

David M. Apatang
Governor



Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 31, 2025

**Governor Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Mendiola Expand Outreach on
Federal Seabed Mineral RFI with Rota Town Hall**

Saipan, CNMI — Governor David M. Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis C. Mendiola are continuing to urge the public to participate in the federal comment process for a Request for Information and Interest (RFI) issued by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). In an effort to garner more feedback from across the Commonwealth, the next Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled for the island of Rota.

The RFI is the initial step in a federal process regarding the potential leasing of critical minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore the CNMI. To ensure that Rota residents have the opportunity to have their voices heard and considered in any future federal actions, the Office of the Governor invites the community to attend this upcoming session:

- **What: Rota Town Hall Meeting on Federal Seabed Mineral Leasing**
- **When: Wednesday, January 7, 2026**
- **Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Where: Department of Commerce, Conference Room, Rota**

The public comment deadline for the RFI has been extended to January 12, 2026. Governor Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Mendiola emphasize that broad community engagement is vital to ensuring that the interests of the CNMI are fully represented.

Comments must be received by BOEM no later than **January 12, 2026**. Members of the public may submit input through the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Visit www.regulations.gov and search for **BOEM-2025-0351**.
- **By Mail:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Pacific Region, Office of Strategic Resources
760 Paseo Camarillo (CM 102) Camarillo, California 93010

For additional information or guidance regarding the public comment process, please contact the Office of the Governor at **(670) 237-2200** or visit the official CNMI Government website at <https://governor.cnmi.gov/>.

###