

V&M/Albaladejo

Virgin Islands

EPA ID#: PRD987366101

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 01

Vega Baja
Vega Baja

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 6/17/1996
Final Date: 12/23/1996
Deletion Date: 10/22/2001

Site Description

The V&M/Albaladejo site, located in the Almirante Norte Ward of Vega Baja, consists of as many as five relatively small areas where refuse such as cables, batteries, and electrical equipment was burned to recover the metals it contained. The burn areas are scattered around the property boundary separating the privately owned V&M and Albaladejo farms. Open burning of refuse began at an unknown point in time and continued until 1986 on the V&M property and until 1988 on the Albaladejo property. Subsequently, surface soil samples were found to contain elevated levels of antimony, cadmium, copper, silver, and lead. The site is located in a rural limestone upland containing the outcrop areas of the Aymamon Limestone, the Aguada Limestone, and the Cibao Formation, all of which contain karst aquifers that have been developed for public drinking water supplies. Sixteen active wells are located within four miles, the closest of which lies less than one mile east-northeast of the site. These wells provide drinking water to more than 52,550 people and could have been affected by the migration of contaminants from the site through groundwater.

Site Responsibility: The site has been addressed through Federal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

A soil removal action was conducted in early 1998; soils from the surface to approximately 2 feet below grade were removed from five identified burn areas where soil was contaminated with various heavy metals, including antimony, cadmium, copper, silver and lead. Groundwater was investigated through the installation of numerous monitoring wells. Four rounds of groundwater sampling indicate that contamination associated with the metals recovery activities is not present in the groundwater.

Cleanup Approach

The site has been addressed in the removal program.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In late 1994, EPA sampled 16 locations that were thought to be contaminated. Three exposed burn areas were observed during this site visit. The soil in these areas were stained green and laden with debris. Results from the soil sampling revealed elevated levels of heavy metals within the burn areas and in drainage routes near the sinkholes.

Entire Site: An investigation into the nature and extent of groundwater contamination was conducted in 1998 and 1999. Six monitoring wells were installed to determine if surface soil contamination had migrated into the groundwater. Four rounds of groundwater sampling indicated that no site-related contamination is present in the groundwater at the site.

Cleanup Progress

A removal action design was completed in June 1998. Approximately 5,565 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and shipped off-site for disposal. A cultural resource survey in coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Service to insure that activities did not impact endangered species or plants was conducted. The groundwater investigation was completed in November 1998. The RI was completed in July 2000. Based on the results of the groundwater investigation and EPA's removal action, a Record of Decision was issued on September 29, 2000 to document the no further action alternative for this Site. A Final Closeout Report was also issued on September 29, 2000 to address all the cleanup at

this Site. The Site was deleted from the NPL on October 22, 2001.

Site Repositories

Vega Baja City Hall Corner of Jose Francisco Nater and Betances Streets P.O. Box 4555 Vega Baja, Puerto Rico 00694

U.S.E.P.A. Region 2 Superfund Record Center Room 1828 New York, NY 10007-1866

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