

GUAM'S FIRST PUBLIC SANITARY LANDFILL: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Prepared by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency in association with the Department of Public Works

1. Why build a landfill in Dandan, so far south of the island's main population centers?

The relative distance of Guam's first public sanitary landfill from the main population centers (north/central), which generate the bulk of our waste, is an important issue. At first glance it might seem that the further away from the waste source, the more expensive it would be to transport the waste.



First, we must understand that an integrated solid waste system will be used, which provides for waste management through diversion, recycling, composting, processing, etc. The island's new integrated solid waste management system will include transfer stations where waste will be consolidated into larger hauling trucks. For example, we should be able (given modern compactors and trailer designs) to consolidate three or four standard 20 cubic yard rear-loaded packer trucks into one long-haul truck. Secondly, the new landfill will not accept self-hauled waste. Incoming waste from all sources will be inspected, separated (for recycling and composting), and reconsolidated for transport to the landfill.

By using full service transfer stations we can reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill by up to 15 percent and we can consolidate standard waste loads at a 3:1 ratio. This system could decrease current levels of truck traffic by half and completely eliminate medium and small self-haul vehicle traffic. It is also important to realize that distance in the context of our small island does not add significantly to the overall cost of proper waste disposal.

Another important benefit of developing a remote facility and strictly controlling access is minimal potential land use conflicts and environmental compliance problems.

2. **Isn't the road (Route 4) going to Dandan too narrow and steep to accommodate the many years of heavy truck traffic?**

No. The highway from the Ordot-Chalan Pago Route 4 and Route 10 intersection to the Ylig Bridge in Yona is capable of handling additional truck traffic and loading without further upgrades. The remainder of the



Route 4 highway to Malojloj is similarly adequate; however, some highway upgrades will be made to offset the effects of additional traffic. Upgrades may include the following, which can be implemented over the next three years to significantly reduce traffic concerns and coincide with the start of operations:

- ✓ Build climbing lanes for trucks
- ✓ Mitigate blind curves
- ✓ Widen shoulders and improve drainage
- ✓ Upgrade road markings and signage
- ✓ Schedule hauling operations during non-peak hours
- ✓ Upgrade bridges (already underway)

3. **What was the main reason Dandan was selected over the other two sites?**

There was no "main reason." Dandan presented a number of good and even excellent site characteristics for a modern sanitary landfill. In total, 39 environmental and site development criteria were used to score all three sites. While Dandan was obviously the least favorable location from a transportation perspective, it was rated best in all other areas of consideration (Water Protection, Geology, On-site Environment and Land Use). No site is perfect, but we have selected the better site and now the Government must continue its aggressive approach to landfill development by working diligently to mitigate less favorable aspects or conditions. Partnering with private industry will facilitate this.

4. **How can we guarantee that the community and natural resources around Dandan will not be negatively affected?**

There are no guarantees that all negative effects (direct or otherwise) can be eliminated. The current focus and challenge is to design and operate a facility to the highest standards using the best available landfill technology.



An important component in developing new landfill facilities is ensuring that the **host community** receives a well thought out and effective benefits package. The host community is being required to accept the social responsibility of handling waste disposal. This is a service that benefits the whole island and it is only fair that **host community benefits (HCB)** be provided. HCB can include a revenue stream as a percentage of the tipping fee, discounted waste disposal, preferential hiring in the waste management industry, restricted operating hours, special contingency funds, landscaping, regular and free water tests, and property value protection, among others.

5. **How much will the new landfill cost and how will we pay for it?**

Funding of approximately \$70 million will be required in 2005 to open the first cell of the new landfill and pay for closure construction, monitoring, and management activities. Another \$30 million will be required by 2010 to open a second cell of the new landfill. These costs are inclusive of both on-site and off-site infrastructure, except highway improvements, which should be covered by Federal Highway Administration funding. Costs associated with transfer stations/recycling centers have yet to be determined.



We (the Government) will finance the new landfill and closure of Ordot Dump through a combination of existing grants, new grants, bonds (loans), and tipping and related service fees.

6. Who owns the land where the new landfill will be built?

Ownership of the Dandan site (a portion of Lot No. B, Estate No. 16, Suburban) is joint tenancy involving First Island Industry (a subsidiary of Oxford Properties and Facilities, Ltd.) and Calvo's Insurance Underwriters.

7. Why didn't we use Government-owned land?

Land ownership was one of 39 siting criteria. The most environmentally appropriate sites for a landfill could not be located on Government land; however, the Government of Guam does not necessarily have to own the landfill or the property upon which the facility is built. Additionally, some or most of the costs of land acquisition can be offset through land exchange.

8. When will the new landfill be opened for business?

As identified in the Consent Decree, 1,320 days from February 11, 2004, or September 23, 2007.



9. When will the transfer stations and recycling centers be open and where will they be built?



The transfer stations and recycling centers should be open for business about the same time the landfill opens (late 2007). The locations and number of transfer stations have not been determined at this time, although preliminary indications are that one larger northern/central transfer station will be required and possibly a second smaller southwestern station could be advantageous.

10. Who will operate the landfill and transfer stations?

The landfill, transfer stations, recycling centers, solid waste collection and other components of the island's integrated solid waste management system will be privately operated to the greatest extent possible and permitted by law.



If you would like more information about Guam's first public sanitary landfill and related topics, please call Guam EPA at 475-1658/9 or visit our Web site at www.guamepa.govguam.net. You can also get information about landfill development and Ordot Dump closure efforts at www.guamlandfill.org.

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