



# News Release

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## **Corps Moves Ahead with PCB Cleanup**

(HONOLULU, August 8)--The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has confirmed it is moving ahead with the cleanup of contaminated soil in Cemetery No. 2 in Tanapag Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

On July 21, the Corps awarded a \$3.1 million contract to Environmental Chemical Corporation of Aiea, Hawaii, for the removal and treatment of polychlorinated biphenyls found in the soil of the cemetery.

The Corps of Engineers will oversee the project, which will be coordinated with Region IX United States Environmental Protection Agency and CNMI officials. ECC has begun mobilizing and preparing to begin work on phase 1 of the contract by mid-August. Phase 1, which calls for the removal and temporary stockpiling of the PCBs, 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, the treatment of the PCBs, is expected to begin early next year and take three to four months to complete.

Corps officials emphasized that the work will be done by an experienced contractor with a proven record of success, in compliance with U.S environmental regulations. They also said CNMI officials and the public would be kept informed as the project progresses.

During phase 1 of the contract an estimated 5,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil will be removed and temporarily stockpiled near the cemetery. 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 and seek public comment on the alternatives.

Environmental Chemical Corporation successfully cleaned up a much larger and more complex USEPA Superfund site in Wallington Borough, N.J. The Corps of Engineers also oversaw that work. At Wallington, approximately 95,000 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. The process would conclude with a step called the Fenton's reaction, which chemically destroys the PCBs removed from the soil by the low temperature thermal desorption.