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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 46

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION TO SUBMIT THE
UPDATED PROTOCOL FOR DAM WATER RELEASES IN LIGHT OF THE ONSET
OF THE RAINY SEASON AND THE WORSENING WATER CRISIS**

WHEREAS, after the onslaught of Tropical Storm *Ondoy* and Typhoon *Pepeng*, a series of climate change hearings were conducted in October 2009 by the Senate Committee on Climate Change to inquire about the National Power Corporation's (NAPOCOR) protocols for releasing dam waters;

WHEREAS, NAPOCOR's Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Dam Operations (FFWSDO) dictates the volume of water to be released by Angat, San Roque, Ambuklao, Binga, and Caliraya Dams;

WHEREAS, the province of Pangasinan was submerged during typhoon *Pepeng* as sudden water releases from San Roque Dam added up to the floods, sinking 30 out of 46 towns, affecting 600,00 people and devastating millions-worth of livelihoods;

WHEREAS, the NAPOCOR confirmed that their present protocols were based on historical experience and that have not been updated for years, which contributed to the flooding of several provinces in Luzon including Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the Committee has already instructed NAPOCOR to update their protocols; nine (9) months have passed since the public hearings, and the protocols have yet to be submitted to the Senate Committee on Climate Change;

WHEREAS, the significance of these protocols correlate to the present water crisis as dam water levels have fallen below-critical levels due to El Niño and the abrupt dam water releases of last year;

WHEREAS, despite warnings of a drought this year, the NAPOCOR allegedly released more water than what was necessary for fear of new typhoons, thus impinging on today's water supply;

WHEREAS, the updated protocols should include projections of extreme weather events brought by climate change and must be linked with effective forecasting and early warning systems;

WHEREAS, it is of extreme necessity and urgency that these protocols be updated to avert future crises such that of *Ondoy* and *Pepeng* and today's water crisis, ensuring the climate-resiliency of the country's hydropower systems;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the National Power Corporation to submit the updated protocol for dam water releases in light of the onset of the rainy season and the worsening water crisis.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator