BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY

DIVISION of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT



ABOUT US

The CNMI's primary environmental regulator, and comprises of the 11 programs. DEQ derives its authority from the Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (2 CMC §§ 3101–3134), Groundwater Management and Protection Act (2 CMC §§ 3311–3333), and Solid Waste Management Act (2 CMC §§ 3511–3521). The agency protects the CNMI's natural resources by executing this work plan and enforcing regulations under NMIAC Title 65.

OUR MISSION

To serve the public through wise management of CNMI natural resources, supporting healthy communities, a sustainable environment and a vibrant economy.

OUR GOAL

Advance environmental quality and public health by integrating active monitoring and enforcement with community education and sustainable resource management.

OUR VISION

Protecting the CNMI's land, air, and water through innovative programs, education, and active management to safeguard public health and the environment.









FIND & CONTACT US

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
6705 Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai Center
P.O. Box 501304 - Saipan, MP 96950

Saipan: (670) 664-8500
Tinian: (670) 433-3169
Rota: (670) 532-0466

www.deq.gov.mp/
@CNMI DEQ

Photos: 1) Disaster Response - Household Hazardous Waste and 2) - As Gonno, Saipan Temporary Debris Staging and Reduction Site. 3) Rota - Small Community Exempt Landfill. 4) EPA Environmental Priorities on Tinain. - Credits: DEQ

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Clean Air Program

- Conducted **538** visible emission tests for on-road diesel-powered motor vehicles in the CNMI and issued 536 visible emission certificates.
- Issued **1** Synthetic Minor Source Permit, **4** Minor Source Permits.
- Received and responded to **15** air emission complaints and issued **7** Notice of Violations.
- Conducted Radon testing at **3** private schools in Saipan, CNMI.
- Replaced the Department of Lands and Natural Resources – Parks and Recreation Division with a new John Deere Tier 4 diesel-powered tractor, through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) State Grant.
- Upcoming 2025–2026 DERA State Grant to replace older diesel-powered vehicles or equipment on Tinian & Rota.
- Secured additional funding from the State Indoor Radon Grant to conduct a Radon Mitigation Demonstration Project in Saipan, CNMI in FY 2027.

Environmental Surveillance Laboratory

- Analyzed for free **30** drinking water samples from Public School Systems (PSS) & **7** water samples from Head Start for SY 2026-27 for microbiological analysis. All water samples submitted were bacteriologically safe at the time of sampling.
- Provide routine analyzation of drinking water and marine water samples to support Environmental & Public Health.
- The annual preventive maintenance and calibration of laboratory equipment were satisfactorily accomplished by the contractor on August 28, 2026.
- Performed a triennial onsite audit at Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with the USEPA Laboratory Certification Officers shadowing the audit.

Pesticides Program

- Issued **7** Termiticide treatment permits for pre-constructed structures
- Processed **39** pesticide products for importation applications; Inspected **23** pesticide products that arrived on island
- Certified **13** commercial applicators; **1** Agricultural Use applicators; **5** for Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health related pest control applicators; **7** for Agriculture and Forestry category; and **4** Reciprocal Certifications.

Safe Drinking Water

- **13** Sanitary Surveys and is tracking 2 additional systems pending deficiencies from previous year
- Conducted monthly bottled water company inspections and bacteria testing at **all bottled water providers**
- Issued **101** water well operating permits and **15** underground injection control well permits
- Completed revised total coliform compliance for **68** Public Water Systems
- Completed well inspections of **33** groundwater wells
- Coordinated training sessions issuing **495** Continuing Education Hours to CNMI water operators and staff
- Collaborating with CUC and EPA on PFAS treatability study for CNMI





Photos: 1) DLNR-DERA Tractor. 2) Rota Green Waste Site.





Photos: 1) EPA Hazardous Materials Training. 2) EPA Water Response. Credits: DEQ

Site Assessment & Remediation

Brownfields

- Ongoing Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the Former Kae Pong Heavy Equipment Yard

Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)

- State Management Action Plan (SMAP) Meeting - prioritzation of FUDS projects in the CNMI
- Assisted in the coordination of the Marpi Point Field Public Meeting hosted by the US Army Corps. of Engineers

Solid Waste Management

- Issued **12** Permit-by-Rule, **18** Commercial Waste Hauler registrations, **3** Temporary Solid Waste Management Facility Permits for Rota, Tinian, & Saipan
- Issued **1** new SWM Facility permit for the Tatachok Small Community Exempt Landfill (SCEL) and **1** renewal SWM Facility permit for Lower Base Transfer Station (5 years). **First facility of it's kind in the Pacific Region**
- Conducted **39** Compliance Evaluation Inspections: **14** Permit By Rule, **10** Commercial Waste Hauler, **7** Recycling, **4** Lower Base Transfer Station + **4** Municipal Solid Waste Landfill
- Issued **5** Notice of Violations
- Published the illegal dumping flier to report illegal dumping activities via phone call, message, or website

Tanks (Above & Underground Storage Tanks)

Above Storage Tanks

- Issued **8** AST Permits to Install/Operate (Renewals)
- Coordination meetings with the Department of War (DoW) Tinian Divert project team on the draft Spill Prevention Countermeasure Control Plan with USEPA Region IX Oil Program.

Underground Storage Tanks

- Issued **16** Permit to Operate (Renewals)
- Conducted **12** compliance inspections for UST facilities
- Updated CNMI UST facility data in UST Finder, a nationally shared live database accessed by U.S. states and territories.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Water Quality Surveillance / Nonpoint Source

- Collected a total of **2,842** marine water quality samples: from BEACH **2,698**, Reef flats **113**, Saipan Lagoon **14**, and Seagrass sites **17**, including freshwater **39**.
- Collected **2** special samples connected from the rainwater catchment tank's reverse osmosis (RO) system. These targeted sampling efforts are conducted in response to public requests to safeguard community health.
- In-Depth feature on the Achugao Watershed is available on both EPA's website and DEQ hosting website, direct link to story: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-01/cnmi_achugao-watershed_indepth_508.pdf Highlights the success of the Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, federal EPA funding with local expertise from CNMI DEQ and the US Natural Resources Conservation Services.
- Partnered with US EPA and contractors to produced an educational video aimed at mitigatation of agricultural watershed pollution in Saipan and Tinian. Developed materials in Mandarin, Filipino, Bengali, Chamorro, and Carolinian to engage local farmers, direct link to materials: https://www.deq.gov.mp/livestock-bmps.html CNMI 5-Year NPS Plan
- Partnered with CNMI DFW for Phase I of the CNMI Heavy Metal TMDL project, leading fish tissue collection and risk analysis to evaluate human health impacts.





Photos: 1) Marine water sampling. 2) DFW/DEQ Collobration.
Credits: DEQ

Disaster Response & Recovery

EPA Water Division Assistance & Efforts

- During federally declared disasters or mission assignments, DEQ serves as the primary local operational partner to US EPA Region IX, providing immediate logistical, technical, geographic, and field coordination support to Incident Management Teams.
- Inspected and analyzed water samples across CNMI schools, shelters, public water systems, wells, tanks, and filling stations, including investigating potential contamination at Susupe Lake.
- Assisted US EPA with hazardous waste determinations in schools.

Multi-Agency Assistance & Efforts

- Supported the CNMI Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and assisted the CUC in assessing and managing environmental hazards from damaged transformers and electrical waste.
- Coordinated with DPW, ECC, and US ACE to oversee household hazardous waste mitigation and ensure CNMI regulatory compliance.
- Conducted mold inspections at government facilities and provided guidance on mitigation and public health and safety.

Toxic Waste Management

- Conducted a total of **57** inspections to evaluate compliance with applicable Used Oil and Hazardous Waste management requirements: included **43** Used Oil Management inspections and **7** RCRA Subtitle C inspections, along with **7** response oversight activities conducted in support of environmental incidents, complaints, and interagency response efforts.
- Issued three **3** On-Site Used Oil Burner Permits, **3** Commercial Used Oil Burner Permits, **2** Used Oil Transporter Permits, **2** Hazardous Waste Transporter Permits, **1** Universal Waste Recycler Permit, and **2** Collection/Aggregation Permits.
- Conducted **1** Chemical Container release.
- Assisted US EPA with the annual **5** RCRA C Compliance Evaluation Inspections.
- Provided technical and programmatic assistance to the US EPA in completing the CNMI Hazardous Waste Collection Project Action Plan. The Action Plan was subsequently approved, awaiting EPA implementation.
- Received environmental sampling equipment from EPA to support future sampling events, investigations, and environmental monitoring activities. To enhance the agencies capacity to respond to environmental concerns and conduct field investigations.

Wastewater, Earthmoving & Erosion Control

- Reviewed **197** earthmoving permit applications and issued **165** earthmoving permits (ONE-Start).
- Conducted approximately **1,120** inspections including: Initial, Routine, and Final Inspections.
- Successfully resolved **2** earthmoving activity and **19** wastewater complaints by inspecting sites and leading non-compliant parties to full adherence with environmental standards.
- Reviewed **65** Individual Wastewater Disposal System (IWDS) applications and issued **59** IWDS Permits.
- Issued **54** Certification for Use for IWDS.
- Conducted approximately **400** inspections including: Initial Setback, Routine, and Final Inspections.
- Responded to **19** wastewater complaints and had possible violators come into compliance.
- Received, tracked, and monitored **75** percolation tests through completion.
- Received **8** Honey-wagon applications and issued **8** Certifications.
- Reviewed and issued **23** Receive and Haul Excavated Materials (RHEM) permits (less than 45 cy of materials).





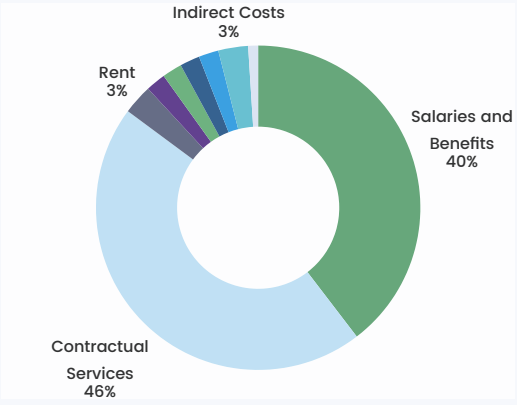
Photos: 1) Susupe Lake Sampling. 2) Incident Response.
Credits: DEQ

FINANCE AND PROGRAMS

FUNDING SOURCES accumulated amount from FY2024 - current	FY 2026 BUDGET	% of Total
EPA Consolidated Grant I.D# M00915619	$37,032,767.42	98%
Program Income-EPA consolidated Grant	$60,426.00	0%
Department of Defense State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA)	$84,000.00	0%
WINN-Assistance for Small Disadvantaged Community	$258,835.00	1%
Hazardous Waste Management (ASADRA)	$229,741.74	1%
State Clean Diesel Grant Program (DERA)	$183,872.37	0%
Budget General Fund Public Law 22-08 Environmental Quality	$19,9170.22	0%
TOTAL	**$37,869,559.75**	**100%**

Staffing Levels & Expenditures By Category

Staffing Levels	Number	Percentage
Actual Employees	51	91%
Budgeted Positions	56	100%



2026 Environmental Awareness Theme

English: Land and Life in Harmony
Chamorro: Tano yan Lina'la Ina'famaolek
Refaluwash (Carolinian): Falúw Me Malaw Llól Eew Pilúúgh



