



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY



CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2025

ABOUT US

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

To protect the public health and environment through surveying and monitoring, primary enforcement responsibilities, compliance assistance, community outreach and education.

Our Vision - Moving Forward

DEQ continues to plan, develop, and implement environmental programs, including outreach and education, for the management of the CNMI's land, air and water, for the overall protection of public health and the environment.

Contact Us

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Environmental Awareness Month Highlights - April '25

Land and Ocean Preservation for the Next Generation

ISLAND-WIDE CLEANUP

This annual event gathered over 640 volunteers who collected over 2,300 lbs. of litter and debris from 29 locations across Saipan and Tinian.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

This year's Environmental Expo brought together 206 students from four high schools to explore interactive environmental exhibits. Open primarily to 11th and 12th graders—with some 10th graders joining in—the event successfully reignited student engagement in environmental awareness and action.

LAB TOURS

This year, the Environmental Surveillance Laboratory hosted 6 lab tours for a total of 207 students from 4 different schools, giving them a hands-on look at how water samples are tested and why monitoring water quality is essential for protecting our environment.



PERFORMANCE REPORT

WASTEWATER, EARTHMOVING, & EROSION CONTROL

- **301** One-Start permits received
- **289** permits issued
- **750** initial, routine, and final inspections conducted
- Responded to **4** earthmoving complaints; all in compliance
- **97** Individual Wastewater Disposal System applications reviewed
- **83** IWDS permits issued
- Responded to **19** wastewater complaints; all in compliance
- **55** Certification for Use issued
- **103** percolation test request received and monitored
- **11** Honey-Wagon applications received
- **11** Honey-Wagon Certifications issued
- **41** Receive and Haul Excavated Materials (RHEM) permits reviewed and issued

SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

- Conducted **18** Sanitary Surveys
- Completed multiple water complaint inspections
- Conducted monthly water company inspections and bacteria testing
- Issued **113** water well operating permits and **14** underground injection control well permits
- Completed revised total coliform compliance for 68 PWS
- Completed island-wide PFAS sampling event with EPQ HQ and EPA Region 9 Office
- Administered **26** water operator exams
- Managed multiple water training sessions issuing out **2,155** Continuing Education Hours to operators and staff

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE LABORATORY

- DEQ'S ESL maintained laboratory certification for Colilert-18 in Microbiology and EPA 353.2 Nitrate, Nitrite, Nitrate + Nitrite in Nitrogen
- Annual preventative maintenance and calibration of laboratory equipment was satisfactorily accomplished in July 2025
- Granted full renewal of laboratory certification to Eurofins Eaton analytical, LLC-Pomona, concurrent with Utah ELCP Accreditation Certificate No. CA000062025-8
- Granted full renewal of laboratory certification to Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC-South Bend, Indiana, for Nitrite and Nitrate by EPA Method 353.2, concurrent with Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories Certificate No. E87775
- BECQ signed an MOU with Myounghee Noh & Associates, LLC (MNA Environmental) to support water quality monitoring for DoD activities on Tinian, ensuring compliance with CNMI Water Quality Standards
- Annual audits were conducted at CUC and Quality Water to ensure both laboratories were in compliance; both laboratories continues to meet the quality standards and certification requirements outlined in the Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water (5th Edition) and the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations.
- DEQ ESL continues to conduct daily analyzation of drinking water and marine water samples to support Environmental Health

STORAGE TANKS

Aboveground Storage Tanks

- Issued **13** AST Permits to Install/Operate (Renewal)

Underground Storage Tanks

- Issued **20** Permits to Operate (Renewal)
- Conducted **10** UST Compliance Inspection at 60% Technical Compliance Rate (TCR) and reported findings to US EPA Region 9's LUST4 Reporting System in accordance with federal leaking UST tracking requirements.

CLEAN AIR PROGRAM

- Conducted **623** visible emission test for on-road diesel-powered motor vehicles
- Issued **615** visible emission certificates
- Issued one **(1)** Minor Source Permit, one **(1)** Modified Minor Source Permit, and one **(1)** amended Minor Source Permit
- Received and responded to **6** air emission complaints and issued **3** NOV's
- Secured the 2023-2024 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) State Grant and additional funding from the Air Quality Sensors Grant under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
- Conducted Radon testing at **3** high schools and **2** private schools in the CNMI

TOXIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Issued **2** Hazardous Waste Handlers and Transporters permits
- Successfully assisted DEQ staff in receiving their HAZWOPER certifications: **7** staff completed the 40-hour Certification Course and **33** staff passed the 8-hour Refresher Course
- Provided assistance to EPA in completing the CNMI Haz-Waste Collection Project Action Plan
- Assessed **9** PSS Head Start and Early Head Start Tap Water Systems for signs of Lead (Pb)

WATER QUALITY/NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

- **Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment: 2,288** samples were collected from Saipan beaches; **209** samples were collected from Mañagaha; **197** samples were collected from Tinian beaches; **258** samples were collected from Rota beaches
- **Probabilistic Monitoring for Marine Waters:** Successfully completed sampling at a total of **50** reef flat sites in the CNMI for the National Coastal Condition Assessment: Saipan (**21**), Tinian (**17**) and Rota (**16**). In collaboration with the DFW Team, **(35)** fish tissue samples were also collected and will be sent to the EPA contractor laboratory for analysis. The samples will be analyzed for potential contamination sources of mercury, PFAS and PCBs
- **Freshwater and Stream Monitoring: 6** wetland samples were collected from the MIHA housing and **15** from AMP wetlands
- Senior Technical Advisor successfully completed the CNMI 2024 Integrated Water Quality Report for public comments and EPA review
- Secured funding from the U.S. EPA under the Surface Water Environmental Protection Management Grant for Phase 1 of the CNMI Heavy Metal TMDL Project.
- Six **(6)** new WQ Beach Advisory signs were installed on Tinian

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Issued **26** SWM Permit by Rule (PBR) permits, **24** Commercial Waste Hauler Registrations, one **(1)** Temporary Authorization Permit Extension, and one **(1)** SWM Compost Facility Certificate
- Conducted **36** Compliance Evaluation Inspections; three **(3)** Commercial Waste Hauler site inspections; two **(2)** Green Waste/Compost facility site inspections; and four **(4)** Solid Waste Management Landfill facility site inspections
- Issued two **(2)** NOV's for SWM activities
- Completed the CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan

SITE ASSESSMENT & REMEDIATION

Brownfields

- Prioritized Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for the former Kae Pong Heavy Equipment Yard, scheduled to begin in early 2025

DSMOA/FUDS

- Conducted outreach efforts, in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to raise awareness on the 3Rs of Explosive Safety

PESTICIDE PROGRAM

- Issued **32** Termiticide Treatment Permits; **2** Fumigation Permits; and **1** Other Type Treatment Permit
- Processed **39** Pesticide Products for Importation applications; Inspected **26** pesticide products that arrived on-island
- Certified **11** Commercial Applicators; **4** Agricultural Use Applicators; **2** for Agriculture and Forestry category and **5** for Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related Pest Control category; **7** Reciprocal Certifications to applicators with Certification from another state or territory under the CORE standards

EVENT HIGHLIGHT



32ND PACIFIC ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The 32nd Pacific Islands Environmental Training Symposium (PIETS), themed Weaving Strategies to Strengthen Resilience in the Pacific, took place from June 9–13, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, bringing together environmental professionals, government agencies, community partners, and regional leaders for a week of collaboration, training, and knowledge-sharing.

Hosted by BECQ's Division of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9, this year's symposium featured more than a dozen training tracks, site visits, and panel discussions spanning waste management, natural resources, water quality, and air pollution control.

Highlights of the event included

- Keynote Address by Cheree Peterson, Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 9;
- Hands-on field tours to the Saipan landfill, storm drain systems, mangrove and reef restoration sites, and agroforestry projects across Saipan and Tinian;
- Specialized training sessions on PFAS detection and mapping, inspector certification, watershed planning, and solid waste data management;
- Panel discussions address zero waste initiatives, community resilience, and legal frameworks for land preservation.

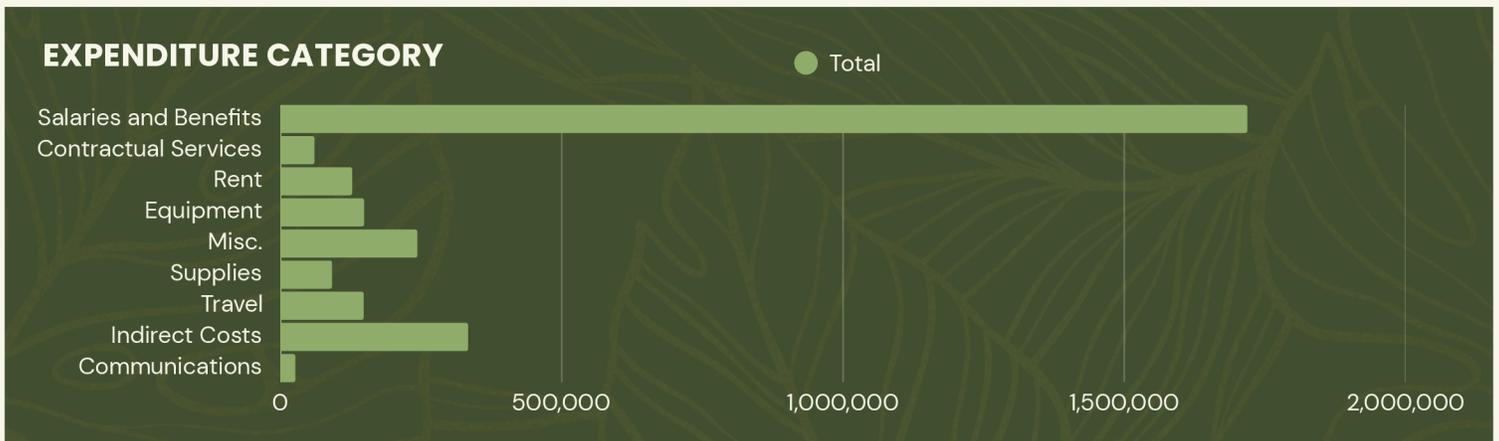
The symposium serves as a vital platform for Pacific Island environmental agencies and partners to share lessons learned, explore innovative solutions and strengthen cooperative federalism across the region. Partners from all over the Pacific were in attendance, including Guam, the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The 33rd PIETS will be hosted by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency in 2027.



FINANCE & PROGRAMS

FUNDING SOURCES	FY 25 BUDGET	% of TOTAL
EPA Consolidated Grant I.D. #M00915619	\$28,891,058.41	96%
Program Income-EPA Consolidated Grant	\$73,191.00	0%
Department of Defense State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA)	\$84,000.00	0%
WINN - Assistance for Small Disadvantaged Community	\$315,180.40	1%
Hazardous Waste Management (ASADRA)	\$360,799.69	1%
State Clean Diesel Grant Program (DERA)	\$292,998.66	1%
Budget General Fund Public Law 24-01 Environmental Quality	\$23,414.82	0%
TOTAL	\$30,040,642.98	100%



STAFFING LEVELS	#	%
Actual Employees	53	100%
Budgeted Employees	53	100%