

**For more information, contact:
ATSDR at 1-888-42-ATSDR**

Note for correspondents: ATSDR will host a media availability session on Tuesday, May 9, from 3:30 until 4:00 in Nuestra Señora de Las Aguas Catholic Church in Mongmong, Guam. ATSDR staff will be available to answer questions about agency activities at the Agana Power Plant in Mongmong. If you are unable to attend or would like additional information, contact Kathy Skipper or Mike Groutt, ATSDR Office of Policy and External Affairs, at (404)639-0501.

For immediate release: May xx, 2000

**ATSDR ANNOUNCES PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSIONS
FOR AGANA POWER PLANT
MONGMONG, GUAM**

Atlanta— The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services will host three public availability sessions to talk with community residents about health concerns related to potential exposure to chemical contamination from the Agana Power Plant located in Mongmong, Guam.

Two availability sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2000—one from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. and a second from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.—at the Nuestra Señora de Las Aguas Catholic Church in Mongmong, Guam. An additional session will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2000, from 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the same location. Please make plans to attend **one** of the sessions.

Public availability sessions provide an opportunity for one-on-one discussions between community residents and representatives from ATSDR and Guam DPHSS. Conversations with individuals and families will be confidential. Residents can discuss their health concerns about potential exposure to contamination from the Agana Power Plant and receive information about ATSDR's involvement with the site. Residents are encouraged to bring any old photographs of the village or of the Agana Power Plant to share at the sessions.

The Agency will use information gathered at the sessions as it begins work on the public health assessment which was requested by the Guam EPA for the site.

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Public health assessments report information about hazardous substances in the environment and evaluate whether exposure to those substances in the past, present or future could harm people in the area. They also identify other activities that might be needed to better understand the health effects associated with the site. Public health assessments also make recommendations to other government agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state and local health and environmental departments, concerning actions to protect public health.

For more information on ATSDR's visit to Guam, call Michael Cruz, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services at (671) 735-7216, or Walter Leon Guerrero, Guam EPA at (671) 475-1658.

For more information about the public availability session, please contact ATSDR Health Assessor Charles Grosse, at (404) 639-6094, or Community Involvement Specialist LaFreta Dalton, at (404) 639-6027. They can also be reached, toll free, at 1-888-42-ATSDR (1-888-422-8737). ATSDR Senior Regional Representative Bill Nelson can also provide information at (415) 744-2194 in San Francisco, CA.