



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box PPA

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor

LEMANU P. MAUGA
Li. Governor

AMEKO PATO
Director

Phone: (684) 633-2304
Admin. Fax: (684) 633-5715
Programs Fax: (684) 633-5801

Information Release Authorization Form

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

- Newspapers (Advertisement/Public Notice/Press Release)
- Radio Stations
- Televisions

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's week expedition in Manu'a"

Approved by: _____

Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa – EPA

Date: _____

March 18, 14



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PRESS RELEASE

AS-EPA's week expedition in Manu'a

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency spent a week in Manu'a conducting Solid Waste and Piggery Compliance inspections which also included a cesspool inventory and a Sanitary Survey of ASPA's Drinking Water infrastructure. AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato stated that, "the major objective of the trip was to target three components of infrastructure, drinking water, onsite wastewater disposal systems, and solid waste management."

An inspection of the ASPA Water System was conducted through a Sanitary Survey led by AS-EPA with assistance from ASPA employees. The Sanitary Survey is the assessment of all drinking water infrastructures that provide water to the public. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Sanitary Survey is conducted for all Public Water Systems at a frequency of 3 years. According to AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato, "an official report will be submitted to ASPA on the current state of its drinking water facilities on April 2014. Included in the sanitary survey report are deficiencies that require corrective actions."

Additionally, a Cesspool Inventory was conducted to identify structures with cesspools. Cesspool inventory is the assessment and documentation of onsite wastewater disposal systems that do not meet onsite septic tank system requirements and standards. As a result of the survey, AS-EPA identified and documented a total of 133 cesspools in Ta'u, Fitiuta and Faleasao. While Ofu and Olosega had a total of 90 cesspools identified. This assessment aims to eliminate all cesspools in the Manu'a Islands in order to protect and improve drinking water quality.

The piggery compliance inspection and follow-ups were aimed to ensure that all piggeries located in the islands of Manu'a are in compliance with Piggery Compliance Regulations. Further, AS-EPA conducted site visits for 7 proposed dry litter piggeries which will be the first dry litter systems in Manu'a. As a first step to compliance, AS-EPA provided compliance assistance to piggery owners on setback requirements, different types of onsite wastewater disposal system requirements, and information on how to obtain a Land Use Permit for piggeries.

AS-EPA also visited ASPA's dumpsite to document its current state which will be the subject of major discussion between AS-EPA and ASPA to propose a revised solid waste management program and determine a way to consistently remove solid waste from the Manu'a islands. According to AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato, "if we are successful, this will eliminate the need

for the existing dumps in Manu'a. Removing solid waste from the Manu'a islands on a consistent basis has been a long standing problem. There is an immediate need for a dedicated vessel for this purpose not only for the Manu'a islands but also for Aunu'u."

Furthermore, Director Pato expressed his sincerest appreciation to Governor Lolo M. Moliga in allowing AS-EPA to grace the shores of the Manu'a islands to ensure natural resources are preserved and protected in order to improve the quality of life in Manu'a. Additionally, Director Pato extended a big Faamalo and Faafetai to the Office of Samoan Affairs, ASPA, and Representatives Fetui Fetu Jr. and I'aulualo Faafetai Talia for their support and assistance on the ground in Manu'a in making this visit possible.