



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Environmental Quality invites the public to provide comments on the updated Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State Revolving Fund (SRF) Project Priority List (PPL) Scoring Criteria for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

The updated PPL Scoring Criteria establishes a framework used to prioritize eligible drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects for potential funding under EPA's Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants and related SRF programs. The criteria addresses public health protection, regulatory compliance, system sustainability, reliability, water quality, environmental protection, cost effectiveness, and project readiness.

The updated PPL Scoring Criteria has been revised in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and EPA guidance and must undergo public review prior to submission to EPA Region 9 for final approval.

Public Comment Period

The public comment period, which initially ended on January 19, 2026, has been extended to provide the community with more time to review and share feedback. **The extended public comment period will now end on Thursday, February 12, 2026.**

During this period, interested persons, agencies, and organizations are encouraged to review the updated PPL Scoring Criteria and submit written comments to the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Program for consideration.

Document Availability

The updated EPA SRF PPL Scoring Criteria are available for public review on the DEQ website at www.deq.gov.mp/news.html

Submission of Comments

Written comments must be received no later than **Thursday, February 12, 2026** and may be submitted by:

- Email: deq.sdw@becq.gov.mp AND McManus.Hallie@epa.gov
- In-person to the BECQ-DEQ Office in Middle Road, Gualo Rai

All comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed and forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the formal approval process.

For additional information, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Program staff at (670) 664-8500/18 or email deq.sdw@becq.gov.mp.