



CDM FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORPORATION

April 01, 1992

Ms. Catherine E. Moyik
TES V Regional Project Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza Room 737
New York, NY 10278

PROJECT: TES V, EPA CONTRACT NO: 68-W9-0002
Work Assignment C02111
Tutu Wells Site
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

DOCUMENT NO: TESV-C02111-EP-CKVJ

SUBJECT: Final Fact Sheet
Document Control No: TESV-C02111-FR-CKVK

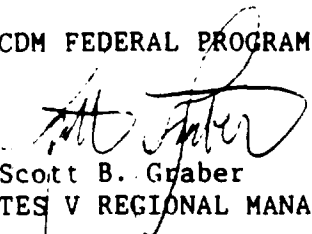
Dear Ms. Moyik:

Please find enclosed the Final Fact Sheet for the Tutu Wells Site, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, as partial fulfillment of the reporting requirements for this work assignment.

If you have any comments regarding this submittal, please contact Cecilia Masson of CDM FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORPORATION (CDM FPC) at (703) 968-0900 within two weeks from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

CDM FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORPORATION


Scott B. Graber
TES V REGIONAL MANAGER

SG/ss

Enclosure

cc: Lillian Johnson, EPA Community Relations Branch Chief, CERCLA Region II
Caroline Kwan, EPA Work Assignment Manager, CERCLA Region II
Jill Robbins, EPA Contracting Officer (letter only)
Cecilia Masson, CDM FPC Work Assignment Manager
Document Control, CDM FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORPORATION (2 copies)
NYC File

TUT 003 1593

FINAL FACT SHEET
TUTU WELLS SITE
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Prepared for

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Office of Waste Programs Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20460

EPA Work Assignment No.	: C02111
EPA Region	: II
Site No.	: 2P1D
Contract No.	: 68-W9-0002
CDM FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORPORATION Document No.	: TESV-C02111-FR-CKVK
Prepared By	: CDM FPC
Work Assignment Project Manager	: Cecilia Masson
Telephone Number	: (703) 968-0900
EPA Work Assignment Manager	: Caroline Kwan
Telephone Number	: (212) 264-0151
Date Prepared	: April 01, 1992

TUTU WELLS SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY RELATIONS UPDATE

April 1992

About this Update

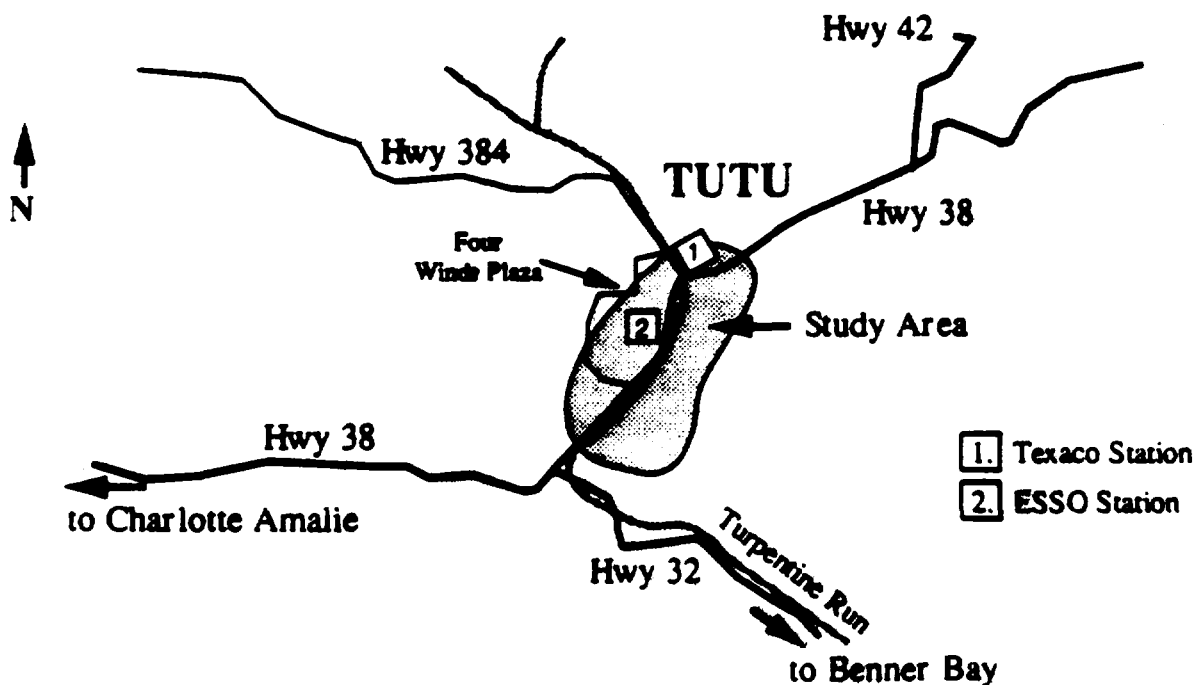
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish a series of updates to inform the public of cleanup activities at the Tutu Wells hazardous waste site.

The purpose of this first update is to:

- Introduce the community to the federal program that will ensure that the Site is cleaned up,
- Review the Site history and upcoming events, and
- Discuss previous community involvement in the Tutu site and upcoming opportunities for public participation.

The CERCLA/Superfund Program

The *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA)* provides EPA with broad authority to pursue liability, compensation, cleanup, and emergency response procedures for hazardous substances released into the environment, and for the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. CERCLA established the Hazardous Substance Trust Fund, or *Superfund*, to which various industries contribute. Thus, CERCLA is commonly known as "Superfund." EPA uses Superfund monies to search for all parties responsible for the contamination at a hazardous waste site and to conduct remedial studies and cleanups at sites where responsible parties cannot be found or are unable to pay.



History of the Tutu Site

Site Discovery

The town of Tutu, located in central St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, has a large residential population. In the past, residents used numerous commercial and residential wells in the Tutu area as a source of drinking water.

In July 1987, Eric Tillett, a Tutu resident, contacted the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) to report an odor coming from his well. DPNR requested that EPA assume lead responsibility for testing the Tillett well, in addition to other commercial and residential wells in Tutu.

EPA found high concentrations of gasoline, metals, and *volatile organic compounds (VOCs)*. VOCs are organic (carbon-containing) substances that evaporate (volatize) at room temperature. Based on these findings, DPNR determined that the Tutu water quality could present a health threat and, therefore, closed 13 commercial wells and 5 private wells in September 1987.

Superfund Actions at the Tutu Site

In January 1988, EPA began a limited Superfund *removal action* at the Tutu site. A removal action addresses the immediate threats that a site could pose. The Tutu removal action included:

- Closing contaminated wells,
- Providing clean drinking water to residents with wells, and
- Establishing a well monitoring and sampling program.

EPA searched for potential sources of contamination and attempted to identify the potentially responsible parties by issuing special notice letters under CERCLA section 104(e). In August 1987, DPNR identified 10 potential and/or actual sources of contamination.

In March 1990, EPA issued a *Unilateral Administrative Order* to require the potentially responsible parties to complete the removal action. Esso Standard Oil Company, Texaco Caribbean, Inc., and O'Henry Cleaners responded and will complete the removal action.

EPA continued to evaluate the need for a long-term Superfund action, also known as *remediation*, at the Tutu site. EPA assessed the Site using its *Hazard Ranking System (HRS)*, which is a method of evaluating the potential of hazardous substance releases to cause health problems or environmental damage. Based on the HRS assessment, EPA proposed that the Tutu site be added to the *National Priorities List (NPL)*, the nation's list of hazardous waste sites that qualify for federal cleanup, in February 1992.

Current Activities

On February 19, 1992, Esso and Texaco signed an *Administrative Order on Consent*, a legally binding agreement to perform a *remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS)* of the Tutu Wells site according to EPA guidelines and with EPA oversight. The purpose of the RI is to determine fully the nature and extent of contamination; the FS evaluates potential remedies. The RI/FS is the first step in the Superfund remediation process. The respondents to the Administrative Order will implement the RI/FS at Tutu.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SUPERFUND

Superfund requires EPA to involve communities affected by Superfund sites in making decisions about the best ways to address them. Community relations activities benefit local citizens by providing timely and accurate information about site remediation plans. Community relations activities also benefit EPA by providing insight into community concerns and expectations.

To date, the Tutu community has been involved in the Site by:

- A citizen reporting an odor problem with a well, leading to the discovery of the Tutu site (July 1987)
- Allowing EPA to sample commercial and residential wells (January 1988 to present), and
- Participating in community interviews, in which interested citizens and local officials met in person with EPA to convey their concerns (February 1992).

EPA will use the information gathered during the community interviews to develop a *community relations plan* for the Tutu Wells site. This plan will summarize the history of the Tutu site, identify current community concerns, and recommend many opportunities for citizens to be involved in the CERCLA decision-making process. The community relations activities will be integrated with technical developments and, thus, will allow for flexibility in response to changing concerns of the public.

Next Steps

EPA expects the RI/FS field work to begin in May 1992. Before then, the respondents' contractor, Geraghty and Miller, Inc., will contact certain Tutu residents and businesses to request access to their property to install monitoring wells.

Sampling and analysis of these monitoring wells will provide the basis for the RI/FS Report.

Public Meeting

EPA will hold a *public meeting* in the Tutu area in the coming months to provide the community with information on the start of the RI/FS field work. Because EPA believes that public involvement is an important part of Superfund decision making, it encourages all interested parties to attend the meeting and ask questions about the Tutu site. About two weeks before the meeting, EPA will publicize the date, time, and place in the local media.

Technical Assistance Grants

EPA provides community groups with the opportunity to apply for *Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs)* of up to \$50,000 per Superfund site. With TAG funding, community groups are able to hire technical advisers to interpret Site findings and help the public become more involved in making decisions about cleanup plans.

Citizens who are interested in applying for TAGs may obtain an application package by calling or writing:

Marilyn Fast
Technical Assistance Grant Coordinator
(212) 264-9860/Room 1714

General Information Contacts:

For more information about the Superfund actions at the Tutu Wells site, please contact:

Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
(212) 264-0151/Room 747

or

Lillian Johnson
Chief, Community Relations Branch
(212) 264-7054/Room 905

The mailing address for all EPA contacts is provided below.

U.S. EPA, Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ms. Lillian Johnson
Chief, Community Relations Branch
26 Federal Plaza, Room 905
New York, New York 10278

First Class Mail
Postage and Fees Paid
EPA Permit No. G-35

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use
\$300

Mailing List

If you wish to continue to receive information from EPA concerning the Tutu Wells site, please fill out and return this form to Lillian Johnson at the U.S. EPA, Region II. ***Please print clearly. This information will become the permanent mailing list for the site.***

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

(Please fold along the dotted line)

(Please Fold and Staple or Tape)

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Ms. Lillian Johnson
Chief, Community Relations Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza, Room 905
New York, New York 10278