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# **Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (Guam) Site Evaluation Report**

January 28, 2005

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## **Introduction**

Seven members of the Consent Decree<sup>1</sup> project team from the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) were empanelled as a Landfill Site Evaluation Team (LSET). The LSET reviewed the Preliminary Site Selection Report (PSSR)<sup>2</sup> and related information to evaluate three candidate sites as required by paragraph 9.a. of the Consent Decree during the week of January 24, 2005. Initial efforts to site a new landfill began in February of 2004 with the Preliminary Landfill Site Suitability study conducted by GEPA and DPW.

This report summarizes the efforts of the LSET to identify a preferred landfill site based on the relevant available scientific and technical data from preliminary site investigations, existing studies, and stakeholder input. This site evaluation is an integral component of the Environmental Impact Statement for the siting of a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Facility (MSWLF) in Guam.

The primary goal in siting a MSWLF is to select a location which will pose the least environmental impact to onsite resources, adjacent properties, to the host community, and regionally. Impacts to the human, biological and physical environment, including infrastructure, were assessed by applying thirty-nine environmental/landfill development siting criteria to each candidate site.

The results of this evaluation are summarized as total scores and rank order in the table below. The LSET determined that the Dandan candidate site located in the Municipality of Inarajan is best suited for the development of a MSWLF. A decision on the location of Guam's new MSWLF will be made by the Director of DPW with the concurrence of the Administrator of GEPA and approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## **Evaluation Process**

The LSET evaluation process involved a four-step facilitated discussion format:

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<sup>1</sup>Civil Case No. 02-00022 Consent Decree U.S. District Court Territory of Guam

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary Site Selection Report Environmental Impact Statement For the Siting of a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Facility, Guam January 11, 2005

1. Review the PSSR and final technical amendments – Much of the PSSR review occurred prior to the team meetings; however, expanded explanations by certain team experts were provided for the benefit of all members. There were some minor technical amendments to the PSSR involving terminology in the archaeological/historical sections of the report provided by the project consultants.
2. Review & consider public input from village meetings - The project consultants also prepared a PSSR Comment Summary<sup>3</sup> document of the final round of village meetings and other input from the two week comment period.
3. Review recommended siting criteria & importance weighting - Two (2) criteria were combined and two (2) criteria importance weights were modified. The LSET also clarified that “sensitive receptors”<sup>4</sup> should include both human and wildlife considerations. The LSET revisited a number of transportation infrastructure (primary and secondary road improvements, bridge projects, secondary road requirements, etc.) as well as integrated solid waste management (i.e., transfer stations, recycling, etc.) issues critical to support each of the candidate sites.
4. Consider consensus issues & criteria - As a result of the LSET criteria and importance weighting review, it was decided that twelve (12) of the forty (40) site evaluation criteria described in the PSSR could be equalized to ensure consistency, where warranted (i.e., scored by consensus).

The LSET also further discussed a number of transportation assumptions necessary for any of the three candidate sites, including that there will be no direct self-hauling of waste, highway improvements would be made using Federal Highway Administration funding and program flexibility, transfer stations would be developed, and transportation of waste could be strategically scheduled to occur during off-peak traffic hours.

These deliberations were followed by individual assessments and independent scoring of the sites. All members of the LSST participated throughout.

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<sup>3</sup>PSSR Comment Summary, Duenas & Associates, Inc.

<sup>4</sup>see PSSR Site Evaluation Criteria No. 22. Wind Direction to abutting properties and No. 38. Proximity to Sensitive Receptors

## Results

The LSET completed the evaluation component of its work by requiring that each member evaluate and formally score the three candidate sites and that the cumulative points assigned would determine the final rank. The site given the highest total points would be ranked as the best potential landfill site. The following table summarizes the evaluation results.

Table 1. Total Score and Rank of Candidate Landfill Sites

Site	Dandan	Sabanan Batea	Lonfit
Total Score	2552	2094	1898
Rank	1	2	3

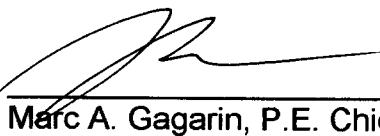
## Landfill Site Evaluation Team (LSET)

  
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C. Omar Damian, E.I.T. Project Manager, GEPA


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Date

  
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Sonya P. Dancoe, Project Engineer, DPW

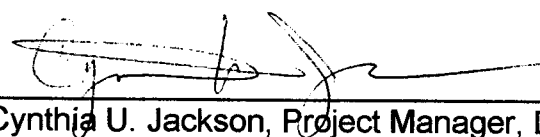
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Marc A. Gagarin, P.E. Chief Engineer, DPW

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Date

  
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Michael J. Gawel, Acting Chief Planner, GEPA

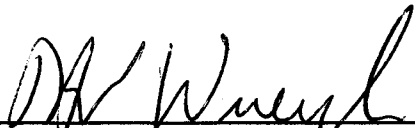
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Cynthia U. Jackson, Project Manager, DPW

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Christopher A. Lund, P.E. Chief Engineer, GEPA

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H. Victor Wuerch, Hydrogeologist GEPA

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Prepared by:

  
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Jan. 31, 2005  
Date