

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

BECQ – DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

HAZWOPER

The Toxic Waste Management branch successfully assisted DEQ staff in receiving their Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response certifications. A total of 7 staff completed the 40-hour HAZWOPER Certification course, while 33 staff passed the 8-hour Refresher Course.



Additional photos from DEQ's Professional Development Workshop



LEARNING TOGETHER, GROWING STRONGER

BECQ's Division of Environmental Quality held its 2025 Professional Development Workshop on August 21-22, 2025, bringing staff together for two days of learning, collaboration, and team building.

On day one, staff participated in a time management activity, followed by presentations from CHCC's Community Guidance Center on mental health, healthy relationships, and effective communication. Technical expertise was shared by CAPT Brian Bearden, who led a training on groundwater resources and contamination. The day closed with group activities such as trivia and a photo challenge to foster camaraderie.

Day two took place at Pau Pau Beach, where staff connected with the island's natural resources through hands-on learning. Highlights included an environmental observation activity, a talaya fishing demonstration by Talaya Club, and an Eyes of the Reef training and lagoon survey demonstration by DCRM's Coral Reef Initiative.

The workshop emphasized DEQ's commitment to investing in its workforce by enhancing knowledge, skills, and team spirit. Through a balance of professional training and interactive activities, staff left better equipped to support DEQ's mission of protecting the CNMI's environment.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

WHY DID THE AIR QUALITY MONITOR BREAK UP WITH THE FACTORY?

WEAVING STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC

32nd PACIFIC ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The 32nd Pacific Islands Environmental Training Symposium (PIETS) 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.



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

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 addressing zero waste initiatives, coral reef conservation, community resilience, and legal frameworks for land preservation.

attendance including Guam, Palau, America Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The 33rd PIETS will be hosted by the Guam EPA in 2027.

Additional photos from the 32nd PIETS



ISLAND-WIDE INVENTORY OF STATIONARY EMISSION SOURCES

DEQ's Clean Air Program (CAP) will be conducting an island-wide inventory of facilities operating in the CNMI. The purpose of this inventory is to identify facilities that may require air quality permits, verify compliance with the CNMI Air Pollution Control Regulations (NMIAC Title 65, Chapter 10), and provide technical assistance to the regulated community to ensure a clear understanding of applicable requirements.

This inventory will focus on commercial and industrial businesses, government and institutional facilities—such as schools and utility plants, and other establishments that operate equipment which may generate air emissions. Examples include: stationary generators, boilers, waste incinerators, asphalt plants, rock crushing and screening plants, auto body shops and paint booths, and concrete batch plants. Regular homes and small-scale residential activities are not included in this inventory.

For more information or to answer any inquiries, please contact the CAP Manager, Justin Pangelinan, at justin.pangelinan@becq.gov.mp or call the BECQ office at (670) 664-8500/01.

WHY DID THE AIR QUALITY MONITOR BREAK UP WITH THE FACTORY? ***Because it was too toxic!***