

## TESTIMONY ON THE GPA GENERATOR NEAR HARMON LOOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE GENERATOR PLACED NEAR HARMON LOOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. I AM THE READING SPECIALIST AT THE SCHOOL. GENERALLY, I SPEND MY TIME IN THE OFFICE, THE BOOK ROOM, THE LIBRARY AND THE COMPUTER LAB. THESE ARE ALL AIR CONDITIONED AREAS. UNTIL LAST WEEK I HAD NOT REALIZED HOW BAD THE PROBLEM WAS.

I HAD DECIDED TO TAKE MY STUDENTS ON A WALK. WHEN I REACHED THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM, I WAS APPALLED BY THE DIESEL FUMES THAT COULD ALMOST BE SEEN IN THE AIR. THE SMELL WAS SO POWERFUL THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HEALTHY TO BREATHE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE DID NOT CONTINUE OUR WALK. THE AIR WAS SO THICK WITH DIESEL THAT IT LEFT A LAYER OF DIRT ON MY FACE. WHEN I TRIED TO WASH IT OFF MY FACE LATER IN THE DAY, IT LEFT MY FACE RAW. NOW, ANYONE WHO HAS TAKEN A GOOD LOOK AT ME LATELY KNOWS I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON TO PAMPER MY "DELICATE SKIN". BUT THAT EVENING I BROKE DOWN AND USED SOME LOTION. I LATER LEARNED THAT I WAS PROBABLY A VICTIM OF SULFURIC ACID POISONING WHICH IS FORMED WHEN THE SOOT ON THE SKIN MIXES WITH SWEAT OR MOISTURE.

THE CONDITION OF MY SKIN IS NOT REALLY OF CRUCIAL CONCERN TO YOU, SENATORS, I KNOW. NEITHER IS THE FACT THAT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE WE ARE BURDENED WITH AN UNPLEASANT SMELL. WHAT SHOULD BE OF GREAT CONCERN TO YOU, THOUGH, AND WHAT IS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO US IN PRESENTING OUR THOUGHTS TO YOU IS THE UNSEEN EFFECT OF THE REPEATED EXPOSURES TO THESE FUMES ON THE STUDENTS. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DOCUMENT SCIENTIFICALLY THE POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS TO THE CHILDREN AND TO THE ADULTS, BUT WE KNOW THAT THAT SAME SULFURIC ACID THAT MADE MY SKIN RAW WAS ALSO EATING AWAY AT THE LUNGS, NASAL PASSAGES, MOUTHS AND THROATS OF ALL THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THIS SCHOOL. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DISPROVE THE RATIONALIZINGS OF THE GPA PERSONNEL WHOSE JOB IT IS TO JUSTIFY WHATEVER POSITION SAVES GPA TIME, TROUBLE AND MONEY, BUT WE KNOW WE HAVE AN UNHEALTHY AND DANGEROUS SITUATION ON OUR HANDS.

I ONLY WISH THIS HEARING COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE THAT MORNING LAST WEEK WHEN THE PROBLEM WAS THE MOST APPARENT AND PREDICTIVE OF WHAT WE MAY HAVE TO LIVE WITH FOR INCREASINGLY LONGER PERIODS OF TIME IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE NOW TO TAKE CARE THAT IT IS NOT ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. I WISH YOU HAD BEEN HERE ALL THE OTHER DAYS ALSO WHEN THE HAZE SETTLES ON US.

WE HAVE BEEN HERE, THOUGH, WITH HEADACHES, NAUSEA, DIRTY SKIN, DUST-LADEN FURNITURE, OFFENDED OLFACTORY NERVES, AND SOOT COVERED CARS. IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE YOUR COMMON SENSE WOULD SAY, "REMEDY THIS PROBLEM NOW. IT IS NOT WORTH THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN TO ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE."

CECILIA CHAMPION

Good evening Senator Reyes and members of the committee. My name is Jane Hernandez and I am the Health Counselor at Harmon Loop Elementary School.

During the first week of March, the Macheche generator was turned on, exposing Harmon Loop school to strong fumes and a black dirt which we found settling in the classrooms. I'm sure it settled in our lungs as well. Students and teachers complained of the strong fumes. There were general complaints of headache, nausea, throat irritation, coughing and itchy watery eyes from this irritant. This was verified in a survey of the teachers done on 3/11/93. A copy of the survey was submitted to Ms. Cruz, our administrator and to our OSHA representative.

The 2nd week of March, I saw an increased number of students in my health room and there was also an increased number of absent students.

I understand from Mr. Hara that the generator does meet EPA standards. However, I am concerned that when there is a malfunction, we, at Harmon Loop Elementary School get the ill effects of it. Just last week, strong diesel fumes from the generator passed through our campus.

The health of our students, teachers and staff is at risk. Our school is already trying to deal with the problem of the high radon level. Now we are faced with another health hazard.

On March 9th 1993 I sent a memo to our principal expressing my concern about the situation. A copy of this letter is attached to this written testimony.

*Jane Hernandez RN*  
3-30-93

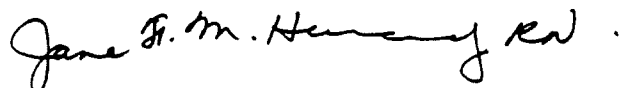
March 9, 1993

To: Ms. Teresita Cruz, Principal  
From: School Health Counselor  
Subject: Health Hazard

I am quite concerned about 3 DEED teachers who are either ill or not feeling well. Yesterday, March 8th, the fumes from the nearby GPA generator were very strong. Mrs. Sniff went home early with a severe headache and Mrs. Miller was feeling nauseated. Mrs. DelCastillio was also feeling ill. Today, two of those teachers did not report to work and the other wanted to go home early.

The classrooms also have much "black" dirt which has settled on the desks and tables since the generator has been turned on. Our students, teachers, and staff are faced with a very serious health hazard!! The generator seems to be turned on at 2p.m., but we have students and staff here until 6:00p.m.

I am referring this matter to you for your immediate action.



Jane F.M. Hernandez R.N.  
School Health Counselor

Good evening Senator Reyes and members of this committee. My name is Teresita T. Cruz and I am the principal of Harmon Loop Elementary School. As principal, I feel the need to come forward to address this body on how the generator at the macheche substation is affecting us here at Harmon LOop. When the generator was being tested or perhaps initially turned on, it was emitting fumes that had the odor of diesel. There were many complains both from the employees and students of having headaches and feeling nauseated. The following day black dust were found on desks and window louvers. We must have breathe<sup>d</sup> in a great deal of pollution within a day. Senator Reyes' public relation officer received a copy of the surveys filled out by teachers and staff on how the generator affected them. The following week there was a higher rate of absent students than ever before. Of course, the flu virus was also pretty prevalent at that time but perhaps, the black dust and fumes contributed to the students illnesses.

This school has a high rate of radon. Therefore we don't need another problem that is hazardous to our health. We are supposed to be preparing students to become future leaders and also functional members in society. If we don't correct this problem now, we won't be having future leaders because we will be sending them to their graves early.

I understand that GPA is trying to correct the problem by raising the smoke stack higher. For awhile we were not smelling the fumes until last week when the generator tripped off and had to be restarted. As it was restarted it sent out diesel odor fumes.



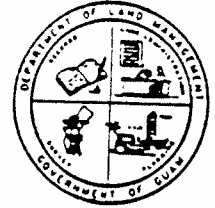
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**(DIPATTAMENTON TANO')**

*Government of Guam*

*P.O. Box 2950*

*Agana, Guam 96910*

*Tel: (671) 475-LAND • Fax: (671) 477-0883*



**JOSEPH F. ADA**  
*Governor*

**FRANK F. BLAS**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**F. L. G. CASTRO**  
*Director*

**JOAQUIN A. ACFALLE**  
*Deputy Director*

March 30, 1993

The Honorable Edward D. Reyes  
Chairman, Committee on Housing  
and Community Development  
Twenty-Second Guam Legislature  
Agana, Guam 96910

Subject: Legislative Bills 143, 232, and 359 all of  
which pertaining to the need of lands for  
the use of Guam Power Authority

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Land Management is in full support of  
the concept of providing Guam Power Authority with the lands  
it requires in Umatac, Dededo and Mangilao as are mentioned  
on Bills 143, 232, and 359.

Moreover, that we are more receptive into seeing that the  
said lands be conditionally conveyed to GPA over leasing  
the lands. Note that Bill 359 is talking about a lease  
while the others are addressing conveyance. A conditional  
conveyance will be more sound and we recommend that.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on the said matters.

Sincerely yours,

F. L. G. CASTRO  
Director, Department of  
Land Management



**TESTIMONY ON BILL 232  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE  
ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
22ND GUAM LEGISLATURE  
THE HONORABLE EDWARD D. REYES, CHAIRMAN**

Submitted by  
Rogelio C. Bautista  
Manager  
Guam Housing Corporation  
March 30, 1993

Honorable Chairman and Committee members I am Rogelio C. Bautista, Manager of Guam Housing Corporation here to offer testimony in favor of Bill 232.

As you may be aware GHC, has been given Legislative authorization to develop a master plan for a housing community on Lot 5402 in the Municipality of Mangilao. Upon completion of the master plan, should the Legislature see fit to authorize development of Lot 5402, 1,800 to 2,400 residential housing units will be added to Guam's housing stock. We have discussed this project in some detail with GPA's management who have determined that this project will put a strain on the power system in that area.

We are all recently reminded of the importance of having power generating and distribution capabilities to meet current and future demand and the importance of agencies within the Administration working together with the Legislature to plan for our island's development. We are confident that the new substation proposed for this area will be able to handle the needs of the proposed project and surrounding community.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on Bill 232. I will be happy to answer any questions that you and your committee members may have.

  
Rogelio C. Bautista



SETBISION MAMPLANEHA  
BUREAU OF PLANNING  
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
AGANA, GUAM 96910

MAR 30 1993

Honorable Edward D. Reyes  
Chairman  
Committee on Housing and Community  
Development  
Twenty-Second Guam Legislature  
228 Archbishop Flores St.  
Agana, Guam 96910

Hafa Adai Senator Reyes:


The Bureau of Planning offers the following comments on Bill No. 143:

An Act To Authorize The Governor Of Guam Into Conveying All Title, Rights, and Interests Upon Lot No. "Parcel G", Tract 3321, Umatac, Portion Of Lot No. 5173-1-R2-NEW-R2, Dededo, To The Guam Power Authority.

While the Bureau supports the intent of this bill, we favor leasing the government parcels rather than conveying all rights, titles and interests upon said lots to the Guam Power Authority so that the property will remain in Government ownership should the property be no longer needed by GPA.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to comment.

'Si Yu'os Ma'ase',

  
MICHAEL CRUZ  
Acting Director



**TESTIMONY FOR BILL NOS. 359, 143 AND 232**

**Guam Power Authority is in full support of the following Bills with modifications. We anticipate favorable passage of these bills and URGE the Honorable Governor to pass into law said bills or if incorporated into Bill No. 359, passage of Bill 359.**

**BILL NO. 359: AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM TO LEASE TO THE GUAM POWER AUTHORITY THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC LANDS: LOT NO. "PARCEL G", TRACT 3321, MUNICIPALITY OF UMATAC, CONTAINING 1,391 SQUARE METERS; LOT NO. 5173-REM-(PART) B, TAMUNING, MUNICIPALITY OF DEDEDO, CONTAINING 1,894+ SQUARE METERS; 4,000 SQUARE METERS OF LOT NO. 7054-5, MUNICIPALITY OF YIGO, WHICH CONTAINS 12,139.34+ SQUARE METERS; AND 3,716 SQUARE METERS OF LOT NO. 5402, MUNICIPALITY OF MANGILAO, WHICH CONTAINS 272.5 ACRES.**

**"Parcel G", Tract 3321, Municipality of Umatac "known as Umatac Substation" and Lot NO. 5173-REM-(PART) B, Tamuning, Municipality of Dededo "known as San Vitores Substation" have been officially severed from their respective basic lot. Each parcel contains an area adequate to provide for only the Authority's need. The purpose of the proposed power substation for Umatac will benefit the people of the villages of Umatac, Merizo, Inarajan and Agat. Lot No. 5173-REM-(PART) B, Dededo (San Vitores Substation) is crucial because of the projected overloading of both the Tumon and Tamuning power substations. This anticipated overloading is due to the additions of Royal Palm Garden, Leo Palace, Hyatt Regency, Holiday Inn, PIC, Guam Hilton and Fujita expansions.**

**Portion of Lot No. 5402-R5, Pagat, Mangilao containing an area of 3,716 square meters is the correct description for a proposed 30 MVA (34.5/13.8 KV) Power Substation. Guam Housing Corporation is preparing a master plan to accommodate homes for the landless among other improvements. Again, because of rapid development planned in this vicinity, GPA is very concerned with overloading of the existing power system.**

However, GPA is recommending modification to the bill to read:

**Portion of Lot No. 5402-R5, Pagat, Mangilao, Municipality of Barrigada, to contain an area of 3,716 square meters**

**LOT NO. 7054-5, YIGO, MUNICIPALITY OF YIGO - On February 1, 1993, GPA received a memorandum from the Director of Land Management which states: With proper legislative authorization, the Governor of Guam and the Department of Land Management shall**



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convey title of said property to the Guam Power Authority. The Director (Mr. Frank Castro) is referring to Government of Guam land known as Lot No. 7054-5, Yigo, containing an area of approximately **130,680 square feet or 3 acres not the 4,000 square meters or 1 acre as stated on the above title** as delineated on Property Map No. 167FY93. The purpose of acquiring this particular site is because we lack generating capacity to provide sufficient reserves to permit GPA to perform periodic maintenance of the Cabras Power Plant.

GPA recommends modification to the bill to read:

**Lot No. 7054-5, Yigo, Municipality of Yigo, containing an area of 130,680 square meters plus or minus or 12,141 square feet plus or minus, as delineated on map, document number 483993, 167FY93, recorded in the Department of Land Management on February 3, 1993.**

and to insert as the last section to read:

**Section\_\_.** To permit use by Guam Power Authority of the parcels of lands described herein for public utility uses, Guam Power Authority is hereby granted such conditional uses.

**BILL NO. 143:** GPA recommends modification of property description on item no. 2 should read as follows:

- 2. Lot No. 5173-REM (PART) B, Tamuning, Municipality of Dededo, containing an area of 1,894 square meters plus or minus or 20,391 square feet, plus or minus, as delineated on map, 470FY92.**

This map is prepared by Duenas and Associates, contracted by Guam Economic Development Authority and in process for final review/approval by the Department of Land Management.

**BILL NO. 232:** GPA is in full support of this bill. However, I recommend the below be inserted as presented in Bill No. 143:

**Section 2.** To permit use by Guam Power Authority of the parcel of land described in Section 1 for public utility uses, Guam Power Authority is hereby granted such conditional uses.

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**BILL NOS. 232 and 359:** GPA recommends the below paragraph be inserted to each of the two bills (Bill Nos. 232 and 359) or in Bill No. 359 which has incorporated all of the land area GPA needs:

**Section\_\_.** To permit use by Guam Power Authority of the parcel of land described in Section 1 for public utility uses, Guam Power Authority is hereby granted such conditional uses.

Passage of Bill Nos. 359, 143 and 232 are urgently needed and the proposed GPA facilities **WILL COMPLEMENT** the existing electrical system for all of the areas mentioned in each of the bills.

Reel thin test

Dear Senator and Governor Adams,  
On March. 2, 1943, we started  
to smell some awful smelling  
smoke. When I smelled it, it  
made me sick.

Please take away the awful  
smell.

Sincerely, Ligya  
Harmon Loop Elementary  
School.

● Read this test - ●

Dear Senators and GPA,

I don't like the smell of the generator because it gave me a headache and I was sick of the smell I want to smell clean air. Please do something about it because it is giving so much kids and teachers headaches.

Paul Superates,

Read thru test

Dear senators and G.P.A.

Please try to do  
something about  
that general air.

I need clean air.

The air is very very smoky.  
Harmon loop E.E.M.

Do good

Dusty Baggs

Dear Senators and GPA,

I do not want to smell dirty smoke.

Please try to do something with the generator because some kids and teachers are getting sick from smelling the smoke. And the smoke even pollutes the air.

Thank You

From: Hannah

March 25, 1993

Dear Senators and GPA,

In Harmon Loop school all of us in room 19,18 we are getting sick of the smoke. and we are saying to put the generator some other place.

Chrystal Ramos

3/30/93

Good evening Senator Reyes and members of the committee. I am Anne Cummings and a teacher at Harmon Loop Elementary School. I am here this evening to express my concern about the situation in which we now find ourselves in regard to the Macheche generater and its toxic emmissions.

One morning in the first week of March all of a sudden children started coughing and tearing at the eyes. I looked around and noticed a haze at the other end of the room and began to smell the odor of deisel exhaust fumes. This was repeated on the morning of March 25th, 1993 and that is how it all began.

We now know that these events were a result of placing the Macheche Generator 400 feet upwind of our classrooms on Harmon Loop Road. These classrooms, as you all know, are open allowing natural ventilation. Prevailing winds blow from the east which means that for 10 months out of the year the exhaust from this generator is blowing through our school. We all know that the inevitability of the weather cannot be controlled.

Is this what GPA had in mind when this site was choosen for the Macheche Generator; a decis ion that will affect the lives and the health of 900 children under the age of 10, year after year during their 6 year stay at Harmon Loop Elementary School. The other day Mr. Eloy Hara told us that the exhaust emission meets EPA standards, even for placement in an inner city setting. But I ask why should the excellent quality of the air in our environment be allowed to sink to the unhealthy level of the air of an inner city like New York? Why should these 900 children suffer and their brothers and sisters after



them?

EPA approves a certian level of emmission's from a diesel tour bus. But would you like to be stuck in traffic with your windows down next to that bus emmiting EPA approved fumes for 8 or 9 hours a day or for 6 years. We are stuck next to the Macheche generator the whole working day, 7:30am-5:00pm.

This is an insidious silent threat to our health. Can GPA, EPA or the Governor's Office assure me and the parents of these children that in one year, five years or fifteen years from now no child from Harmon Loop Elementary School will suffer any ill effects from exposure to the exhaust fumes of the Macheche generator?

Can they promise us and back up their words with scientific facts that it is perfectly all right to even periodically experince exposure to diesel fumes in a school environment in which, like a caged animal, one is compelled by law to stay?

This generator must be moved, NO MATTER WHAT THE DOLLAR COST, because the risk to the health of generations of children far outweighs any benefit it provides to the community.

AC

3/30/93

Radon - 7 to eight days

- no smell - no feel - no see  
- We haven't even resolved that and  
now our kids are subjected to fumes  
they can smell - feel, or see and we  
~~can't~~ <sup>can't</sup> ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> ~~nothing~~ <sup>nothing</sup>!

Tonite, we are not here to testify on  
any the bills before your committee. I  
am here in my capacity as President  
of the Harmon Loop Parent Teacher  
Advisory Council, as a parent and  
a concerned community member.  
Tonite, nothing in this cafeteria  
seems to be odd - the air is fine  
the fumes are not present. But  
you know why - our power system  
is working. Oh I wish the Cabras II  
can trip for now so the Macheche  
Base Station can be put into use -  
so that you - our dear senators -  
can be subjected to irritating fumes  
that come this way. <sup>Perhaps when you meet with the staff what we</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>with</sup> <sup>about</sup> <sup>what we</sup> Our school  
kids have enough problems. Trying  
to get a good education without  
having to subject them to air  
which is not conducive to a  
school environment. We have  
to resolve this matter now. Our  
school staff, teachers, students &  
residents of this surrounding  
area want a good, reliable  
power system but not at

the expense of ~~endangering~~ ~~our~~  
interrupting an otherwise normal  
school day or even perhaps  
endangering our very lives  
by breathing nauseating ~~and~~  
fumes and dangerous gases.

We appreciate the fact that  
GPA is concerned with this  
problem. We have been informed  
that GPA is looking at this  
situation closely and would  
install a smoke stack to  
allow these irritating fumes  
to dissipate high above

Harrison Loop Elem. School.  
The question however is when?  
We have a good school, a prosperous  
business community, and a budding  
community of residents. We'll do  
our share to sacrifice, to help  
in our power crisis, to be  
productive citizens — but we  
can not — we will not — if  
we can't even be guaranteed  
fresh, clean, air to breathe.

If you think that my concern  
is all for naught — then I  
wish the Machecke Substation  
be energized now and let's see

GPA has agreed  
not to turn on  
the system  
until after  
school is out.  
School is out  
when power  
is out during  
school hours?  
Are kids suffer  
right?

if you can conduct your  
hearing without interference.

Thank you for your attention.  
Now we await for your action.

ANGEL  
JABLAN

TWENTY SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE  
FIRST (1993) REGULAR SESSION

APR 12 '93

Bill No. 359 (LS)

Introduced by:

E.D. Reyes *R*  
V.C. Pangelinan *[Signature]*

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM TO LEASE TO THE GUAM POWER AUTHORITY THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC LANDS: LOT NO. "PARCEL G", TRACT 3321, MUNICIPALITY OF UMATAAC, CONTAINING 1,391 SQUARE METERS; LOT NO. 5173-REM-(PART) B, TAMUNING, MUNICIPALITY OF DEDEDO, CONTAINING 1,894± SQUARE METERS; 4,000 SQUARE METERS OF LOT NO. 7054-5, MUNICIPALITY OF YIGO, WHICH CONTAINS 12,139.34± SQUARE METERS; AND 3,716 SQUARE METERS OF LOT NO. 5402, MUNICIPALITY OF MANGILAO, WHICH CONTAINS 272.5 ACRES.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. **Lease Authorized.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the  
3 Governor of Guam is hereby authorized to lease to the Guam Power Authority, an  
4 autonomous agency of the Government of Guam, the following real property: (a) Lot  
5 No. "Parcel G", TRACT 3321, Municipality of Umatac, containing one thousand three  
6 hundred ninety-one (1,391) square meters; (b) Lot No. 5173-REM-(PART) B,  
7 Tamuning, Municipality of Dededo, containing one thousand eight hundred ninety-four  
8 (1,894±) square meters; (c) four thousand (4,000) square meters of Lot No. 7054-5,  
9 Municipality of Yigo, which contains twelve thousand one hundred thirty-nine  
10 (12,139.34±) square meters; and (d) three thousand seven hundred sixteen (3,716±)

1 square meters of Lot No. 5402, Municipality of Mangilao, which contains two hundred  
2 seventy-two and one-half (272.5) acres.

3       **Section 2. Terms and Conditions.** The leases authorized herein shall be  
4 governed by the following terms and conditions:

5       a. The parties agree that there shall be no transfer or conveyance to any other  
6 party or person of the lands leased herein.

7       b. The parties agree to incorporate into the lease, and other applicable  
8 documents, reversion clauses to the effect that, should at any time the Guam Power  
9 Authority no longer uses the above-described properties for its operations or should  
10 said Authority become dissolved, the properties shall be reverted to the government of  
11 Guam.

12       c. Lease rate of the properties described in Section 1 above shall be One  
13 Dollar (\$1.00) each.

14       d. The Guam Power Authority is hereby granted conditional use of the  
15 parcels of land described in Section 1 for public utility uses.

16       e. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent or prohibit the  
17 Guam Power Authority from improving, or having improved, or from building,  
18 erecting or constructing structures approved in accordance with the building and zoning  
19 codes of Guam.