 2009 Letter-Request**

On 13 August 2009, Thursday, this Office received a letter from Cedric R. Bagtas of the Katipunang Manggagawang Pilipino-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (KMP-TUCP), informing this Office of the hazards to the safety and health of workers in the demolition of the Manila Thermal Power Plant (MTPP). Specifically, Mr. Bagtas said that the asbestos removal at the MTPP may have violated the Occupational Safety and Health Standards relating to safe demolition, removal, handling and disposal of asbestos. As such, Mr. Bagtas requested this Office to conduct inspection at the MTPP and verify the reported violation to ensure the safety and health of workers, their families and the community.

On the same date, this Office issued Inspection Authority No. NCR-0908-OSHC-003, directing Engineer Martin T. Jequinto and Engineer Jose G. Viray to conduct occupational safety and health inspection at the reported site.

### **14 August 2009 Inspection**

On 14 August 2009, Friday, Inspectors Jequinto and Viray proceeded to the MTPP at about 1:30 in the afternoon. Upon entry at the MTPP premises, the Inspectors noticed that no work was being carried out. The Inspectors were informed that the management declared a half-day of work. However, the Inspectors noted the presence of groups of workers within or surrounding the premises. It appears, therefore, that the management's decision to order work stoppage may be due to the presence of DOLE inspectors.

### **17 August 2009 Inspection**

On 17 August 2009, Monday, Inspectors Jequinto and Viray went back to the MTPP. Upon interview with management representatives, the Inspectors gathered the following information:

1. MTPP was originally owned by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM), but was subsequently sold to Gagasan Steel, Incorporated, located at 202 Mabolo Street, Maysilo, Malabon City, with telephone number 446-4795;
2. Gagasan Steel, Inc. sought the services of RS Samson Management Exponent (RSSME), a project management firm, to execute the project of dismantling and demolishing the structures at MTPP;
3. To help it implement the project, RSSME hired the services of the following contractors to execute specific works:
  - a) Mig-Wells Construction Corporation (MCC) to handle general engineering works (demolition);
  - b) R.O. Ilagan Customs Brokerage to provide and handle heavy equipment; and
  - c) Waste Solution and Management Services, Inc. (WSMSI) to execute safe and systematic methodology in tearing down all improvements and all accessories including asbestos handling.

The Inspectors were informed that the removal of asbestos was already completed on 31 July 2009, or way before this office was informed of the demolition job. The collected asbestos were wrapped in plastic bags and segregated in an area within the premises. As to the disposal of the gathered asbestos, the inspectors were informed that the management is still waiting for the appropriate permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The Inspectors asked for a copy of the result of the conducted asbestos fiber test but were told that the same was not available. Likewise, appropriate permits from other government agencies like the Manila City Hall and the DENR were allegedly secured prior to the conduct of demolition, but the same were unavailable at the time of inspection. Also, the management representative had no knowledge whether the Bureau of Working Conditions or any Offices of the DOLE was actually notified of the planned demolition at MTPP.

Upon further investigation, the Inspectors observed that some workers conducting demolition job on top of a building had no masks, hard hats, safety shoes or any other personal protective equipments. Our inspectors informed the management representative of the noted hazard and ordered for the stoppage of work, which the management obliged without protest. Likewise, the inspectors surveyed the area and observed the following occupational safety and health violations, which were indicated in the Notice of Inspection Results:

1. Non-provision of safety shoes, safety hats, mask;
2. Non-provision of lifeline, safety harness;
3. Non-provision of safety net to enclose the area near the Meralco tension wire;
4. No safety signage;
5. Non-provision of PPEs to the Haulers;
6. No presence of a Safety Officer, Health Personnel (First Aider, Nurse);
7. No emergency medicine; and
8. No local lighting.

The Notice of Inspection Results was explained to and received by a management representative. The management was given five (5) calendar days or until 22 August 2009 to comply with the noted violations. Our inspectors are scheduled for a 3<sup>rd</sup> visit on 24 August 2009, Monday. We shall update the Secretary of the result of the scheduled 3<sup>rd</sup> inspection.

For information and consideration.

  
**RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE**  
Regional Director