



578 North Marine Corp Drive
Tumon, Guam 96913

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY IN TOGUAN BAY

Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) is currently carrying out essential maintenance work at the Umatac-Merizo WWTP. The work is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) via the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The work aims to refurbish an existing sewage pumping station so as to improve reliability of the pumping station and reduce power consumption. The work also includes maintenance and dredging of the treatment lagoon. The work will improve the capacity and performance of the lagoon and so improve the water quality in the Toguan River and Toguan Bay. To enable these improvements to be carried out it may be necessary to bypass one of the two treatment stages at the WWTP. This may result in poorer quality water in the River and Bay in the short term. GWA and Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) will be monitoring the effects of any bypass and GEPA will update the beach report on their web site to advise the public.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency, but there may be higher levels of potentially harmful bacteria in the water at Toguan Bay.

Swimming, fishing or playing in unsafe waters may result in minor illnesses such as sore throats or diarrhea. It might also result in more serious illnesses such as meningitis, encephalitis, or severe gastroenteritis. Children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems have a greater chance of getting sick when they come in contact with contaminated water. Depending upon the volume/duration of discharge during the by-pass and the results from the monitoring, a “Temporary Beach Closure” may be necessary.

What Should I do?

If you plan to use the Toguan Bay between 5th April and 30th June 2010, please visit the following web site for up to date information on the water quality in Toguan Bay and whether it is safe to use for recreational purposes.

<http://node.guamepa.net/programs/emas/beach.html>

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding while we carry out these essential improvements.

Leonard J. Olive SCD
General Manager, GWA