

Court orders GEPA to probe dump sites near Ordot

By Geraldine Castillo
geraldine@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

A SPECIAL report by federal receiver Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. has been filed in the District Court of Guam, requesting the court to order an investigation into other dump sites within the vicinity of the Ordot Dump.

The request was granted by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and she has issued an order that the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) investigate the dump sites described in the special report, followed by another investigation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

The order also reiterated that the Ordot Dump stop accepting new waste upon its closure on Aug. 31.

Dump sites

As part of its principal work in ensuring the closure of the Ordot Dump, GBB found that there were several dump sites within the vicinity. While most were relatively small, the special report stated a "very large dump site" less than 3 miles from the Ordot Dump that had come to their attention.

According to the report, the site has been operating for several years, near the Lujan Auto Junk Yard and close to J.Q. San Miguel Elementary School. GBB noted the site received a wide range of waste such as broken down vehicles, whitegoods, construction debris and household trash. Additionally, the waste "appears to have been occasionally covered with dirt," the report stated.

As GBB plans for the final closure of the Ordot Dump, part



▲ Photo shows waste on the site that is primarily composed of tires, white goods and metallic waste. Photos courtesy of GBB



◀ Photo shows the entrance to the ravine where large amounts of household trash and other waste are dumped.

of its responsibility is to identify sources of leachate and other groundwater contamination for mitigation purposes. Because of the findings in their report, the dump sites within the vicinity create a "potential problem for accurately understanding and mitigating the pollution coming from the Ordot Dump itself," the report stated, thus complicating the process for its final closure.

Court order

GEPA was ordered by the court to investigate the dump site described by GBB, as well as other dump sites within

the lesser 3-mile radius of the Ordot Dump shoreline, to determine: the compliance of these dump sites with applicable Guam laws and regulations; the size and approximate leachate potential for each dump site; the party responsible for the site; the potential of the dump site to complicate the closure of the Ordot Dump; and the steps recommended or taken by GEPA to eliminate these dump sites as a source of contamination of the environment.

GEPA must also file biweekly reports with the court on their status, beginning June 17.

The court further ordered that whether the dump sites are in the U.S. EPA conduct the same compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations. investigation, to determine

Contestant #15:


*Norma Mae
Barcinas*

Age: 23 yrs. old
Village: Tamuning
Parents: Necrina Barcinas
Proudest personal accomplishment: Finishing a technical career as a professional cosmetologist and now putting myself through college so I can fulfill my dream of becoming a pediatrician.
Volunteer Experience: Volunteered for the American Red Cross and helped my work donate money for Japan relief effort.




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