



Office of the Attorney General of Guam

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AG Sues United States Department of Navy to Recover Costs of Ordot Dump Closure

March 06, 2017- Tamuning, Guam- Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson has authorized suit on behalf of the Territory of Guam against the United States Department of the Navy seeking to declare the Navy liable for environmental response costs incurred by the Government of Guam in closing Ordot Dump, and for future environmental related costs.

The complaint is brought under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, also known as CERCLA, a federal statute, which makes a “potential responsible party” liable for remedial action. In 1988 the USEPA determined that the Navy is a potential responsible party for the contamination found in Ordot Dump. The Navy owned and operated Ordot Dump before and after WWII.

According to General Barrett-Anderson, “Guam should not be left to shoulder the full financial burden of having closed Ordot Dump when it is clear that the United States Navy is also responsible for the environmental condition of the Dump.”

For 10 years, we have had to pay the enormous costs associated with the suit filed by the federal government against Guam to close Ordot Dump, despite the fact that the federal government also bore liability. We have spent more than \$200M thus far, and we expect to continue to incur future costs for post-closure remedies at Ordot. This law suit is long overdue,” she concluded.

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