



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950-1304

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www.deq.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated use of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, BECQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Administrator of BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

- 1. APPLICANT:** Commonwealth Ports Authority, P.O. Box 501194, Saipan, MP 96950
- 2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, (NMIAC Chapter 65-130).
- 3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** Delta Dock, Saipan Commercial Port Facilities in Lower Base, Tanapag Harbor, at N 15 degrees 13'36", E 145 degrees 44'13".
- 4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to issue a permit to the applicant to Rehabilitate and extend the condemned Delta Dock so that it can again provide a safe, operational component of

the commercial port facilities and increase the capacity of the port to address the current and expected future demand for vessel mooring, including for larger vessel mooring. Construct a boat ramp and boarding pier at Delta Dock to better service CPA operations, patrols, emergency response vessels, and other trailered vessels.

5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Construction will disturb bottom sediments and cause temporary lowering of water quality in the immediate vicinity of the project. Based on prior sampling, some sediments in the project area may be contaminated with metals and PCBs, but at low levels that have been determined to be safe for unrestricted land disposal.

6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES: All sediment removed from the project area will be disposed of at a BECQ-approved upland location, such as the Marpi Landfill. Adjacent marine waters and biological resources will be protected from suspended sediment during construction by silt curtains and water quality monitoring to ensure they are deployed effectively.

The full Section 401 Water Quality Certification application may be viewed at <https://www.deq.gov.mp/news.html> or at the BECQ office on Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments and inquiries should be submitted to BECQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice (by May 12, 2025). Please email comments to cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com, or mail to Administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.