

JOINT NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 (WTR-5)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

CNMI Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 501304
Saipan, MP 96950

On Application for a National
Pollutant Discharge Elimination
System (NPDES) Permit to
Discharge Pollutants to Waters of the United States

On Request for Clean Water Act
Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Public Notice #: MP-11-W-06
Public Notice Date: July 5, 2011
Comment Period Closes: August 4, 2011

The U.S. EPA and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are jointly issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the CNMI Water Quality Standards. EPA is issuing a notice of proposed action to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit MP0020401 to the following discharger subject to certain effluent limitations and other conditions: Office of Emergency Response, US EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne St (SFD9-2), San Francisco CA 94105.

The Emergency Response Office (ERO) has identified a plume of subsurface oil originating from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base, Saipan. ERO is installing a series of subsurface trench to intercept and recover oil, treat the groundwater, and discharge treated water. The contaminated groundwater will be treated by an API type oil/water separator and granular activated carbon units.

CNMI DEQ is considering a request to certify the discharges described above, pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA. The certification will set forth any limitations and monitoring requirements necessary to ensure compliance with water quality standards under Section 303, area-wide waste treatment management plans under Section 208(e), effluent limitations under Sections 301 and 302, standards of performance under Section 306, prohibitions, effluent standards or pretreatment standards under Section 307 of the CWA, and any other appropriate requirement of CNMI law.

CNMI DEQ may certify conditions that are more stringent than those in the draft permit under its CWA Section 401 authority. For each more stringent condition, CNMI DEQ shall cite the CWA or CNMI law references upon which the condition is based. Review of appeals of limitations and conditions attributable to CNMI DEQ certification shall be made through the applicable CNMI procedures.

EPA is soliciting comments on the proposal. EPA will consider all comments received during comment period before taking final action. To submit comments, or to obtain additional information including the proposed permit and administrative record, please contact:

John Tinger, Tinger.John@epa.gov or (415) 972-3518

EPA Region IX (WTR-5)

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/npdes/pubnotices.html>