



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



AHENSAN PRUTEKSION LINA'LA GUAHAN

P.O. BOX 22439 GMF • BARRIGADA, GUAM 96921 • TEL.: (671) 475-1658 • FAX: (671) 477-9402

Fact Sheet: Ordot Consent Decree Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)

April 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 settlement agreement entered into on February 11, 2004, between the United States of America (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [U.S. EPA] with the U.S. Department of Justice [DOJ]) and the Government of Guam to resolve issues related to the unauthorized discharge of pollutants from the Ordot Dump to the Lonfit River. The historical and continuing discharge of pollutants to the Lonfit River is a violation of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

In order to resolve the violation, the parties have agreed to specific terms under the Consent Decree for the Government of Guam to perform and complete a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The object of the SEP is to secure significant improvements to the protection of the environment and public health. The SEP will develop and implement a comprehensive waste diversion strategy for household hazardous waste on Guam. The goal of the SEP is to develop a comprehensive waste diversion strategy to eliminate the land disposal and prolonged storage of household hazardous waste on Guam.

The SEP project is entitled “Island Solid Waste Diversion and Management – Household Hazardous Waste Diversion.”

Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes, at minimum, used oil and batteries from do-it-yourself fixers, paint, and pesticides. HHW is a waste stream that is not regulated under federal or local statutes and regulations. Therefore, disposal of HHW is allowed in a sanitary landfill.

Currently, the Ordot Dump is Guam’s only disposal facility available to the general public for the disposal of household hazardous waste. However, the Ordot Dump is a natural depression created before regulatory standards were established. The dump is unlined and improperly designed, operated, and maintained to accept the household hazardous waste. The impact of household hazardous waste entering the Ordot Dump has posed major threats to Guam’s environment and to the health, safety, and welfare of Guam residents. In addition, with the ongoing issues to close the Ordot Dump, there has been an increase of illegal dumping of household hazardous waste in other parts of the island.

Diversion of Household Hazardous Waste

The overall goal of household hazardous waste diversion is to develop a shift from the current disposal practices of illegal dumping and dumping at Ordot to safer options that will decrease the quantity of household hazardous waste generated or stored on island for any considerable amount of time.

There are three main products to the project. They include:

Interim Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program – A planned service for residents to properly dispose of their household hazardous wastes safely, conveniently, and consistently.

Guide to Household Hazardous Waste Diversion for Island Communities – A guidance document for the proper collection, storage, and disposal of household hazardous wastes.

Household Hazardous Waste Receiving Facility – The construction and continued operation of a permanent household hazardous waste facility.

Interim Household Hazardous Waste Collection

From the date of entering into the Consent Decree, Guam EPA is required to establish an interim household hazardous waste collection program by first establishing a core management group, conducting and assessing surveys, and developing and implementing an interim household hazardous waste collection service with existing waste

management facilities. The interim household hazardous waste collection service is to provide continued collection and drop-off services to the residents on Guam until the final construction and operation of a household hazardous waste receiving facility.

Guide to Household Hazardous Waste Diversion

A Household Hazardous Waste Diversion for Island Communities guide will be developed for Guam's residents. The guide will incorporate all data and survey reports, inspection reports, and monthly operations progress reports prepared during the interim household hazardous waste collection period. The guide will provide guidance to Guam's residents on the proper handling and disposal of household hazardous waste.

Household Hazardous Waste Receiving Facility

A Household Hazardous Waste Receiving Facility is to be constructed and operated for the purpose of accepting household hazardous waste generated by Guam's residents on a regular basis. The siting, operation, and scheduling for this facility will be dependent on the survey data reports and reports on the operation of the interim household hazardous waste collection and drop-off activities.

Additional Information

For more information about the SEP or household hazardous waste diversion, please contact Barbara Torres, Solid Waste Program Manager, at (671) 475-1608 or btorres@guamepa.govguam.net.