



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box PPA

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Information Release Authorization Form
Monday, June 10, 2013 (Monday)

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor

LEMANU P. MAUGA
Lt. Governor

AMEKO PATO
Director

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- Newspapers (Advertisement/Public Notice/Press Release)
- Radio Stations
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Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Ameko Pato or Deputy Director, Faamao Asalele, or Tumau Lokeni, Environmental Awareness & Education Program Manager at 633-2304.

Fa'afetai lava.

- Governor's Office, ASG Weekly
- Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
- Samoa News
- Samoa Post
- KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station
- WVUV FM 103.1 Radio Station
- KSBS FM 92.1 Radio Station
- KNWJ FM 104.7 Radio Station

Title/Heading:

"AS-EPA assisted FAS for Lab Re-certification"

Approved by: _____

Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa – EPA

Date: _____

6/10/13



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Press Release

AS-EPA assisted FAS for Lab Re-certification

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) in partnership with CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and USEPA R9 Pacific Islands Office contractor Nimbus Environmental Services (NES), through the "FAS Laboratory Certification Program" (FLCP) recently performed laboratory re-certification audits to 6 Freely Associated States (FAS) laboratories.

AS-EPA's assistance came at a critical time as funding to operate the program from the Department of Interior (DOI) was delayed and the labs were faced with losing their certification status.

In support of the FAS Laboratory Certification Program, Governor Lolo M. Moliga authorized and approved the mobilization of one AS-EPA staff, Ms. Josie Regis (Laboratory Chief) to join a team comprised of lab personnel from CNMI DEQ and NES.

"I am grateful that AS-EPA was able to represent the American Samoa Government on a humanitarian mission to offer our sister countries technical assistance to enhance their capability to test their own drinking water and marine water to protect public health to sustain vital economical development such as tourism and aquaculture ventures such as mangrove crabs and giant clams initiatives," said AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato.

The AS-EPA Director further expressed his sincerest appreciation to Governor Lolo M. Moliga for his support of the FLCP, which speaks volume of his leadership regardless of political and economical boundaries.

US EPA Region 9 Program Manager Michael Wolfram, stated "This is an excellent example of AS-EPA's leadership in environmental programs throughout the Pacific, as well as Governor Moliga's commitment to American Samoa's environmental initiatives and technical assistance throughout the entire Pacific Region."

The team comprised of lab personnel from AS-EPA, CNMI DEQ, and NES. The FLCP resulted in 6 certified labs for drinking water and marine water analysis, and 20 laboratory technicians

were certified. The certification is a significant accomplishment because it demonstrates the ability and commitment of each FAS to sustain and maintain a high quality laboratory. It also demonstrates that the FAS labs have capitalized on their certification status to request and receive adequate funding levels for day to day operations from their respective states, which they did not receive prior to certification.

The FLCP is a program that ensures FAS laboratories produces scientifically valid and legally defensible water quality data for drinking water and marine water. Scientifically valid and legally defensible water quality data provides significant public health and economic benefits for the FAS. Some of those benefits include protecting public health from health risks associated with contaminated drinking water or contact with polluted coastal waters. Additionally, it creates community and government awareness to change attitudes about the need for safe water, which can lead to change in behaviors that cause water quality problems.

Ms. Josie Regis is a certified US EPA Laboratory Certification Officer, tasked to conduct re-certification audit in Pohnpei State EPA and Kosrae State Department of Health laboratories. Additionally, Ms. Regis is also the AS-EPA Laboratory Chief.

Mr. Albert Roby, Director of Pohnpei State EPA and Mr. Kun Mongkeye, Acting Director of Kosrae State Department of Health expressed their sincere appreciation to AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato for the services rendered to their islands.

For more information, please contact AS-EPA at 633 2304.