FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CERCLA Lawsuit Against U.S. Navy Moves Forward

October 01, 2018, Tamuning, Guam- The Government of Guam is one step closer in its attempt to hold the United States government accountable for its part in contaminating Ordot Dump and its surrounding area.

Over the weekend, Judge Ketanji Jackson from the United States District Court for the District Court of Columbia denied the U.S. Government's Motion to Dismiss in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) lawsuit filed by the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of the Government of Guam last year.

The U.S. Government, in its motion, argued that GovGuam exceeded the statute of limitations to file under CERCLA. Ruling in favor of the OAG, Judge Jackson will issue her reasoning in a Memorandum Opinion, to be announced shortly.

The OAG's federal lawsuit against the United States Department of Navy is being litigated by a Houston-based law firm that specializes in environmental law. Credit goes to attorneys John Gilmour and Bill Jackson from the law firm Kelley, Drye & Warren.

"The attorneys representing Guam in the CERCLA law suit have done an outstanding job to keep this case strong and viable against the United States government," said Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson.

"This is a significant win for Guam! We are now able to continue our environmental law suit against the federal government to recover costs Guam incurred to close Ordot Dump. We have spent over $200 million to date, with millions more expected based on the Receiver's recent report to the Court that Guam needs to borrow $23 million more ," she continued.

Prior to turning Ordot Dump over to the Government of Guam, the U.S. Navy owned and operated it before and after WWII.

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For more information:
Carlina Charfauros
ccharfauros@guamg.org
475-3324 ext. 5020