

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF GUAM



GUAM POWER AUTHORITY
REGULATORY DOCKET -
CONTRACT REVIEW

DOCKET 94-00

ORDER

In its November 28, 2003 report on Guam Power Authority's [GPA] informational filings with the Guam Public Utilities Commission [PUC], Georgetown Consulting Group [GCG] expressed concern regarding a disclosure in GPA's FY02 External Audit that in September 2000 bond reserve fund forward delivery agreements [Agreements] were entered into on GPA's behalf by Governor Gutierrez¹. Under the terms of the Agreements, GPA liquidated, at discount, a long-term interest revenue stream on certain bond proceeds for the payment of \$13.5 million dollars. There was no public notice or disclosure of the transaction. In the transaction, GPA incurred termination fees of \$3.35 million and closing costs of \$1.25 million. GCG recommended that PUC examine whether the transaction required PUC approval pursuant to 12 GCA 12004 and PUC's contract review protocol and further the consequences of GPA's failure to have obtained such PUC approval.

On January 5, 2004, PUC's administrative law judge [ALJ], found that the transaction raised substantial regulatory issues. GPA has conceded that it never sought or obtained PUC approval of the Agreements. GCG was directed by ALJ to investigate the transaction and to report to PUC in preparation for the March 2004 regulatory session. A copy of GCG's February 11, 2004 report is made *Attachment A*. The GCG report concludes that:

1. The transaction contained in the Agreements, by which GPA cashed in a long term revenue stream of interest on its bond reserves, constituted a borrowing which required prior PUC review under paragraph 1(d) of PUC's contract review protocol².

¹ Two agreements were entered into by GPA and its co-trustee U.S. Bank Trust National Association on September 28, 2000: one with Lehman Brothers Special Financing Inc. and one with Bank America N.A.

² The PUC contract review protocol in effect at the time of the transaction is contained in PUC Order dated February 25, 2000 in Docket 00-04.

2. The termination fees of \$3.35 million and closing costs of \$1.25 million, which GPA incurred in the transaction exceed the \$1.5 million review threshold for PUC's contract review. Accordingly, GPA required prior PUC approval before it could lawfully incur these transaction fees.
3. The \$700,790 broker's fee, which was paid to IMAGE in the transaction, is substantially greater than the \$227,800 fee it was paid in an earlier similar transaction and may deserve further investigation as to its reasonableness.
4. This transaction was entered into on GPA's behalf, by the Governor of Guam, under an assertion of organic authority, in the absence of a quorum of the GPA board of directors. There is a substantial question whether the transaction would have sustained regulatory scrutiny. GPA and Governor Gutierrez, with the aid of an ill advised Attorney General's opinion, sidestepped independent public scrutiny that PUC would have brought to bear under its contract review authority.
5. GPA's failure to have obtained prior PUC approval of the transaction in accordance with 12 GCA 12004, makes it voidable³. GCG, nevertheless, recommends that the transaction be ratified for the benefit of third parties.
6. PUC's contract review protocol should be amended to explicitly bring such transactions under PUC's contract review protocol and to put third parties on notice that they deal with regulated utilities at their own peril if required regulatory approval is not obtained.

In comments filed on March 5 and 9, 2004, GPA asserts that the Agreement did not require PUC approval, but nevertheless requests that PUC ratify the Agreement "so that any questions as to the lawfulness of the Agreement are resolved". A copy of the GPA comments are made Attachment C. GPA and GCG have agreed to submit this matter to PUC on the record and without need for public hearing.

³ By opinion dated December 16, 1998 [Attachment B] GCG's counsel opined on the consequences of a regulated utility's failure to comply with the requirements of section 12004.

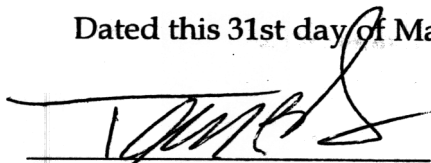
After careful review of the attachments hereto, after consultation with its administrative law judge and for good cause shown, the Guam Public Utilities Commission on motion duly made, seconded and carried by the affirmative vote of the undersigned commissioners hereby **FINDS AND ORDERS THAT:**


1. The transaction and the Agreements required prior PUC review and approval under 12 GCA 12004 and under PUC's contract review protocol. The transaction constituted a borrowing, which required PUC approval under section 1(d) of the protocol. Moreover, the \$4.6 million termination expenses, which GPA incurred required PUC approval under section 1(e) of the protocol. GPA's failure to have obtained this approval makes the transaction and the Agreements voidable. GPA's inability in its recent March 2004 filings with PUC to understand the clear need for regulatory review and approval of the transaction is troubling.
2. PUC shall reserve its decision of whether to ratify the Agreements and the transaction until the July 2004 regulatory session. In the interim, PUC's administrative law judge is directed to obtain further comment from GPA and GCG regarding: a. the potential negative consequences which could flow from PUC's refusal to ratify the Agreements and the transaction; and b. the impact of PUC's ratification of the Agreements and the transaction on potential civil and criminal liability, if any, of persons involved therein.
3. A copy of this Order shall be transmitted to the Attorney General of Guam and to the Public Auditor for such investigation as they may deem appropriate regarding the broker's fee, which was paid to IMAGE in the transaction.
4. A copy of this Order shall be transmitted to the Guam Legislature and to the Governor of Guam for such consideration as they may deem appropriate regarding the organic issues raised by Governor Gutierrez's assertion of executive authority in the absence of a quorum of the GPA board of directors and further regarding the need for statutory guidelines to govern future transactions of this kind by Guam public corporations and by the government of Guam.
5. Paragraph 1(d) of the contract review protocol dated December 16, 2003, which now governs PUC regulation of GPA contracts and obligations is hereby amended to read:


d) All externally funded loan obligations and other financial obligations such as lines of credit, bonds, and bond reserve fund forward delivery agreements [such as discussed in PUC's March 30, 2004 Order in Docket 94-03], in excess of \$1,500,000 and any use of the proceeds of such obligations and transactions;

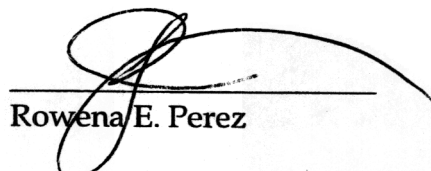
6. A copy of its Order shall be transmitted to the Consolidated Commission on Utilities with the recommendation that it institute governing controls to assure that both GPA and GWA strictly comply with the requirement of contract regulatory review, as contained in the protocols established by PUC.

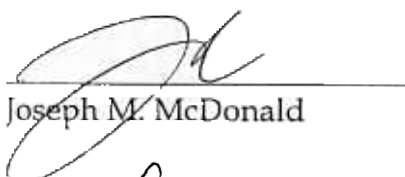
Dated this 31st day of March 2004.


Terrence M. Brooks

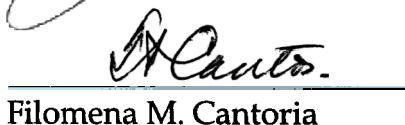

Edward C. Crisostomo


Gerald M. Woo


Rowena E. Perez


Joseph M. McDonald


Richie T. Lim


Filomena M. Cantoria