

## **COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

### **How Does the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Define Environmental Justice and Environmental Justice Communities?**

#### **Environmental Justice Definitions:**

N/A.

#### **Environmental Justice Mapping Tools:**

N/A.

### **How Does the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Consider Environmental Justice in its Substantive Actions<sup>1</sup>?**

#### **Environmental Justice as a Policy of the Environmental Agency or Across All Agencies:**

The Clean and Healthful Environment Clause of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution grants the personal right that

Each person has the right to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas, including the land, air, and water. Harmful and unnecessary noise pollution, and the storage of nuclear or radioactive material and the dumping or storage of any type of nuclear waste within the surface or submerged lands and waters of the Northern Mariana Islands, are prohibited except as provided by law.<sup>2</sup>

While not an explicit EJ protection, it does include language that grants rights to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas.

#### **Consideration of Environmental Justice in Permitting:**

N/A.

#### **Consideration of Environmental Justice in Enforcement:**

N/A.

#### **Consideration of Environmental Justice in Land Use:**

N/A.

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<sup>1</sup> Substantive is defined as governing the original rights and obligations of individuals. Cornell L. Sch., LII, *Wex Legal Encyclopedia*, [https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/substantive\\_law](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/substantive_law) (last visited July 6, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Const. art. I, § 9.

State Environmental Policy Act “Mini-NEPA”:

CNMI enacted its mini-NEPA statute the Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) in 1982<sup>3</sup>

Dedicated Funding to Environmental Justice Communities:

N/A.

Consideration of Cumulative Impacts:

N/A.

Prohibitions on Disparate Impact Discrimination:

N/A.

Established Environmental Rights:

N/A.

**How Does the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Address Environmental Justice in its Procedures<sup>4</sup>?**

Environmental Justice as Part of Environmental Agency’s Mission:

N/A.

Environmental Justice as Part of Other Agency’s Mission:

N/A.

Processes and Procedures (including Title VI):

- Non-Discrimination Policy:

N/A.

- Grievance Procedures:

N/A.

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<sup>3</sup> See Pub. L. 03-23 available at [https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/public\\_laws/03/pl03-23.pdf](https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/public_laws/03/pl03-23.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Procedural is defined as rules and the methods used to ensure the rights of individuals. Cornell L. Sch., LII, *Wex Legal Encyclopedia*, [https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/procedural\\_law](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/procedural_law) (last visited July 6, 2022).

- Enhanced Public Participation and Information Access:

CEPA sets forth a program to assure “public awareness” and opportunity for public comment

concerning the issuance of any permit under this Act in connection with any major siting, including (1) subdivision of land, (2) construction of major public works projects, (3) construction of hotels, industrial parks, petroleum storage or processing facilities, and shopping centers, and (4) other large-scale projects or activities as specified by regulation.<sup>5</sup>

- Language Access:

N/A.

- Consultation with Indigenous Communities and Tribal Nations:

N/A.

#### Governmental Environmental Justice Structures, Positions, and Funding Streams:

- Environmental Justice Coordinating Agency:

While not an explicit environmental justice agency, “The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) was established on November 12, 2013 under Executive Order No. 2013-24, which merged the Division of Environmental Quality and the Division of Coastal Resources Management into one Bureau under the Executive Branch”.<sup>6</sup>

- Environmental Justice Coordinator:

The DEQ Director is the regulatory authority who oversees all DEQ programs, compliance activities and enforcement actions. The Director provides oversight and direction to program management and staff, and ensures that standard operating procedures are followed and federal requirements are met.

- Environmental Justice Advisory Board:

N/A.

- Funding for Environmental Justice:

N/A.

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<sup>5</sup> Pub. L. 03-23 § 8(d), available at [https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/public\\_laws/03/pl03-23.pdf](https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/public_laws/03/pl03-23.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> N. Mar. I. DEQ, About, <https://www.deq.gov.mp/about.html> (last visited July 6, 2022).

## **Additional Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Environmental Justice Provisions?**

N/A.

## **Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Environmental Justice Contacts?**

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## **Where to Find the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Environmental Justice Laws, Policies, and Tools?**

### Constitutional Provisions:

- Clean and Healthful Environment Clause; Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Const. art. I, § 9

### Executive Orders:

N/A.

### Legislation and Statutes:

N/A.

### Regulations:

- A list of non-environmental justice environmental regulations; [Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code ti. 65](#).
- Division of Environmental Quality - Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality selected regulations; <https://www.deq.gov.mp/regulations.html>.

### Policies/Guidance:

N/A.

### Mapping Tools:

N/A.

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<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

Other:

N/A.