

FACT SHEET

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/ FEASIBILITY STUDY

Virgin Island Chemical Site
Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands



EPA
REGION II

January 1994

About This Fact Sheet

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study* at the Virgin Island Chemical Superfund Site (the Site) in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

A Remedial Investigation is a study to determine the nature and extent of contamination that might exist at the Site. The Feasibility Study is conducted to determine and evaluate alternatives for the cleanup or control of the contamination.

EPA has prepared this fact sheet to inform the community of Site activities. The fact sheet includes a brief Site history, a description of current proposed activities, and information on places to visit and persons to contact for additional information.

Public Meeting

EPA is holding a public meeting to present the Work Plan for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study on February 15, 1995 at the Department of Education Curriculum Center, at 7 p.m. All interested parties and area residents are welcome.

Site Background

The Virgin Island Chemical Site is an approximately 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. An intermittent stream, River Gut, which originates north of the Site and discharges to the Caribbean Sea, borders the northern and eastern Site boundaries. (See Figure 1)

The Site is owned by Charles H. Steffey, Inc. However, throughout its history, the Site has been leased to various chemical manufacturers including Houston Chemical Industries, Inc. (1969), Caribe Chemical Company Inc., subsequently known as Pierrel America, Inc. (1972-1978), and Cooper Laboratories, Inc. (1978)

- October 1979 - Cooper assigned the lease to its subsidiary, Island Chemical Company.
- November 1979 - Cooper sold all of the Island Chemical Company stock to Berlex Laboratories, Inc.
- September 1984 - Berlex sold Island Chemical's assets and assigned the lease to Virgin Island Chemical Company.

Between 1978 and 1980 or later, the facility was used for the manufacture of pharmaceutical chemicals, primarily phenacetin, ethoxyquin, and quinine. In 1984, Virgin Island Chemical Company produced benzyl acetate, which is used in perfumes, flavorings, resin, lacquers, printing inks, and varnish removers. Virgin Island Chemical Company also began producing benzyl salicylate, which is used as a perfume fixative, a solvent for synthetic musk, and an ingredient in suncreening lotion in 1985. Currently, the Site is inactive.

The Virgin Island Chemical Site was proposed to be added to the *National Priorities List* in January 1994. The National Priorities List is the nationwide list of hazardous waste sites that qualify for federal Superfund cleanup.

SDMS Document



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Past Response Actions

In September 1984, Island Chemical Company hired a consultant to conduct an investigation of the Site. Soil samples collected between September 1984 and March 1986 indicated the presence of various organic compounds, including elevated levels of toluene and pyridine. All contaminated soil detected during the Site investigation was reported to have been either removed or treated on-site.

On September 9, 1985 and on March 13, 1986, two separate Resource Conservation and Recovery Act enforcement inspections were conducted by EPA to verify the effectiveness of soil remediation. The analytical results of the samples collected during the inspection indicated the presence of phthalates, benzene, chloroform, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, along with chromium and zinc.

Removal Action

On January 31 and February 1, 1989, EPA conducted a removal evaluation at the Site. At that time, the laboratory/warehouse building onsite 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 354 drums containing 14,720 gallons of various chemicals and 8,061 pounds of lab pack chemicals from the laboratory/warehouse building.

Current Activities

On September 29, 1994, EPA, Island Chemical Company, and Berlex Laboratories, Inc. entered into an *Administrative Order on Consent* (CERCLA-94-0401). The Order required Berlex and Island Chemical Company to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the Site according to EPA guidelines and with EPA oversight. The field activities will be conducted by Harding Lawson Associates and Caribbean Hydro Tech, contractors for Island Chemical.

Upcoming Field Activities

EPA has approved a Work Plan submitted by Island Chemical that outlines field activities to be conducted during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility study. The Remedial Investigation will consist of a soil and groundwater investigations to provide data regarding the soil and groundwater quality.

The soil investigation will include sampling and chemical analysis of 11 shallow and deep soil samples. These soil samples will be collected in the vertical intervals from land surface to the top of the water table.

The groundwater investigation will include installation of five monitoring wells to measure groundwater levels and to collect groundwater samples. The monitoring wells will be sampled during four distinct groundwater sampling events. Water level measurements and survey data will be used to determine the direction of groundwater flow at the Site.

The field work for the Site began on January 9, 1995 and will continue until November 1995.

Information Repositories

EPA has established an information repository where documents regarding the Virgin Island Chemical Site are available for review at:

The University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix
Campus Library
Kingshill, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands, 00850

Contact: Staff at Reserve Desk, (809) 692-4130

Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

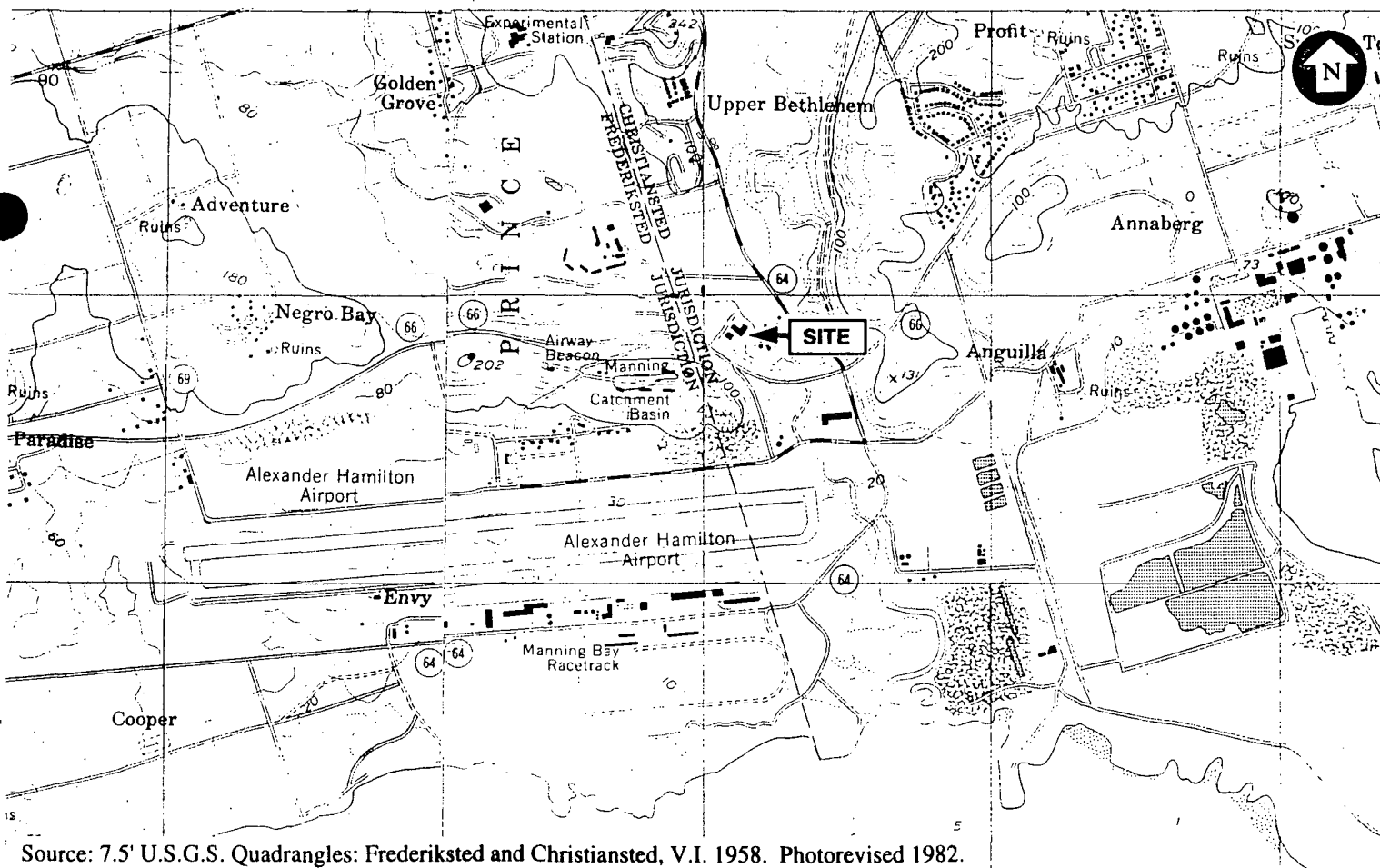
EPA will hold a public meeting to present the Work Plan for the Virgin Island Chemical Superfund Site:

Date: February 15, 1995 ; 7 p.m.

Place: Department of Education Curriculum Center, Centerline Road near St. Croix High School and the Territorial Court Building, Kingshill.

Contact: Cecil A. Williams - (809) 773-0565

EPA invites all interested parties and area residents to attend.



**Island Chemical/Virgin Island Chemical Site
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands**

Further Information

For more information about field activities at the Virgin Island Chemical Site, please contact:

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