

Superfund Construction Project – Funding Pending



Pesticide Warehouse III Superfund Site

Manati, Puerto Rico

Site Description

The [Pesticide Warehouse III](#) site in Manati, Puerto Rico, is an inactive pesticide storage facility in a rural, residential area. The site covers an area of approximately two acres that includes remnants of a former main warehouse; an on-site groundwater well; and a drainage ditch that collects storm water from the western portion of the site and empties into a natural on-site depression on the northeastern corner of the site.

The site is bounded to the south by State Road PR 670, to the west and north by open fields, and to the east by an Adventist Church building, a private school (formerly a retirement home), and a mechanic shop. East-west chains of mogotes and conical limestone hills are present to the north and south of the site.

The Puerto Rico Land Authority (PRLA) currently owns the site and conducted operations there from approximately 1954 to 1994. The site was used for pineapple processing and canning from the 1930s to the early 1950s. From 1994 to 1997, PRLA leased the property to Axel Gonzalez Fruit Packaging, Inc., which subsequently went out of business. From September 30, 1999 to October 31, 2002, PRLA leased the Site to Agrocamos, Inc., which used the Site to store and dilute pesticides and fertilizers for agricultural application in pineapple farming operations until October 31, 2002. Use of the site by these various entities resulted in spills of pesticides that impacted site soils with aldrin, dieldrin, toxaphene and dioxins/furans.

EPA added the site to the National Priorities List on April 30, 2003. Because of the complexity of the karst hydrogeology, EPA determined that the site should be addressed in two operable units (OUs). OU1 addresses soil contamination and OU2 addresses groundwater.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- In 2005, PRLA and Agrocamos agreed to voluntarily perform the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for both operable units at the Site and entered into two separate Administrative Orders on Consent with EPA. Respondents did not comply with the Consent Orders; therefore, EPA decided to take over the RI/FS for both OUs.
- A record of decision (ROD) for OU1 was signed in September 2015. The ROD for OU2 was signed in September 2019.
- EPA completed the design for the OU1 soil remediation in September 2019.

Project Pending Funding, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2020

This work is the implementation of the Pesticide Warehouse III OU1 and OU2 cleanup, which includes excavation and off-site disposal of soil with monitoring of groundwater and monitoring and maintenance, as necessary, of the existing downgradient industrial supply wells and treatment systems.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2020

EPA has provided approximately \$4 million for cleanup activities at the site.