



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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Fact Sheet: Landfill Site Selection Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Public Involvement

July 2004

www.guamepa.govguam.net

The Ordot Consent Decree

The Ordot Consent Decree (U.S. District Court, Territory of Guam, Civil Case No. 02-00022) is a legal settlement agreement between the Government of Guam and the United States of America (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice) for the resolution of a violation of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) for the unauthorized discharge of pollutants from the Ordot Dump to the Lonfit River.

In order to resolve the violation, the parties have agreed to specific terms and a schedule outlined in a Consent Decree for the Government of Guam to initiate and complete the construction of a fully compliant Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Facility (MSWLF).

The Government of Guam has initiated the first phase of the siting process by screening land parcels throughout the island based on various scientific criteria, and placing the 6 most suitable landfill sites on a Preliminary Area List (PAL). From this list, the 3 highest-ranking potential landfill sites were chosen for further analysis through an environmental impact statement.

The 3 highest-ranking potential landfill sites are Lonfit in Asan; Dandan in Inarajan; and Sabanan Batea in Yona. The selection process and ranking results are summarized

Landfill EIS Public Meeting Schedule:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| July 7 | 6-9 p.m. | Inarajan Mayor's Office |
| July 8 | 6-9 p.m. | Yona Community Center |
| July 12 | 6-9 p.m. | Asan-Maina Community Center |
| August 2004 | | date/place to be determined |
| October 2004 | | date/place to be determined |

in the *Preliminary Landfill Site Suitability Report*, prepared by Guam EPA in association with DPW.

Environmental Impact Statement

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a required report that analyzes the short-term, long-term, and cumulative effects of the proposed action on the biological, cultural, geological, social, and economic components of the environment. An EIS also examines various alternatives to the proposed action, including the alternative of "no action." An EIS assists decision makers by comparing the proposed action and the alternatives and identifying mitigation measures that would minimize any adverse effects of the proposed action.

The Ordot Consent Decree mandates the preparation of an EIS for the siting of a new MSWLF. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Guam EPA guidelines. The EIS process must be completed before Guam EPA (with U.S. EPA concurrence) can issue a permit for the siting, construction, or operation of a new MSWLF on Guam.

For more information, please visit www.guamepa.govguam.net or call Guam EPA at 475-1658/9.

The EIS Process

The EIS process consists of the following stages:

1. *Scoping*
2. *Preliminary Site Report (PSR)*
3. *Draft EIS*
4. *Final EIS*
5. *Record of Decision*

Scoping

Scoping is a process that publicizes the intent to prepare an EIS and solicits input from stakeholders, government and non-government entities, and the general public in order to help define the range of analyses in the EIS document.

The public is encouraged to participate in the three scoping meetings scheduled for July 7, 8, and 12 in Inarajan, Yona, and Asan, respectively. The initial EIS public comment period begins on June 30, 2004 and ends five weeks later on August 3. Background information on the project will be made available at the village mayors' offices noted above and at the project Web site, www.guamlandfill.org.

Comments submitted should be focused on those issues the public feels are important for consideration and analysis in the EIS document. Comments should be submitted directly to Dueñas & Associates, Inc. (the consultants preparing the EIS) via the methods listed below.

Preliminary Site Report

Information about hydrology, geology, soils, flora, fauna, wetlands, and historic resources will be compiled through background research and reconnaissance surveys at each of the sites. This information, in conjunction with input from the public, will be used to develop ranking criteria and scoring methodology. The public will be given an opportunity to comment on the PSR at a public meeting scheduled for August 2004 (date, time, and location to be announced).

Draft EIS

After one of the three sites is selected as the location for the new MSWLF, a draft EIS report will begin. Detailed archaeological, biological, hydrological, and geotechnical surveys will be performed on the existing environment of the selected site. The project team will seek to avoid impacts to major resources such as wetlands and historic sites during the siting and conceptual design process.

Considering the scale and nature of the project, it is unlikely that impacts will be entirely avoided. The Draft EIS will identify mitigation strategies and the required permits and clearances associated with implementing these strategies. Once the Draft EIS is available (expected mid-October), the public will be invited to provide comments in person at a public meeting or in writing.

Final EIS

After a thirty-day comment period, the input from the public and local and federal government reviewers will be used in the preparation of a Final EIS. The Consent Decree requires the Final EIS to be submitted on or before December 7, 2004.

Record of Decision

A Record of Decision is an official document announcing the selected site. This and the Final EIS will be reviewed by U.S. EPA, who will either concur with or reject the Government of Guam's decision. If U.S. EPA disagrees with the Record of Decision, the presiding U.S. District Court judge will select the final landfill site.

How to Submit Comments:

Internet: www.guamlandfill.org

Mail: c/o Dueñas & Associates, Inc.
155 E.T. Calvo Memorial Pkwy, Ste. 200,
Tamuning GU 96913

Hand Delivery to the above address, located next to the Tamuning Post Office

Voice Mail: (671) 646-7991, ext. 228

Fax: (671) 646-6315