

Maunabo Urbano Public Wells

Maunabo, Puerto Rico

EPA Facility ID: PRN000205831

Basin: Eastern Puerto Rico Watershed

HUC: 21010005

The [Maunabo Urbano Public Wells](#) site is a contaminated groundwater plume in Maunabo, Puerto Rico. There is no identified source of contamination and the size of the contaminated groundwater plume has not been determined. The Maunabo Urbano Public Wells system consists of four groundwater wells with depths ranging from 24 to 38 m (80 to 125 ft) below ground surface (bgs). Chlorinated solvents including tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2-dichloroethylene (DCE) have been detected in groundwater samples collected from the wells and tap water in the area. Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) has also been detected in groundwater samples collected from the wells and tap water in the area. The highest concentrations were detected in Well 1, the northern most well. Well 1 is approximately 0.8 km (0.5 mi) north of the Maunabo River. Groundwater underlying the area is encountered approximately 0.6 m (2 ft) bgs and flows toward area streams and southeast to the Caribbean Sea.

From the vicinity of Well 1, the Maunabo River flows approximately 1.6 km (1 mi) before emptying into the Caribbean Sea. According to the USEPA EnviroMapper (USEPA 2006) there are no major dams on the Maunabo River. Native freshwater fish and invertebrate species found in Puerto Rico are compulsory migrators that must spend a portion of their life cycle in estuarine or marine waters. NOAA trust resources that may be present in the Maunabo River include estuarine and amphidromous fish species, the catadromous American eel, blue crab, and several shrimp species (B. Yoshioka, personal communication October 15, 2002). The Maunabo River estuary contains mangrove swamps and estuarine wetlands. Beaches in the area provide important nesting areas for the federally protected leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles (PRDNER 2002).

This screening-level site review is based on resource and contaminant information available in the USEPA site narrative and the hazard ranking score documentation record at the time the site was proposed for placement on the USEPA National Priorities List. It does not represent a review of all the information available for the site. At this time, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, Assessment and Restoration Division, Northeast Branch is not actively working on this site. However, should new information become available to this office that indicates there is potential harm to NOAA Trust resources associated with this site, this office will activate its role as Trustee.

References

- Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER). 2002. Puerto Rico Conservation Data Center. Available at: <http://www.natureserve.org/nhp/lacarb/pr/index.html> (accessed June 2006).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2006. EnviroMapper StoreFront. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/em/index.html> (accessed June 2006).

June 2006