



News Release

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Corps Seeks Public Comment on Tanapag PCB Project Plans

(HONOLULU, May 31) -- Three documents related to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District (HED) Tanapag Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-remediation project are available for public comment.

The documents, made public today, are:

1. Final Work Plan - Phase III Removal Action, Tanapag Village, Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
2. Interim Draft Treatment Plan Phase IV, Tanapag Village, Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
3. Final Site Safety and Health Plan, Phases III/IV, Tanapag Village, Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The documents are available on the Internet on the HED web site's Tanapag PCB Remediation Project page at the following address: <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/tanapag.html>

Hard copies of the documents will also be available in the Joeten-Kiyu Library in Susupe, Island of Saipan, CNMI and at the CNMI's Department of Environmental Quality.

HED is releasing these documents in accordance with its continuing policy of coordinating all project activities with CNMI officials, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the residents of Tanapag.

The District oversees the Tanapag PCB Remediation Project as part of the Department of Defense's Formerly Used Defense Sites program. The contamination resulted when PCB fluid leaked from capacitors that apparently once were used at the Army's Kwajalein Atoll military installation in the 1960s. As yet, HED has been unable to determine how the capacitors reached Saipan.

HED completed the excavation and stockpiling of more than 20,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated by PCBs in April.

The excavation and stockpiling was done with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversight under the provisions of a USEPA administrative order issued on December 20 in accordance with the Section 7003 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The soil remediation method described in the plans made public today is indirect thermal desorption (ITD) followed by chemical treatment or shipment off-island. For several years HED has planned to use ITD, a proven technology for successfully removing PCBs from soil. Last July HED gave a presentation on ITD to the CNMI Department of Environmental Quality and interested Tanapag residents. The USEPA administrative order anticipated that ITD would be used in the remediation of contaminated soils at Tanapag.

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In June the Corps will release a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) and Proposed Plan for Remediation of the PCB-contaminated soil for public review and comment. This document will provide an analysis of various cleanup

alternatives and will describe how and why the Honolulu Engineer District chose ITD as the most feasible remediation method.

HED will take public comment on the proposed removal and remediation plans and methods in a public meeting to be scheduled in July. Written comment on the plans released today and on the FFS and Proposed Plan will be accepted from today until not less than thirty days after the date the FFS and Proposed Plan are made available for public review and comment.

Written comments may be sent to:

U.S. Army Engineer District - Honolulu
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Ms. Helene Takemoto)
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

After public comment has been gathered and evaluated, HED will announce a decision on the treatment method to be used. That announcement should come later this year. Once it begins, the treatment process is expected to take between six months and a year.