

October 23, 2023

Hilario G. Pagautan  
Chairman of the Board  
Norweah Metals and Mineral Co., Inc.  
Lot 39 Cluster L. Bagong Nayon I  
Cogeo Vill., 1870 Antipolo City.

Dear Mr. Hilario G. Pagautin,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Rights International, an international NGO that conducts research and advocacy on the human rights dimensions of the climate crisis. For the past several months, we have been carrying out research for a report that we plan to publish on the human, environmental, and climate impacts associated with nickel mining in the Philippines' Caraga Region.

Based on roughly sixty interviews with community members, our research finds that nickel mining in Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Sur is threatening the rights of local people, harming the local environment, and exacerbating the impacts of the climate crisis. People told Climate Rights International that nickel mining and related pollution is destroying fishing and farming livelihoods, contributing to food insecurity, polluting water and air, and increasing health problems. Perversely, mining for nickel, needed for the renewable energy transition, is making local communities – who bear extremely little responsibility for the climate crisis – more vulnerable to climate impacts, including extreme weather events. The Philippines is the most dangerous country in Asia to be a land and environmental defender, and Climate Rights International also documents how those who oppose mining can face threats, criminalization, and attacks.

We want to ensure that our report accurately reflects the views, policies, and practices of relevant authorities and companies, and we hope that you or your representatives will respond to the following questions, outlined below. Any responses will be reflected in our reporting as appropriate, and we may publish your responses at our discretion and when appropriate, either in full or in part.

The following questions are related to the Oriental Vision Mining Philippines Corporation (OVMPC) mining operations on Dinagat Island under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR, for which Norweah Metals and Minerals Co. (Norweah) is listed as the project contractor.

Questions:

1. Please clarify the relationship between Norweah (project contractor) and OVMPC (project operator) as it relates to the Dinagat Islands nickel mining concession under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR. How does Norweah work with OVMPC on project governance?

2. Individuals from Dinagat Island interviewed by Climate Rights International expressed concern about the impacts of the mining operations on fresh and saltwater resources, as well as increased siltation of rice and agricultural fields. What steps is Norweah taking to ensure that the operations under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR are not causing serious environmental pollution?
3. Does Norweah monitor air, water and soil quality?
  - a. Please provide information about Norweah's water quality testing, if any, including how frequently water samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
  - b. Please provide information about Norweah's air quality monitoring, if any, including how frequently air samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
  - c. Please provide information about Norweah's soil quality monitoring, if any, including how frequently air samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
4. Does Norweah make the results of any pollution monitoring public? If so, please explain how community members are able to access that information.
5. Please provide information about how Norweah manages its tailings and other mining waste under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR, including what steps Norweah takes to ensure that tailings ponds are able to withstand extreme weather events.
6. What steps does Norweah take when it receives an allegation of environmental pollution or negative impacts of the operations under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR on local communities? Does Norweah have a grievance mechanism through which community members can file a complaint? If so, please provide information regarding that mechanism, including how often it is used, how community members can access it, and how Norweah responds to complaints.
7. Does Norweah have climate adaptation plans, including plans to adapt to extreme weather events? If so, please elaborate.
8. It is our understanding that the nickel ore mined in this mining concession is exported to China. Is all nickel ore mined under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR exported? Please provide a list of companies that purchase nickel ore from Norweah and/or OVMPC and companies involved in the export of nickel ore mined by Norweah.
9. Did Norweah hold public meetings with local communities about the proposed project before the commencement of mining? If so, please provide information about the dates, locations, and attendance of those meetings, including information about how community

members were made aware of the meetings. In addition, please detail the information provided to communities at those meetings.

10. Has Norweah held any public meetings with local communities about the mine and its impacts since mining operations began? If so, please provide information about the dates, locations, and attendance of those meetings, including information about how community members were made aware of the meetings. In addition, please detail the information provided to communities at those meetings.
11. Please provide a list of all subcontracting companies that work with Norweah and OVMPC at its Dinagat Islands nickel mining operations. What steps does Norweah take to ensure that individuals hired by subcontractors are properly compensated and have access to occupational health and safety protections?

Please provide your responses in writing. Your responses can only be considered for inclusion in our report if we receive them by October 30, 2025. Please reply in English. In addition, please include any other materials, statistics, and/or information you think may be relevant.

We would also welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your representatives. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to arrange a meeting or video conference.

Sincerely,

Brad Adams  
Executive Director, Climate Rights International