

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Permits and Processes – *What You Should Know*

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About Permitting and Compliance

- Permitting is very important for business owners, farmers, contractors, developers, investors and the military.
- The Guam Environmental Protection Agency enforces multiple, locally-mandated and regulated permits. These include permits to protect Guam's air, water, land and other natural resources, as well as to protect residents from nuisances associated with projects.

About Permitting and Compliance

- Guam EPA works diligently to ensure that applicants are aware of all the permits that they are required to obtain, in accordance with applicable laws and rules and regulations.
- General Rule of Thumb: Contact Guam EPA with questions prior to and through the process of application submittal. Guam EPA is committed to serving the community in the most legally expeditious manner possible.

Do you need a permit?

- The answer to this is it depends on the type of activity you plan to conduct. Again, when in doubt, contact Guam EPA and get clarification and guidance beforehand. Doing so will ensure you will not accidentally violate any air, land or water laws and rules and regulations, which could result in hefty, daily fines.

Types of Permits

- There are several types of permits that Guam EPA issues, for various activities, from the Air & Land and Water Divisions. List of permits:
- **Air Permits** for standby generators, emission units.
- **Solid Waste Permits** for collection, hardfill, landfill, processing, storage and transfer facilities.
- **Hazardous Waste Permits** for Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part A.

Types of Permits

- **Pesticide Permits** to ensure compliance with Notice of Arrival requirements; Basic Training A; Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer License and Restricted Use Pesticide Usage License Special Permits.
- **Water and Wastewater Permits** for Well Operating, Underground Injection Control, Well Drilling, Water Quality Certification and Waste Disposal System.
- **Land Use Permits** such as for Clearing, Grubbing, Grading, Stockpiling and Soil Importation

Which permit do I need?

- **Businesses:** Will need most, if not all, of these permits.
- **Developers, contractors and construction operations:** Will need most, if not all, of these permits.
- **Farms and ranches:** Will need Air, Animal Care and Land Use permits.
- **General public and homeowners:** Will need Air, Pesticides and Burial at Sea permits.

Forms, detailed information

- Forms for each of these permits, as well as detailed information about each specific permit, can be found and downloaded at: epa.guam.gov.
- Specific questions about any of the permits can be directed to Conchita Taitano, Air & Land Division chief, at: conchita.taitano@epa.guam.gov; Angel Marquez, acting chief engineer at: angel.marquez@epa.guam.gov; or to me at: eric.palacios@epa.guam.gov. We can also be reached at 475-1658/9.

Streamlining Efforts

- Guam EPA actively strives to streamline the application review process. Processes were evaluated for efficiency, and necessary changes were made. Over the last four months, the agency has reduced its review time to an average of about two months.
- This still isn't acceptable to me, but it's a far cry from the average of six to eight months, sometimes longer, prior to this period. Efforts will continue to be made to further streamline the review process.

Streamlining Efforts

- During this time period, the agency did not spend a penny more on equipment or manpower. Instead, it focused on productive dialogue with applicants and stakeholders, and it harnessed the expertise of all staff involved in the review process.
- More can be done to achieve even greater efficiency, and some of the possibilities include requiring two sets of applications upon submittal.

Streamlining Efforts

- What this will do is allow the Air & Land and Water Divisions to concurrently review applications as they are submitted. At present, only one set is submitted to the agency, which results in lost time for either Division to conduct its review while waiting for the other to complete its review.
- Another option is to discontinue the practice of accepting incomplete applications, except for large-scale projects that require tiered development.

Proactive Approach

- In the last few weeks, Guam EPA staff met with the applicants of a few proposed projects prior to the submittal of documents. The meetings were requested by the applicants and with the intention of providing the agency with an opportunity to point out obvious deficiencies and concerns prior to submission of the application. This type of effort will continue as best as is possible, and taking into consideration personnel resource challenges.

Proactive Approach

- Another approach that the agency is exploring is the review and revamping of current SOPs. It's important that this take place, with strict deadlines for the agency in place, because it isn't fair that we're holding applicants to standards that we aren't willing to hold ourselves to.
- In addition, the agency is actively reviewing enabling statutes and rules and regulations. Where necessary, changes, amendments, and updates will be made as some of these mandates and requirements are decades old.

Open Burning Permits

- Permits for this activity are no longer issued by Guam EPA. In 1996, the agency reorganized the permit procedures and transferred issuing authority to the Guam Fire Department.
- However, residents are highly encouraged to contact Guam EPA with questions relative to what can and cannot be burned. Recently, Guam EPA levied fines against persons who were caught burning materials that were not authorized to be burned.

Community Outreach

- Guam EPA is planning to conduct at least one outreach activity before the end of the year, and relative to the permitting process. In addition to events like today's, it's important that the agency educate current and would-be applicants and stakeholders.
- Beginning next year, it is hoped that the agency will be able to conduct at least two outreaches each year, to include updating the community of changes in statutes, rules and regulations.

Thank you

- Questions