

# TT EPB

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## QUARTERLY

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## BULLETIN

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1



"Fight Pollution"  
"The island you  
save may be your  
own"

### UNFIT FOOD RECALLED FROM TRUK

Early January 1979, the Truk District Environmental Health Office received several complaints from the public that after eating 'Sea Wave' brand canned mackerel purchased from Nama Trading Company on Moen, Truk, they experienced ichiness of the mouth and swollen lips.

A joint investigation by the District and Headquarters Environmental Health staff was conducted on January 10, 1979. The investigators found that the mackerel in question was packed by Monterey Packing Co. of Calif.. Nama Trading Co. bought 159 cases from Albatross Trading Co. in Calif.. The cases arrived in Truk on April 25, 1978. 59 cases were sold before the complaints were received.

To find out if the mackerel were in fact spoiled, three cans were sent to Mr. William Hill, District Director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Region IX in San Francisco for lab analysis. The result of this analysis showed that the mackerel contained

high levels of Histamine a chemical not uncommon when fish decomposes. This is an especially known problem with tuna, mackerel, sardines, and related fishes. The Headquarters Env. Health Office requested the other District Env. Health Offices to investigate their stores to see if they also had this brand and lot number (L12-C) of canned mackerel. Palau reported no cans of this brand, Marshalls and Yap had cans from the company but different lot numbers and had received no complaints.

Mr. Hill informed TT Headquarters Env. Health Office that the Monterey Packing Co. has voluntarily initiated a recall of this lot number, which will consist of some 1800 cases spread over a wide distribution of customers, including Nama Trading Co. of Truk.

### TT EPB SPECIAL MEETING

The TT EPB held a special meeting in Guam from Feb. 14-16, 1979 and adopted wastewater facility plans for Palau and Ponape, and approved a Sewer Construction Grant Priority List.

This list shows, in order of priority, all the U.S. EPA funded sewer construction projects to be done in the TT in the next 5 years. The projects adopted by the Board gave first priority to connecting the houses onto the sewer systems. During FY79 Palau will receive \$1.6 million, Yap \$1.5 million, Truk \$3 million, Ponape \$1.2 million, Kosrae \$6 million, and Marshalls \$1 million. The total EPA sewer construction money available for the 5 year period is \$42 million.

### WHO REP. VISIT

Dr. Ross-Smith, Program Coordinator for WHO in Suva, Fiji, visited the TT and discussed training programs for Environmental staff with the Chief of Env. Health and staff. Two staff members are proposed to be sent to Malaysia for 3 months training in 1980 for mosquito control. Two other staff are to be trained in Ferro-Cement technology to assist the people in the villages to construct water tanks. A WHO

Per. JC TZ 880114.141

consultant will visit the TT to evaluate the environmental programs and assist the TT EPB in improving the overall environmental plans, policies, strategies, rules, and regulations.

#### VISIT BY IRAS LEADERS

Chief Noket and several Iras Village councilmen from Truk visited the TT EPB Headquarters office to discuss earthmoving projects in their village. They received a TT EPB Earthmoving Permit to fill in low areas of the village and have applied for a permit to construct a co-op store for the village. They stated they were all in agreement on land easements for the planned sewer system in the village, and would work closely with each other to make sure all the houses of the village would be able to hook into the sewer system.

#### MOSQUITO TRAINING

Two staff members from each district Environmental Health Office will attend a week of training workshops on Saipan at the TT Bureau of Health Services in March. The workshop is being sponsored by the TT EPB. Subjects of the workshop will be control of mosquito-borne diseases and enforcement of the revised TT Pesticides Regulations.

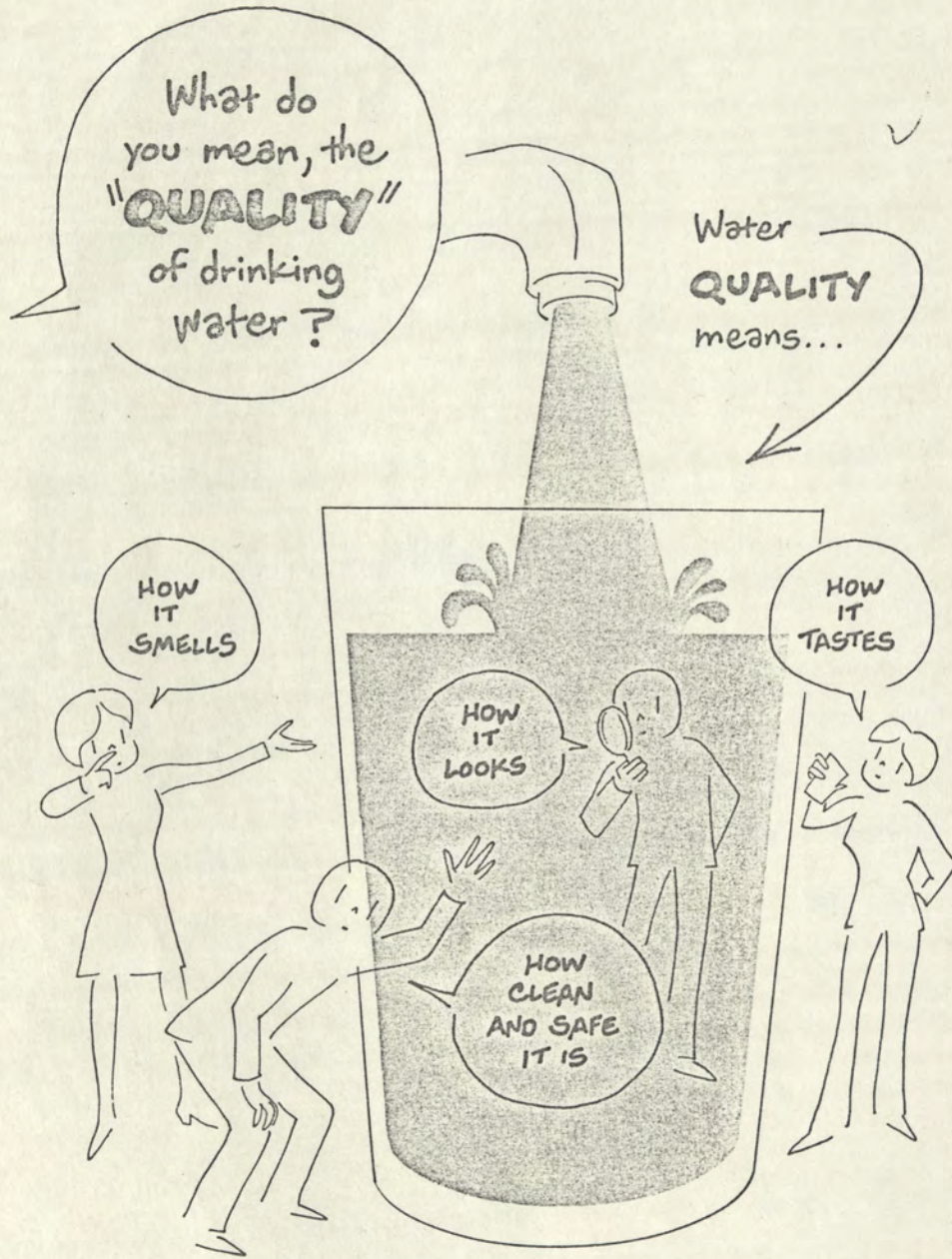
Dr. Mohan Rao, medical entomologist with WHO, has been invited to present instruction on the collection, identification, and control

of the major disease-carrying mosquitoes of the Pacific region. Dr. Rao has also been asked to develop an ongoing program for vector control in the TT. He will be traveling to Truk after completing the workshop in order to perform a survey of the type of mosquito responsible for transmitting filariasis.

Instruction in the duties of the District Environmental Health personnel under the revised TT Pesticides Regulations will also be given. The regulations, which will become effective upon publication in the Territorial Register, will implement controls over the importation, sale, and use of pesticides, with special restrictions on those which are capable of harming the environment. The staff will receive training in recognition of hazardous and illegal pesticides and safe pesticide practices in addition to instruction in the provisions of the regulations.



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