



## CABO ROJO GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION SUPERFUND SITE FACT SHEET

CABO ROJO, P.R. | REGION 2



### Objective of this Fact Sheet

Inform the community of the upcoming activities at the Cabo Rojo Groundwater Contamination Site (Site), and what the community should expect during the upcoming activities.

### Upcoming Remedial Design Activities

EPA will start remedial design activities at the Cabo Rojo Groundwater Contamination Site (Cabo Rojo Site) in accordance with the 2019 Record of Decision (ROD) selected remedy.

A pre-design investigation (PDI) will be performed at the Cabo Rojo Site to define the target remediation zones for soil and groundwater, and to collect information necessary to complete the design per the ROD remedy. PDI activities are planned to start in September 2023 and finish early 2024. PDI activities will be performed at the former Cabo Rojo Dry Cleaners (Dry Cleaners) and Extasy Q Prints (Extasy). These activities include collection of soil, groundwater, and soil vapor samples, and installation of vapor monitoring points.

A treatability study for the remedy at the Dry Cleaners and Extasy will also be performed to determine the attainable zone of influence, and optimum design and operational parameters for the full-scale design. Treatability study field activities include installation of wells, installation and operation of dual-phase extraction, soil vapor extraction, and groundwater extraction systems.

Data from the PDI and the treatability study will be used to prepare the full-scale dual-phase extraction system to be installed at the Dry Cleaners, and soil vapor extraction and groundwater extraction system to be installed at Extasy. The system will be designed to reduce both soil and groundwater contaminants of concern concentrations to achieve remedial action objectives (RAOs) for the Cabo Rojo Site.

### What the Community Should Expect

EPA's contractors will be drilling and operating motorized equipment, so the community should expect increased noise during working hours (Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Increased traffic is not expected.

#### Field Activities Working Hours

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.



For more information of the  
site, access the Cabo Rojo  
Site's Home Page [here](#)

#### THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS

##### ASSESSMENT



Discovery of  
Contamination



Preliminary Assessment



Site Inspection



National Priorities List  
(NPL) Site Listing

##### CHARACTERIZATION



Remedial Investigation/  
Feasibility Study &  
Proposed Plan

##### SELECTION OF CLEANUP PLAN



Record of Decision

##### CLEANUP



Remedial Design



Remedial Action

##### POST-CONSTRUCTION



Operation and  
Maintenance



NPL Deletion

Community involvement and planning for a site's redevelopment are integral to the entire process

Five-Year Reviews

# Site History

The Site consists of three source areas with two groundwater plumes. The Dry Cleaners is located in the northern area of Cabo Rojo and is no longer operating. Located approximately 700 feet northeast of the Dry Cleaners is another source area, Extasy , which is an active print shop. Approximately 0.7 miles southwest of both the Dry Cleaners and Extasy is the third source area, Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO) East Industrial Park , a complex of 10 separate, mostly vacant buildings with a long history of industrial and commercial operations.

Routine groundwater sampling from the Cabo Rojo Urbano public water supply system from 2002 through 2011 revealed chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), tetrachloroethene (PCE) and

trichloroethene (TCE), in several of the wells below federal maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Subsequent investigations by EPA at potential source areas throughout Cabo Rojo from 2006 to 2012 revealed detections of chlorinated volatile organic compounds in soil, groundwater, and soil vapor at several facilities. The Site was added to the National Priorities List on March 10, 2011.

EPA performed a remedial investigation/feasibility study, which started in 2013 and completed in 2018. The ROD for the Site was signed in May 2019.

EPA will take responsibility for the Plume 1 remedial process, which includes the Dry Cleaners and Extasy sources. PRIDCO will be responsible for the remedial process at Plume 2.

## Record of Decision

The selected remedy in the May 2019 ROD addresses soil and groundwater contamination at the Site. The selected remedy includes the following major components: soil vapor extraction/dual phase extraction to the target soil remediation zones and underlying groundwater at the Dry Cleaners and Extasy source areas; installation of vapor monitoring points to assess removal of vapor-phase contamination;

monitored natural attenuation and long-term monitoring of Plume 2 and the portion of Plume 1 outside of the source area; institutional controls; and a contingency remedy of in-situ treatment of groundwater in Plume 1 if certain conditions are met (e.g., detection of non-aqueous phase liquid, contaminant concentration increases in key monitoring wells, detections in sentinel wells, detections in supply wells).



Site Map

# Contaminants in soil and groundwater

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## PCE

Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) is a nonflammable colorless liquid. Tetrachloroethylene is used as a dry cleaning agent and metal degreasing solvent. It is also used as a starting material (building block) for making other chemicals and is used in some consumer products. For more information, visit: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts18.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts18.pdf)

## TCE

Trichloroethylene (TCE) is a colorless, volatile liquid that evaporates quickly into the air. It is nonflammable and has a sweet odor and are used in some industrial and commercial processes, including in dry cleaning facilities. For more information, visit: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf)

## Is My Drinking Water Safe?

Yes. The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) provides water that meets all state and federal drinking water health standards. For more information, please visit: <https://www.acueductospr.com/>

## Information Repositories

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### **Biblioteca Publica Blanca E. Colberg**

Calle José de Diego #312 Cabo Rojo,  
PR 00641 (787) 894-1040 Hours:  
Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm  
[Colombani.carlos@epa.gov](mailto:Colombani.carlos@epa.gov)

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Region 2, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD)**

#48 Rd, PR-165 Km 1.2  
Citi View Plaza II, Suite 7000  
Guaynabo, P.R. 00968-8069  
By Appointment

### **Department of Natural and Environmental Resources,**

Emergency Response and Superfund Program  
Edificio de Agencias Ambientales Cruz A. Matos  
Carretera 8838, km. 6.3, Sector El Cinco, Río Piedras  
Teléfonos: 787-999-2200  
Hours: Monday – Friday  
9:00am to 3:00pm  
By appointment.

## EPA Contact Information

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