



WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

Project ID: GU1303

Title: Water Resources Symposium on the Outbreak of Cholera in Pohnpei State, FSM.

Focus Categories: Education, Management and Planning

Keywords: Health Effect, Environmental Sanitation, Education, Information Dissemination

Start Date: 03/01/2001

End Date: 02/28/2002

Federal Funds: \$24,606

Non-Federal Matching Funds: \$0

Congressional District: N/A

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Abstract

Cholera outbreaks have occurred repeatedly throughout the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Outbreaks occurred in Chuuk State in 1983 and in Pohnpei State in April of 2000 causing 20 deaths. The cause, as reported by the Pohnpei's cholera outbreak task force, was water and food contamination. According to the FSM Public Health officials another outbreak could happen any time in the future.

The primary goal of this project is: 1) to create an awareness of cholera itself among the FSM community and, 2) to share information on the causes and best practice for outbreak preparedness and ultimately prevention.

The symposium will be conducted in Pohnpei State for three days. The Department of Health Services, FSM National Government will invite guest speakers from the World Health Organization (WHO) and South Pacific Commission. The guest speakers will be those who have been present in Pohnpei during the outbreak.

Three representatives from the Environmental Protection and Public Health Agencies from each of FSM states will be invited to attend the symposium. Each will discuss their agency's response plans if a similar cholera outbreak struck their island.

There will be presentation by the Pohnpei Task Force members on preparedness and prevention and the success of their plan. The local village chiefs will be invited to attend and participate in the symposium.

In the last day of the symposium a position paper on the effectiveness of the task force plans and how the other states would respond if such outbreak happens will be prepared. All the presentations at this symposium will be published as a technical report.