

**Minutes of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee Meeting**

January 21, 2010- Department of the Environment Conference Room

**Placencia Marina Limited**

**Present were:**

Martin Alegria, Chair of NEAC  
Jorge Franco, DOE  
Amanda Burgos, BAS  
Michelle Alvarez, GPD  
Wilber Sabido, Forest Dept.  
Colin Gillet, Coastal Zone Management Authority  
Micheal Jenkins, BPA  
Vivian Ramnarace, Fisheries Department

Eden Garcia, UB  
Rudolph Williams, National Meteorology Service  
Rolando Chan, Ministry of Works  
Emily Aldana, Ministry of Economic Development  
Mike Heusner, BTIA

**Absent with apologies:**

John Bodden, Ministry of Health  
Carren Williams, Lands & Surveys Department

Dennis Jones, BEST  
Dr. Colin Young, FCD  
Yashin Dujon, Ministry of Tourism

**EIA Consultants:**

Mr. Ismael Fabro and Mr. Juan Rancharan – Belize Environmental Technologies

**1.0 Meeting Called to Order:**

1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**2.0 Review of Minutes of December 22, 2009:**

2.1 The minutes of the December 22, 2009 were accepted without changes by Mr. Eden Garcia and seconded by Mr. Wilber Sabido.

**3.0 Matters Arising from Minutes of December 22, 2009:**

3.1 The chair reminded members of the upcoming NEAC visit to the hydroelectric facilities operated by BECOL.

**4.0 Review of the Placencia Marina EIA**

- 4.1 Members were in agreement that the document was general, too opinionated, and lacking scientific data to support the design of the marina and to address potential negative impacts.
- 4.2 It was noted that the document did not identify the proposed site for obtaining fill material for the geotubes and for use as rip-rap. In addition, the potential impacts on the location of the source of these materials and identification of mitigation measures were not addressed.
- 4.3 A habitat map was not included in the document nor was any coring conducted to determine depth and sediment distribution of the seabed. In addition, a bathymetric map of the project site was not provided. All these information are important in making a determination on the project's feasibility.

*This is the minutes of the NEAC Meeting marked "IFG" and referred to in Affidavit of Ismael Fabro sworn to before me on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2010*  
*[Signature]*  
Commissioner of the Supreme Court

- 4.4 It was stated that the oceanographic data used in justification of the marina design was not adequate as it was not site specific.
- 4.5 The proposed source of potable water for the project has never been tested; hence it was recommended that this source be test to determine its sustainable yield and zone of influence.
- 4.6 A concern was raised as to accessibility of 200ft. vessels from the easternmost end of the marina, as the space between the breakwaters appear to be too narrow based on the scale diagrams in the EIA.

#### **5.0 Discussion with Environmental Consultants:**

- 5.1 The chair explained the NEAC's position with respect to the generality of the document and pointed out the areas of concern with respect to the project.
- 5.2 In regards to the oceanographic data, the consultant stated that the wave, climate and sand transport information was included, which were gathered from different reports conducted in the area.
- 5.3 The consultant explained the limitations in regards to use of existing data and software to generate a coastal model. He concluded that the main reason for not being able to generate a model is due to the lack of long term data to calibrate the model, "Genesis," which is the best model to use. However, he stated that the new marina design is based on the use of existing data that was provided in the EIA.
- 5.4 In regards to the testing of the existing well, he concurred that a pump test is needed and shall be carried out.
- 5.5 In regards to the maneuverability and access of 200ft. vessels to access the marina, this concern will be submitted to the designers of the marina to address and modify the design.
- 5.6 The consultant commented that the equipment used to collect bathymetric data would not be any different from the equipment used by Belize Port Authority (BPA), and that the BPA equipment would only be used where the equipment used in gathering data for the Placencia Marina EIA cannot be used. He affirmed that a bathymetric profile was not done as the Echo Map Software was unable to process the huge volume of data stored, but only could process small portions thereof. He committed to preparing and presenting a profile based on the data gathered.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 NEAC agreed that at least one to two months site specific oceanographic data (wave height, wind direction, currents flow, sediment transport) be collected and compared with the data used in the EIA (eg. Carrie Bow Caye) to show correlation of more than 70%.
- 6.2 That a bathymetric profile be prepared using other available software.
- 6.3 The source of the geotube fill and material for rip-wrap be identified, as well as identification of the potential environmental impacts to the area of sourcing and their mitigation measures.
- 6.4 An assessment of the capacity of the existing well needs to be conducted to ensure its capability of meeting the added water demands of the marina.
- 6.5 The marina design be adjusted to ensure the accessibility of 200ft. vessels and that the final design be submitted prior to making any decision.
- 6.6 Once the information has been submitted then NEAC would be in a better position to recommend on the EIA.

#### **7.0 Other Matters:**

- 7.1 The chair informed the NEAC of the approval and implementation of the National Environmental Guidelines on Overwater Structures and Marinas.