

Island Chemical Virgin Islands

EPA ID#: VID980651095

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 01

St. Croix
Christiansted

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 1/18/1994
Final Date: 6/17/1996

Site Description

The Island Chemical/Virgin Island Chemical site (Site) is a 3.5-acre facility located in the southwest portion of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The surrounding area is predominantly commercial, with five businesses located adjacent to the site and the closest resident located approximately 0.1 mile to the south. An intermittent stream, River Gut, which originates north of the site and discharges to the Caribbean Sea, borders the northern and eastern site boundaries.

The Site is owned by Charles H. Steffey, Inc. The Site has been leased to various chemical manufacturers throughout its history. The facility was used for the manufacture of pharmaceutical chemicals, primarily phenacetin, ethoxyquin, and quinidine. Virgin Islands Chemical Company (VICC) produced benzyl acetate, which is used in perfumes, flavorings, resin, lacquers, printing inks, and varnish removers. In 1985, VICC also began producing benzyl salicylate, which is used as a perfume fixative, as a solvent for synthetic musk, and is an ingredient in suncreening lotion. The site is inactive.

A chain-link fence was installed in Spring 2000 to encompass the Site boundary and secure the area. All buildings were demolished and removed off-site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties actions

Threat and Contaminants

The predominant constituents impacting subsurface soil in the Above-ground Storage Tanks (AST) area are ethylbenzene, xylenes, acetone, and methylene chloride. Chloroform was detected in the Process Pit area.

Methylene chloroide, ethylbenzene, xylenes and chloroform were detected in groundwater monitoring wells above the MCLs.

Cleanup Approach

This site has been addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: On January 31 and February 1, 1989, the EPA conducted a preliminary assessment and removal evaluation at the Site. At that time the laboratory/warehouse building was found to contain approximately 400 drums, some extremely deteriorated; leaking cylinders of chlorine and hydrogen chloride; and over 800 containers of laboratory reagents that included sodium metal, potassium cyanide, and ethyl ether. EPA removed 205 55-gallon drums, 40 85-gallon drums, 9 5-gallon drums of various chemicals, and 8,061 pounds of lab pack chemicals from the laboratory/warehouse buildings.

Entire Site: On September 29, 1994, EPA, Island Chemical Company and Berlex Laboratories, Inc. entered into an Administrative Order on Consent. The Order required Berlex and Island Chemical Company to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) for the Site. The field work for the Site began in 1995 and was conducted in several phases. The RI and Risk Assessment were completed in November 2000. The FS was finalized in Fall 2001. A fence surrounding the Site was installed by Pharmacia & Upjohn and Berlex in 2001. A Record of Decision was signed on August 13, 2002. The Record of Decision calls for implementation of an Soil Vapor Extraction/Air Sparge (SVE/AS) for the AST area to treat the soil and groundwater and monitored natural attenuation for the Former Process pit area.

The site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List on June 17, 1996. EPA entered into a Consent Decree with the two companies for the implementation of the ROD in December 2003. A final inspection was conducted on February 17, 2004 for the implementation of the remedial action. A Preliminary Close Out Report was issued in March 2004. The site is in the post-remedial monitoring phase.

Cleanup Progress

Immediate actions such as the removal of leaking contaminated drums have reduced the risk posed to the health and safety of the nearby population while additional site investigations were being conducted. The site is in the post-remedial monitoring phase.

Site Repositories

Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division 45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00840.

U.S.E.P.A. REG 2, Caribbean Environmental Protection Div., 1336 Beltjen Road, The Tunick Building, Suite 102, St. Thomas, USVI 00802

U.S.E.P.A. REG 2, Caribbean Env. Protection Div. Centro Europa Bldg, Suite 207, 1492 Ponce de Leon Ave. Santurce, P.R. 00907-4127

U.S.E.P.A. REG 2, Superfund Record Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, New York 10007-1866