

Scorpio Recycling, Inc. Site

Puerto Rico

EPA ID#: PRD987376662

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 01

Bayamon District

Toa Baja

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/22/1999

Final Date: 10/1/1999

Site Description

The Scorpio Recycling, Inc. (SRI) Site is located at state road #2, km 19.7 Interior, in the Candelaria Ward of Toa Baja. The facility is an operating metal recycling company that buys all types of metal and sells it to foundries in the USA, Brazil, Spain and Japan. SRI comprises an area of approximately 6.5 acres. The facility started operations in 1972 under the name of Astur Metals, Inc. and changed it to its actual name in 1989. The property contains five main buildings: (1) the batteries accumulation and aluminum cans compacting building; (2) the aluminum processing building; (3) the offices and red metal processing building; (4) the maintenance shop building; and (5) the batteries and other metals accumulation building.

SRI is located between karst hills considered a recharge area to the aquifer. The closest surface water is the Mexico Creek found to the south of the site at approximately 0.39 upstream miles from the site. The population within a 4-mile radius from the site relies on the Bayamon-La Plata blended system. There are seven (7) public wells in use within this radius. The closest operating public supply wells to the site are the Campanilla Wells No. 6, 7, and 8 which are found between 1 to 2 miles range and are considered primary targets since the site is located in a recharge area from groundwater and in karst topography. The apportioned population served by these wells is approximately 5,495 people.

On October 8, 1991 and July 14, 1993, representative of EPA collected soil samples at the Site which showed high concentration of barium, lead and vanadium. The total metal analysis in soil gave the following maximum concentration; barium concentration of 120.2 ppm, lead concentration of 9,530 part per million (ppm) and 1,312 ppm of vanadium. Surface water run off showed concentration of 57,300 part per billion (ppb) of lead , 330 ppb of barium and 339 ppb of vanadium.

In April 1999, EPA collected samples at the Site as part of an Expanded Site Investigation. The highest surface soil concentration identified the presence of 109,000 ppm lead in the former battery crushing area. The average lead concentration identified at that time was 18,735 ppm.

The mechanism for past release to the environment is based upon the improper operating and disposal practices employed at the Site for many years. Contaminants were released to the soil at the Site, in particular within the former battery crushing area and the sinkhole. Documentation exists identifying waste material, including drums, tanks and containers containing sulfuric acid directly into the sinkhole area. There is sufficient evidence to document that the release of these contaminants have had a direct impact on local flora and fauna.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions

Threat and Contaminants

Soil is contaminated with lead, vanadium and barium. A release of contaminant to the groundwater was suspected due to the fact that the area where the site is located consists of karst topography and specifically is a recharge area to the aquifer. People who accidentally ingest or come into direct contact with the contaminants from the affected areas may be at risk.

Cleanup Approach

In 2002, EPA began the removal action to excavate and remove the battery cases, miscellaneous debris and soil contamination in the southwest portion of the Site and the sinkhole. Approximately 15,000 tons of soil were excavated and removed from the battery crushing area and the slope leading down to the sinkhole. Contaminated soil was

stabilized with trisodium phosphate (TSP) prior to disposal at a landfill.

The entire source was not excavated. Waste remains buried under the Rosa del Monte storage shed building and portions of the adjacent paved Rosa del Monte parking lot. No removal action was performed in the large scrap pile areas. Removal actions ceased in June 2004.

EPA has divided the Site into two operable units: Operable Unit No. 1 for groundwater contamination; and Operable Unit No. 2 for soil contamination. The OU-I RI focused on collecting adequate groundwater data to determine whether the Site's groundwater had been impacted by contamination, and if so, the nature and extent of contamination.

Cleanup Progress

Based on the findings in the Remedial Investigation and the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment (BHHA) for Operable Unit I, EPA has determined that the groundwater does not pose an unacceptable risk to public health or the environment. As such, a No Action Record of Decision was issued in September 2006.

In Operable Unit No. 2 for the Site, EPA continues to investigate potential buried waste and contaminated soil associated with the Site to determine the magnitude and extent of contamination in soil.

Site Repositories

USEPA Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th floor New York, NY 1007 (212) 637-4308

USEPA Caribbean Environmental Protection Edificio Centro Europa 1492 Avenida Ponce de Leon, Suite 417 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00907-4127 (787) 977-5825

Junta de Calidad Ambiental Programa de Emergencias Ambientales y Superfondo Edificio Ambiental Gubernamental PR-8838, Sector El Cinco, 1308 Avenida Ponce de Leon Rio Piedras, PR 00907 (787) 781-8181 Ext. 3213

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