



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PRESS RELEASE:

**AS-EPA ISSUES STOP ORDER NOTICE TO "SAMOA SPRINGS"
BOTTLED WATER COMPANY**

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) conducted a site visit at the Samoa Springs water bottling facility in Nu'uuli. During an inspection conducted on the 16th and the 25th of August 2010, several deficiencies were discovered at the plant. The AS-EPA issued a STOP ORDER NOTICE to cease and desist from operating until written notice from AS-EPA is given lifting this notice. The STOP ORDER covers all bottling, packaging, selling, distributing, and operations in general other than correcting the deficiencies.

According to the AS-EPA Director, Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, the Samoa Spring bottling company is to remain shut down until the following deficiencies are corrected and a written AS-EPA approval to operate the plant is given:

- The current Ozone pump/venturi has numerous leaks and must be replaced with an ozone injection system (pump and/or venturi) that operates at the normal operating pressures and flow rates. The existing method of changing the operating conditions by reducing the system pressure and flow rates is unacceptable. Ozone leaks are detrimental to the health of all persons exposed.
- Meet all DOH sanitary requirements including obtaining Health Cards for all employees as per August 12, 2010 DOH Food Establishment Inspection Form.
- Any and all bottled water stock produced since the beginning of the original DOH shut down notice period (beginning in July) shall not be sold. The wholesomeness of this product cannot be assured.
- Actively recall any and all bottled water sold or distributed since the beginning of the original DOH shut down notice period.

AS-EPA encourages the public to report foul and stale bottle water to our office in Utulei. While ASPA's boil water notice is still in effect, it is important that our local bottle water companies produce and manufacture clean and safe drinking water for public consumption.

AS-EPA looks forward to conducting a follow-up inspection of the facility after the deficiencies have been corrected. In addition, AS-EPA is working with DOH to ensure the Samoa Springs facility is in full compliance with all territorial public health and safe drinking water laws and regulations. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact AS-EPA at 633-2304.

Approved by: _____


Fanuatele Dr. Toafa Vaiaga'e, AS-EPA Director

Date approved: _____

Aug 31, 2010