



News Release

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Army Corps of Engineers Awards Tanapag PCB Removal Contract

(HONOLULU, July 24 --)The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$3.1 million contract to Environmental Chemical Corporation of Aiea, Hawaii, for the removal and treatment of polychlorinated biphenyls in Cemetery No. 2 in Tanapag Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

The contract will have two phases. The first will include the excavation and stockpiling of the estimated 5,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil. The second phase will cover the elimination of the PCBs from the soil. Before phase 2 begins the Corps will evaluate treatment processes and disposal options. The Corps will seek public comment before phase 2 begins.

The Corps of Engineers will oversee the project, which will be coordinated with Region IX United States Environmental Protection Agency and CNMI officials. Work on phase 1 is scheduled to begin by mid-August. It is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 1 so the community can use the burial ground on All Soul's Day. Phase 2 of the project is expected to begin early next year and take three to four months to complete.

Environmental Chemical Corporation successfully cleaned up a much larger USEPA Superfund site in Wallington Borough, N.J. That work was overseen by the Corps of Engineers. At Wallington, approximately 27,000 tons of contaminated soil was safely and successfully treated using a process called low temperature thermal desorption. That process involves the heating of soil to separate PCBs and other contaminants. It is anticipated that low temperature thermal desorption will also be used in the Tanapag cleanup.