

APPENDIX G

- **Comments on Environmental Impact of Transfer Stations**

TRANSFER STATIONS

Several waste transfer stations are being proposed as part of the national SWM Program. In the transfer stations, solid waste is brought in from various scattered locations and stored until enough has accumulated to warrant a full truck load to the sanitary landfill final disposal site. In this case, a waste transfer station is proposed for the same site which is presently a major dump area at Mile 3 of the Western Highway near Belize City. The transfer station will receive solid waste from the Belize City area and the Cayes (by barge and smaller vehicles), which will then be conveyed to the Mile 22 Western Highway regional landfill facility (in larger vehicles).

The advantages of a waste transfer station are several, including: (1) enhanced efficiency of the program by transporting mainly full loads to the final disposal site in larger vehicles while servicing many minor waste generation sources which can be served by smaller vehicles; (2) provision of an opportunity for screening and sorting of the solid waste before it is disposed, so that hazardous and recyclable materials can be removed; (3) opportunity for some compaction of the waste before it arrives at the final disposal site, thus contributing to landfill lifespan.

In this particular case, the waste transfer station will be developed at the Mile 3 Western Highway Site, and the existing dump there will be decommissioned. The dump has been operated without the appropriate operational requirements of applying daily cover, compacting the waste, minimizing the area of exposed garbage, preventing runoff to adjacent watercourses, controlling pests and insect vectors, and so forth. This has resulted in an undesirable situation that is causing unpleasant visual aesthetics and downwind odors, and in all likelihood an environmental and human health risk as well. It is proposed that the existing dump be closed and reclaimed by applying final cover material and revegetating appropriately. Cover material for this purpose will be available during construction and operational phases at the Mile 22 Western Highway site, and could be backhauled from there to the Mile 3 site in the waste vehicles, resulting in further efficiencies.

APPENDIX H

- **Archaeological Report from the
Institute of Archaeology**

DoA/N/01 (03)

FROM: Archaeological Assistant (Paul S. Francisco)

TO: Ag. Archaeological Commissioner

SUBJECT: A Report on the Inspection of Land Fill Site Mile 24, Western Highway

Date: August 2, 2001

On August 1st, 2001, Mr. Rene Torres and I (Paul S. Francisco) went to the new proposed Landfill site to investigate visually the presence of cultural remains pertaining to the ancient Maya civilization. Mr. NJ (Norm), consultant for Stantec Consultancy met us at the junction to the site at mile 24 on the Western highway. He came to show us the site which is located approximately 4 miles off the highway. Norm gave us a briefing and a map of the site.

The huge Landfill site is divided into several little parcels, one of which will accommodate an administration building. Furthermore, the main site is divided into 3 large units called cells; Cell 1, Cell 2 and Cell 3. According to Mr. Norm, investigation at Cell 1 is more urgent because it will be the first section to be cleared and utilized.

Presently, Cell 1 is comprised of a thick jungle having many small trees, a very few large trees, vines and cutting grass and palmetto plants. Nonetheless, we entered it and looked for archaeological remains, but did not find any evidence indicating ancient Maya occupation.

In order to be thorough and have a general idea of the entire site, we checked several pockets in Cells 2 and 3. Similarly, we did not find any evidence of ancient Maya occupation.

Given certain experiences with settlement patterns of the ancient Maya sites, in addition to the absence of evidence indicating ancient Maya occupation, we have to conclude that the area is not a Maya site.

I do recommend however, that while the land is being cleared, that personnel be at the site to ensure the proper documentation of whatever cultural material that should surface during the clearing. I also recommend that the surveyed area for the new proposed road be investigated for the presence of any cultural remains.


Paul S. Francisco

