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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **US AMBASSADOR TO OPEN HEATING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Ambassador Reno Harnish will preside at the dedication ceremony of a Heating Demonstration Project in Surakhani District of Baku. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has financed and installed a private, non-regulated heating supply to the 300 residents of an apartment building and the 1,800 students at School 146. This project seeks to demonstrate that commercial heating is both technically and financially viable. The project also included extensive renovations to School 146 to provide a better learning environment.

The Government of Azerbaijan is currently considering a new State Program on the Heat Supply that includes provisions to promote the private supply of heat. Privatization of the heating sector has the potential to accelerate the upgrading of the heating infrastructure, ensure that heating prices are competitive with retail costs, and free up public resources for other social priorities.

Funding for this demonstration project was provided by USAID and the U.S. European Command. The project was executed in cooperation with the Baku Executive Committee, Surakhani District Executive Committee, and the Mayor of Garachukhur Settlement.

The dedication ceremony will take place Wednesday, December 7 at 1:00 pm at the boiler facility at 22 Zaur Sharifov Street, Surakhani District.

***NOTE TO MEDIA: All Press are invited to the event. For additional information please contact the U.S. Embassy press service at 498 03 35/36/37***