



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • AHENSIAN PRUTEKSIÓN LINA'LA' GUĀHAN
LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO • GOVERNOR OF GUAM | JOSHUA F. TENORIO • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUAM
MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA • ADMINISTRATOR

Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2025

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order:** Director Steven Carbullido called the Board of Director's meeting to order from the Guam EPA conference room at 4:01pm. Roll call certified by Acting Board Secretary, Arlene Acfalle, as follows:

II. Board Members:

Chairman Steven Carbullido	- Present
Vice Chairman Steven Carrara	- Present
Director Steven Hollister	- Present
Director Fran Castro	- Present
Director Cathleen Moore-Linn	- Present – Attending virtually
Director Heather Quitugua	- Present

Quorum has been established

Guam EPA Staff: Michelle C.R. Lastimoza, Glenn San Nicolas, Arlene Acfalle, Malia Tom, Connie Aflleje, CAPT. Elizabeth DeGrange and Peter Bautista

General Public: David Castro (GDP), Tianna Sarrosa (MCOG)

III. Approval of Agenda: Director Quitugua made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Hollister. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

IV. Approval of July 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Director Quitugua made a motion to approve the July 24, 2025 minutes, seconded by Director Hollister. All in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

V. Board Discussion / Action

Septic Tanks – Rules and Regulations - Presented by CAPT. Elizabeth DeGrange (*A copy of the Public Comments, Economic Impact Statement, and changes to 22GAR – Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations is available upon request*)

Chairman prefaced that during July's board meeting they heard the presentation provided by CAPT. Brian Bearden and that the Draft Rules & Regs, the Economic Impact Statement (EIS) and comments provided during the public hearing are in the board packet. Chairman inquired with CAPT. DeGrange if she can run through the proposed changes. (*Copies of the Draft Rules & Regs, EIS and Summary of proposed changes – available upon request*)

CAPT. DeGrange advised that the Table of Contents has been updated with more current language to ensure consistency with our quality practices. She also brought to the board's attention that during the public comment period, she inadvertently omitted the definitions that were previously struck out on pages 3 and 4. The definitions in the current Chapter 12 were not in alphabetical order, so the agency revised the entire section. All definitions, including the newly added ones, have now been reordered alphabetically. This revision will be reinserted before submission to the Legislature.

CAPT. DeGrange advised throughout the Summary of Changes there will be references to the GAR (Government Action Regulation) or to other parts of the GCA (Guam Code Annotated) and stated Guam EPA's (the agency) intent was to reference specific sections rather than repeat the full language. This approach aims to prevent inconsistencies and reduce revision efforts should the referenced regulations change. Chairman Carbullido asked whether the spreadsheet summarizing the changes are changes from the current regulations or changes from the proposed new regulations that went out for a public hearing. CAPT. DeGrange clarified that the Summary of Changes refers to updates from the current regulations (not the proposed new regulations).

CAPT. DeGrange continued with the proposed changes and advised the board to focus on pages 34-40 which covers the new language for Type 4 Toilet Systems and Holding Tanks (HT).

- For Type 4 Toilet Systems, the proposed requirements are:
 - NSF/ANSI 245 certification
 - A mandatory Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contract
 - Installation by a Guam EPA (GEPA) approved installer
- Regarding Holding Tanks, the agency's preference is for them to be a last resort option, used only when no other system is feasible to support a homeowner. Additional requirements for holding tanks include:
 - Mandatory periodic pumping and an O&M contract
 - A 20-year economic analysis for government and commercial buildings
 - Specific requirements for existing buildings to use HTs
 - Existing HT's permitting requirements, including an application, pressure test, Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) or Public Water Systems (PWS) statements for the preceding 12 months of inspection.

CAPT. DeGrange highlighted pages 41-46 as an important section outlining permitting requirements. Administrator Lastimoza mentioned that the agency's permitting system allows for a comparison between water usage and the amount being pumped out, which should ideally be equal. CAPT. DeGrange also added that the same permitting principles apply to existing holding tanks. For these, the agency would need to conduct an inspection of the existing holding tank, and the individual would be required to provide one year of statements from their Public Water Supply (PWS) to verify the information.

Director Hollister asked how our agency would determine a last-resort option. CAPT. DeGrange explained that holding tanks can only be used when there are no other alternatives, such as a septic system or mound system, due to a high water table or unsuitable land for a septic tank.



Director Hollister then inquired about septic systems exceeding the water table. Acting Deputy SN noted this is common in Southern Guam's coastal areas without sewer access. In such cases, the agency recommends a holding tank for containment to prevent leaching into recreational waters. When asked if any exist over the aquifer, Acting Deputy San Nicolas (SN) stated that in Northern Guam, they are used for smaller lots lacking sewer connections and not meeting setback requirements for a leaching field.

Administrator Lastimoza highlighted that the agency's market research indicates holding tanks cost \$100-\$150 per month for pumping, depending on size, which is more than typical sewer costs.

Administrator Lastimoza and CAPT. DeGrange agreed that using these systems is not ideal and quite expensive and they should only be considered as a last resort when all other alternatives have been exhausted. Mr. Peter Bautista emphasized our preference for on-site treatment, disposal, or a leaching field, reiterating that the HT option should be a final resort.

Director Hollister inquired about the commonality of HT options. CAPT. advised that they are not common, with fewer than a dozen currently registered in our WALTERS permitting system

Chairman Carbullido referenced 22GAR CH. 12 DIV. 2 WATER CONTROL

- (1) *If permitted work is not started within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after the date of issuance of the permit; or*
- (2) *If work is suspended or abandoned any time after the work is commenced for a minimum period of sixty (60) days; or*
- (3) *If work is continued without interruption for one (1) year, beginning with the date of issuance of the Building Permit.*

Chairman Carbullido inquired about the process after a 365-day permit period expires. CAPT. DeGrange noted, referencing CAPT. Bearden, that the language aligns with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and that a new permit is required if the project is not completed within one year. Chairman then asked if a contractor could apply for a new permit in the eleventh month, or if the current permit must expire first. CAPT. DeGrange confirmed that applications can be submitted before the current permit expires. Acting Deputy SN added that owner/builder (self-construction) situations can be challenging due to the flexible timelines involved, noting that the agency sometimes receives occupancy permit requests for projects that started five or more years prior. Acting Deputy SN also mentioned that DPW has a system in place to track these types of projects.

Director Castro inquired on the approved companies on the certified installer listing. CAPT. DeGrange advised that she does not have this list and would need to verify with the engineers.

Vice Chairman (VC) Carrara made a motion to approve the 22GAR Div. 2 Ch. 12 Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations, seconded by Director Moore-Linn. Discussion on the motion followed.



Director Castro raised a question regarding item #3 on the Economic Impact Statement (EIS). Additionally, Director Castro inquired about how the agency's plan to address the statement in the second paragraph of the EIS, which highlights *"a necessary increase in permitting review and inspection requirements, which will increase demand on the already overburdened staff of Guam EPA."* In response, Administrator Lastimoza stated that our ability to increase staff will be determined by our budget. Administrator also reiterated that the FY26-FY27 federal budget is expected to be cut, so we are actively exploring other options. Currently, our Guam Program Manager, Mr. Carl Goldstein, has advised us to continue building capacity while funds become available next month.

CAPT. DeGrange mentioned that the fee structure associated with these systems should be sufficient to cover the cost of one or two additional staff. She also noted that septic tanks are currently an unfunded mandate.

Administrator Lastimoza asked Ms. Connie Afleje if the fee schedule needs to be identified in the regulations. CAPT. DeGrange confirmed that the fee schedule is included but was unsure if it specifically addresses salaries. Ms. Afleje clarified that collected fees should be deposited into the agency's fund for general operational use, not exclusively for hiring. Director Hollister agreed, emphasizing that the fund should be self-sustainable.

VC Carrara inquired whether revising this section would require reopening it for public comment. CAPT. DeGrange explained that if changes made to the draft during this meeting are not considered substantive by both the agency and the board, re-publication for public comment would not be required. VC Carrara stated that, to his understanding, unless a law stipulates otherwise, collected fees would go into the general fund and suggested it would be better to include this in the regulations.

Director Castro sought clarification, noting that the RRF regulations, for example, require very specific stipulations. Administrator Lastimoza concurred with Director Castro, recommending that the regulations be both specific and flexible. Ms. Afleje also advised that the verbiage should clearly state that these funds are not to be commingled with the general fund, as they are considered program income funds, and that they cannot be transferred as they are solely for the agency.

After the discussion on the motion, VC Carrara amended his motion and moved to approve the 22GAR Div. 2 Ch. 12 Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations to include additional language regarding the fees collected and was seconded by Director Moore-Linn. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

VI. **Administrator's Report** - Provided by Administrator Lastimoza for the period of July 23 – August 15, 2025.

Administrator was pleased to introduce Guam EPA's new Chief Engineer, Mr. Peter Bautista, to the board.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Personnel:

- As of 08/15/2025: **54 FTEs** (Full-Time Equivalent)



DIVISION	PROGRAM	EMPLOYEES
Administration	EXECUTIVE	2
Administrative Services	ADMINISTRATIVE	6
Administration	PERMITTING	2
Air and Land	SOLID WASTE	4
Air and Land	HAZWASTE	3
Air & Land	AIR POLLUTION	2
Air & Land	DSMOA	2
Air and Land	GREEN PARCEL	3
Air and Land	PESTICIDES	3
Air and Land	RECYCLING	1
Water	CHIEF ENGINEER	1
Water	WATER POLLUTION	3
Water	SAFE DRINKING WATER	4
Water	WATER RESOURCES	2
Water	INSPECTORS	5
EMAS	LABORATORY	3
EMAS	MONITORING AND ANALYTICAL	5
EMAS	SENIOR SCIENCE ADVISOR	1
EMAS	NON-POINT SOURCE	2
TOTAL		54

Recruitment:

DIVISION / PROGRAM	POSITION	#	STATUS
ADMINISTRATION	PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	1	Offer rescinded for non- response from the selected candidate. Awaiting supplemental list from DOA, otherwise this position will be re-announced.
WATER	CHIEF ENGINEER	1	Peter Bautista selected. Started 08/11/25
WATER	ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN	1	One of 2 positions recruited. Agency will re-announce for recruitment of this vacancy
WATER	ENGINEER SUPERVISOR	1	Susan Marquez selected
WATER	ENGINEER I	3	Pending announcement
AIR & LAND	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST II	2	James Cruz and Chie Takase selected
EMAS	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I	1	This position was re-announced. Waiting on certification packet



Agency Headquarters:

- **UPDATE:** Negotiations complete – Contract for A&E services signed on April 3, 2025. Contract at the AG's Office since May 28, 2025.

POLICY:

Public Hearing on Proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations For Residential Septic Tank and Leaching System and Temporary Toilet Facilities

- 22 GAR 12 (Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations)
- July 30, 2025 at 4:00pm

Public Hearing: Acting Deputy SN provided update on the 45 day public comment period that started a couple weeks ago for the renewal of Cell 3 at the Layon landfill, AAFB Hardfill renewal and Navy Hardfill renewals.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS:

RRF Audit

- OPA auditing the Recycling Revolving Fund (5591001-619-00 / 361962201)
- Ongoing
- Walk-through July 31, 2025

GHURA Technical Assistance Workshop for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)

- A total of \$500,825,000 was appropriated by the U.S. Congress to support recovery efforts from Typhoon Mawar. These funds will be administered by the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA)
- Guam EPA was invited to offer a project proposal for consideration which is ongoing
 - Considering a hardened space for a disaster debris transition site on the Dededo site to offer a temporary site, designed to handle and process debris following a disaster. This space will be strategically located and designed to withstand potential hazards, while also providing infrastructure for efficient debris management, including sorting, storage, and potentially recycling or disposal
 - Infrastructure will require space for roads, safety buffers, and potentially burn pits (green waste) or hazardous waste areas. Adequate utility access (power, water) is also crucial
 - Environmental Considerations: Proper management of runoff, dust control, and other environmental impacts is essential. Considering installing oil-water separator for use as a wash station for fleet of cars when not used as a transition site
 - Hazardous Materials: Specific areas will be designated for handling and storing hazardous materials, potentially requiring specialized containers and procedures



Director Castro inquired on how the \$500,825,000 will be distributed. In response, Administrator Lastimoza stated that our agency will submit its proposal, and GHURA will then determine which projects they will submit and fund. Administrator also commended Acting Deputy SN for an excellent write-up, noting it was submitted as a fee proposal and expressed hope for its selection.

Director Castro then asked if the proposal included for additional staff in which the Administrator clarified it currently only covers the hardened area infrastructure. Director Castro emphasized that proposals should always include for additional staffing. The Administrator and Deputy confirmed they would verify and amend the write-up if necessary.

Working Group for Construction on New Hospital (Bi-weekly)

- Guam EPA continues to provide technical support

Meeting with USEPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)

- Update on clean-up at the Dededo site
- Guam EPA will pay between \$600K, up to \$1.5M tipping fee to GSWA
 - GSWA will invoice Guam EPA

While on business travel to Saipan, Administrator Lastimoza connected with Mr. Mike Jang, who operates a tire shredding facility in the CNMI. Although a meeting did not occur, Administrator Lastimoza will follow up with Mr. Jang to explore options for funneling tires to Saipan and noted Mr. Jang has offered to cover the shipping costs. The Board will be kept informed of developments.

VC Carrara suggested issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for tire removal. Administrator Lastimoza stated the agency's plan to purchase a tire shredder remains and we will collaborate with GSWA to shred tires, which will then be used as cover material. Administrator noted that once the A&E (Architectural & Engineering) contract is signed, the design phase will commence, approximately six months from the award date. However, property use for initial construction will be limited.

Acting Deputy SN confirmed there are existing metals on site and the plan is to transport them to Global Recycling, which will accept them free of charge. VC Carrara inquired about subsurface contamination, and the Acting Deputy confirmed that all such contamination have been addressed. Administrator and Acting Deputy reported that Layon has incurred approximately \$1 million in disposal costs, which includes the \$600,000 tipping fee. Ms. Aflleje confirmed that the check to GSWA has been processed and was issued last week.

USEPA Chemical Round Up

- At the request of GEPA, USEPA conducted a removal site evaluation to assess, characterize and inventory potential areas of known waste chemical accumulation areas. These facilities were identified and shared with GEPA, who then made a formal request to USEPA for a Removal Action on November 13, 2023.
- None of the GovGuam agencies, including GEPA, have the necessary training or knowledge to safely assess and manage these materials, nor the ability to properly manifest and ship hazardous waste.



- GovGuam lacks the financial resources to address these threats by transporting the materials to the mainland for disposal, and there is no on island capacity to treat or dispose of these wastes.
- Sites include:
 - Academy of Our Lady of Guam
 - St. John's High School
 - Notre Dame High School
 - Southern High School
 - Guam Community College
 - UOG Yigo Research and Education Center
 - UOG Department of Natural Sciences
 - UOG Division of Agriculture and Life Sciences
 - UOG Marine Sciences Lab
 - UOG Water and Environmental Research Institute
 - Guam Waterworks Authority, Tumon
 - Guam Waterworks Authority, Dededo
- Each location contains numerous chemical waste containers, in varying conditions and locations. Many locations have incompatible wastes stored together, mixed/uncategorized waste streams, improper storage conditions, and/or unsecured locations. These malpractices, along with restrictive disposal options on island, have created chemical waste accumulations that pose a threat to both public health and the environment.
- Known hazardous substances on the property include:
 - caustics
 - acids
 - oxidizers
 - elemental mercury
 - flammables
 - toxics
 - radioactive

Director Moore-Linn inquired if the hazardous substances will be removed or what is the end point of this assessment. Administrator advised the chemical roundup was initiated after Typhoon Mawar while they were doing hazardous cleanup. Some dangerous substances were found at University of Guam (UOG) and that triggered the question whether there were any hazardous chemicals being stored at the schools or laboratories. At the agency's request, US EPA came back to do another chemical round up and will also be handling the disposal. Acting Deputy SN updated the chemical round up was not advertised but it was a service provided, as a result of the typhoon, and added that all facilities need to manage, store and dispose of their hazardous waste correctly.

CRRA 2025 Annual Conference and Tradeshow

- The California Resource Recovery Association is California's statewide recycling association dedicated to achieving environmental sustainability through Zero Waste strategies including product stewardship, waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting.



- CRRA provides its members with resources to advance local, regional and state-wide waste reduction efforts which result in critical environmental and climate protection outcomes.
- August 3-5, 2025 in Monterey, CA

National Brownfields Conference

- Brought together stakeholders from government, industry, and the community to share knowledge and best practices on the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties.
- The conference featured a range of sessions, workshops, and networking events that cover topics such as financing, liability, and community engagement, with the goal of promoting the cleanup and revitalization of contaminated sites across the United States.

Director Castro inquired if the agency gets money for Brownfields and Administrator advised we get a little over \$800K.

Mariana Island Conservation Strategy

- Meeting in Saipan, CNMI August 13-15, 2025
- Continued engagement with DOD, US Fish and Wildlife, and DOI focused on developing and promoting conservation and recovery initiatives for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species while promoting increased flexibility for military mission activities
- Discussed proactive, innovative and collaborative approaches that enhance implementation of the Endangered Species Act, sustain and enhance the military mission, and achieve greater conservation outcomes for species

10th Annual Assembly of Planners Symposium

- August 19-20, 2025 Hyatt Regency Guam
- Theme: Examining the Vital Role of Codes, Ordinances, and Enforcement in Fostering Economic Growth, Community Empowerment, and Managing Coastal Resources.
- Focus on Guam's resilience and ability to manage its resources depend on the strength of our policies and enforcement of our rules and regulations. This year's theme emphasizes the critical role of legal frameworks in shaping a future that balances economic development with environmental stewardship.
- Guam EPA on 2 panels, 2 presentations

Inspection Activity: Week of March 31 – April 11

DIVISION	PROGRAM	TYPE OF INSPECTION	# OF INSPECTIONS
AIR & LAND	DSMOA	Project site	0
AIR & LAND	Green Parcel	Project Site	4
AIR & LAND	HAZWASTE	Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST)	2
AIR & LAND	HAZWASTE	Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	0



AIR & LAND	PESTICIDE	Inspections & Investigation	6
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Occupancy inspections	24
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Complaints	36
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Disposal Plan	33
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Paper Bag Outreach	104
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	BUILDING PERMITS	35
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	LITTER CITATIONS	12
WATER	INSPECTORS	Ocular, Septic & leaching, Grease trap inspections, complaints, H2, stormwater, compliance, UIC, Product / Irrigation wells and occupancy permits	118
WATER	SAFE DRINKING WATER	Sanitary Inspection	0
WATER	SAFE DRINKING WATER	Lead Free Inspections	24
EMAS	MONITORING	WETLAND AGGREGATE TESTING	1 1
TOTAL	400		

PERMIT ACTIVITY: May 26 to July 27, 2025

PERMIT TYPE	APPLICATIONS*	ISSUANCES**	HOLDS***
Building Permit Clearance	22	26	0
Clearing/Grading Clearance	3	6	0
Occupancy Clearance	17	18	0
Underground Injection Control Permit	1	33	0
H2B Clearance	9	8	0
Well Operating Permit	1	4	0
Well Abandonment Permit	0	0	0
Well Drilling Permit	5	3	0
Test Boring Permit	7	6	0
Application Review Committee (ARC) Review	1	0	0
Aboveground Storage Tank (AST)	13	47	0
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Permit	1	0	0
Solid Waste Management Permit	Not on WALTERS	3	0



Wastewater Collection Permit	Not on WALTERS	0	0
MILCON	1	0	0
Highway Encroachment	1	0	0
Fumigation	Not on WALTERS	0	0
Burial at Sea	Not on WALTERS	1	0
Air Pollution	Not on WALTERS	0	0
TOTALS	82*	155**	0***

*Applications received between July 23 - August 15, 2025.

**Includes approved permits and clearances granted to applications submitted prior to July 23, 2025.

***Includes permit and clearance holds applied to applications submitted prior to July 23, 2025.

NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS – Chairman Carbullido inquired if any new NOV's were issued since the July board meeting. Administrator advised no new NOV's have been issued.

DPW MOA Update – Chairman Carbullido asked for an update on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Administrator advised she spoke to the DPW Deputy Director, Linda Ibanez, last week and was told that DPW will provide the expenditure and operations plan, but none was submitted. Administrator advised she will follow up and hopes to have it ready by next board meeting.

FY26, FY27 Budget - Director Quitugua asked about our plans for the next year or two, specifically regarding the agency's funding. Administrator Lastimoza advised currently, the agency has \$26 million from the Emerging Contaminants (EC) Grant, which was originally intended to be disbursed over a five-year period. We have already received three years of this grant funding and have used it to recruit staff and purchase materials and supplies to support the grant's objectives. Administrator stated we anticipate receiving year four of the grant, an additional \$9 million, by September 2025. However, it is important to note that if the current federal budget passes, we do not expect to receive the fifth year of funding.

Administrator Lastimoza stated the initial four years of this grant were specifically allocated to building our lab capacity for PFAS and other emerging contaminants. As we move into the design phase for the new building, we will need to scale back our wish list items said Administrator. Nevertheless, our primary focus remains on constructing a new laboratory. If necessary, we will continue to operate from our two existing buildings and refurbish our current lab to meet standards, utilizing the remaining funds to sustain the agency's operations.

Administrator Lastimoza and CAPT. DeGrange shared that an updated fee schedule is being developed to offset current losses. While the Administrator is hopeful for future agency funding, she advised we will not be receiving FY26 money, which is typically disbursed at the end of FY26. Administrator also stated that she has spoken with Governor Leon Guerrero about returning to the general fund. However, since the agency will still receive year four of the grant funding, in addition to \$180,000 from the consolidated grant, we currently have sufficient funds to maintain



operations. Administrator stated her request to be placed back on general fund funding will be revisited again next year.

Director Quitugua stated she is interested in knowing what the time frame is for re-evaluating other funding sources. CAPT. DeGrange chimed in to state the agency is constantly looking for other grant opportunities and ways the agency can get support from DOI or DOD with the different funding coming in.

Administrator Lastimoza mentioned that the National Defense Act (NDA) budget includes specific language allocating more funding for Guam EPA. She also noted that she reached out to USEPA to understand the mechanism for this funding, particularly since the Department of Defense (DOD) remains a regulated entity.

Acting Deputy SN advised the fee schedule breakdown was included in the board packet several months ago and noted that the last time the solid waste management program (SWMP) fees were updated was in 1998. Acting Deputy advised in using the 2024 Bureau of Economic Analysis Inflation Rates a \$100 permit in 2024 would cost \$198. Administrator stated that's provided that \$100 was really a scale of the work that was done. Acting Deputy stated he used an average of the region on what they were charging for the same type of service and came up with an average number. (*Recording became inaudible*)

Chairman Carbullido urged the agency to start the process of preparing a budget for the Board, Legislature, and the Governor to review.

Director Moore-Linn noted that Guam EPA is not a self-sustaining operation, as the percentage of fees collected is relatively low. She suggested that, if necessary, the agency and board could request the Legislature to amend the Revenue Revolving Fund (RRF) to support operations, given that there are several million dollars available in the fund. Director Moore-Linn also acknowledged Director Quitugua's' concerns but stated that we are not at that point yet. She reiterated the importance of considering these "big ideas," understanding their potential actions, and evaluating the impact of such decisions.

Director Quitugua stated we are currently in both a crisis planning mode and a strategic planning mode and it's important for the agency to consider strategic planning from a multi-year perspective. While we hope to get through our current challenges, it's important to plan for potential future events said Director Quitugua.

OD Permit - Chairman Carbullido asked for the status on the OD Permit. Chairman asked for a status on the study of alternative technologies as GEPA previously noted that the Air Force entered into contract with a consultant to complete a study. Acting Deputy SN explained we don't have direct updates on the contract between the Air Force and their contractor and that this information is shared with Region 9 and the hazardous waste management program (HWMP). The Air Force and their contractor are working to resolve a lot of questions and our role at Guam EPA is to receive the necessary information to move forward with the permit process. Administrator mentioned, the study involves evaluating the use of alternative technology and that we are waiting for the final report from this evaluation. So once the report is complete and



analyzed, and the Air Force has determined a path forward (or if the technology is suitable for their operation), only then will US EPA and Guam EPA draft the final permit said Administrator Lastimoza.

Chairman Carbullido asked for Guam EPA to ask at their next meeting with US EPA: when is the contract completion date and when are the due dates for the consultant's deliverables, so that GEPA can better understand the Air Force's timeline.

New Meeting Date/Adjournment: Next meeting was tentatively set for September 18, 2025 at 4pm. Director Carrara made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Director Castro. All in favor, zero (0) opposed, and regular meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.

Arlene S. Acfalle
Acting Board Secretary

