


GUAM WATERWORKS AUTHORITY
Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building | 688 Route 15, Mangilao, Guam 96913
P.O. Box 3010, Hagåtña, Guam 96932
Tel. No. (671) 647-7800/3 • Fax No. (671) 648-3290 • guamwaterworks.org

DRINKING WATER WARNING

DO NOT DRINK WITHOUT TREATMENT ADVISORY

The Santa Rosa Area of Northern Water System PWS ID# GU0000006 has high levels of dieldrin

This notification only affects [INSERT LOCATION ID#]

Please share this information with all other people in the Santa Rosa area who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (e.g. people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). This notice is being sent to you by: Guam Waterworks Authority PWS ID#: GU0000006 • Date distributed: Sept. 8, 2025

GWA has been proactively testing your drinking water for potential contaminants that are unregulated by U.S. EPA. On July 30, 2025, GWA received notice that the samples collected from December 19, 2024, to July 30, 2025 showed dieldrin levels of an average 1.75 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$ = parts per billion = ppb) from one of the wells serving your area. This is above the dieldrin Interim Action Level (IAL) of **0.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$, established by Guam EPA and effective August 1, 2025**. It also exceeds the IAL for the short-term, non-cancer health advisory concentration of 0.5 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Out of an abundance of caution, GWA is informing the affected customers of these findings.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Dieldrin is classified by the U.S. EPA as a probable human carcinogen. The Water supplied by this public water system in your area exceeds the dieldrin IAL and potentially represents an unacceptable long-term cancer risk. Lifetime consumption of water containing dieldrin above the IAL increases the likelihood of developing cancer. Drinking water containing dieldrin is also associated with a wide range of adverse, non-cancer health effects at concentrations of 0.5 micrograms per liter or more; it has been associated with an increased likelihood of adverse impacts on the liver and nervous system.



WHAT SHOULD I DO?

You should **not** drink or cook with water that contains dieldrin above the IAL without treatment. The most reliable form of treatment is granular activated carbon filters installed by your Public Water System (utility). Until a treatment system can be installed by your Public Water System, Guam EPA recommends that you obtain water for drinking and cooking from a Department of Public Health and Social Services-approved drinking water vendor, a GWA water tanker posted in your area, or a Point of Use (POU) device located at your home that includes granular activated carbon as part of its treatment process. A POU device is a treatment device installed at a single faucet or spigot for the purpose of reducing contaminants in drinking water at the source of installation. You should ensure that any POU device used in your home is certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to meet the NSF-53 or 401 Standards. Also make sure you replace the granular activated carbon filter in accordance with the POU device manufacturer's recommendations.



WHAT IS BEING DONE?

GWA has been working diligently to install an approved treatment system, at the affected well site. Funding for the multi-million-dollar improvements has been obtained, design work has been completed, and a construction contractor has been selected for the work. It will take approximately one (1) year for this work to be completed. With regard to the source of this pesticide in this limited area, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency has not identified the source of Dieldrin as of this time.



For more information about the issues of dieldrin, visit epa.guam.gov/sdw or contact Julie Mendoza, Guam EPA Environmental Health Specialist III at julie.mendoza@epa.guam.gov. **You can also point your smartphone camera at the QR code to the left for information about dieldrin from Guam EPA.**

For more information on GWA's water compliance requirements, please contact Paul Kemp, Assistant General Manager for Compliance & Safety at compliance@guamwaterworks.org or by mail at Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building, 688 Route 15, Mangilao, Guam 96913.



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DIELDRIN: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY AM I RECEIVING A “DO NOT DRINK WITHOUT TREATMENT ADVISORY?”

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) established an Interim Action Level (IAL) for dieldrin effective August 1, 2025.

You are receiving this advisory because water distributed to your location is from a specific groundwater source that has a running annual average of either 0.2 micrograms per liter (µg/L or parts per billion – ppb) or 0.5ppb. These levels represent GEPA’s IAL for short- and long-term exposure. GWA must issue advisories based on GEPA’s IAL compliance requirements.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY GEPA’S IAL?

GWA supplies water to approximately 43,780 accounts. **1,112 rate payers** received an advisory that water supplied to their location has dieldrin concentrations levels that are at, or exceed GEPA’s IAL.

WHAT IS DIELDRIN?

Dieldrin is a **federally unregulated**, manmade chemical used as an **insecticide and termiticide** from the 1950s until 1987. Dieldrin production ceased in 1987.

WHY IS DIELDRIN A CONCERN IF IT IS NO LONGER PRODUCED?

Dieldrin is considered a **persistent organic pollutant** because it does not easily break down and can remain in the environment for long periods of time – especially in soil and water.

Dieldrin has also been identified as a probable carcinogen by the US EPA and exposure in trace amounts over an extended period of time may increase the likelihood of developing cancer.

HOW DOES DIELDRIN MAKE ITS WAY INTO DRINKING WATER?

The source of dieldrin contamination in Guam is **unknown**. We speculate that areas in Guam where dieldrin may have been applied as a termiticide have been

disturbed as a result of construction and development. This disruption subsequently exposes potentially contaminated soil to rainfall – causing dieldrin to percolate into our groundwater sources.

We also speculate that excavated material or construction and demolition debris transported and disposed at hardfill sites have the potential to leach into groundwater sources since hardfills in Guam are not lined.

DO ALL OF GUAM’S WATER SOURCES HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF DIELDRIN?

No. Dieldrin **has not been detected** at levels at or above GEPA’s IAL in 97 of 99 GWA wells. GWA samples water at entry points in our distribution system on a quarterly basis. GWA tests for multiple bacterial, chemical and radiological contaminants in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations.

Every July, GWA produces and distributes a drinking water quality report known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Dieldrin and other contaminants are reported in the CCR.

For more information on water quality, visit guamwaterworks.org/compliance-and-safety to access reports as far back as 2007.

IF MY WATER HAS DIELDRIN, WHY AM I STILL RECEIVING WATER?

At this time, GWA has not received compliance orders from either GEPA or US EPA to shut off water services to areas in Guam receiving water at or above GEPA’s IAL for dieldrin.

GEPA has not issued any advisories against using your water for showering, washing dishes, laundry, irrigation or water activities. Based on GEPA’s compliance requirements, water exceeding their IAL for dieldrin must not be consumed without treatment.

Shutting off water may cause more severe and immediate public health risks by diminishing hygiene and sanitation.

CAN GWA TEST MY WATER FOR DIELDRIN?

No. At this time, Guam does not have the local laboratory capacity to test for dieldrin. Samples are shipped to a US EPA certified water quality laboratory off island for analysis.

HOW CAN I REDUCE MY RISK OF EXPOSURE TO DIELDRIN IN MY WATER?

Most chemical contaminants can be removed or reduced through reverse osmosis (**RO**) treatment or granular activated carbon (**GAC**) filtration treatment. Even water with concentrations of unregulated contaminants like dieldrin can be treated through these systems.

If this is not an option for you, then consider using filtered or bottled water from a drinking water vending source that is both approved by the Department of Public Health and Social Services that employs both granular activated carbon and reverse osmosis processes.

You can also use a **Point of Use (POU) device treatment device** installed at a single faucet or spigot. Ensure that POU devices, RO and GAC filtration systems are NSF-53 or 401 certified.

Unfortunately, boiling your water will not get rid of dieldrin in the water.

WHAT IS GWA DOING TO ADDRESS DIELDRIN?

Source water treatment systems are under construction. Since late 2023, GWA has been working diligently to install the approved treatment system at affected well sites.

Funding for the \$6.4M system improvement was obtained and design work has been completed. A construction contractor has been selected for the work and completion is slated for summer 2026.

