



Del Monte Corporation (Oahu Plantation) Superfund Site



DEL MONTE CORPORATION (OAHU PLANTATION) ADDED TO SUPERFUND NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

Kunia, Hawaii

Fact Sheet #1

September 1995

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken lead responsibility for the cleanup of the Del Monte Corporation (Oahu Plantation) Superfund Site. The Hawaii Department of Health is working closely with EPA to manage activities at the site. Del Monte is the first privately-owned site in Hawaii to be added to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List.

This is the first in a series of fact sheets about the cleanup process. It includes a short history of the site, an outline of future activities and information on how you can become involved in the site cleanup process.

Site History

The Del Monte Site is part of a 6,000-acre pineapple plantation. It is owned and operated by Del Monte Fresh Produce (Hawaii), Inc. The site is located on the western side of the Oahu central plain as displayed in Figure 1.

The plantation is separated into two parts. The southern portion of the plantation, the Kunia area, includes the Kunia community (pop. 500) and surrounding agricultural fields. The northern portion of the plantation, the Poamoho area, lies north of the town of Wahiawa

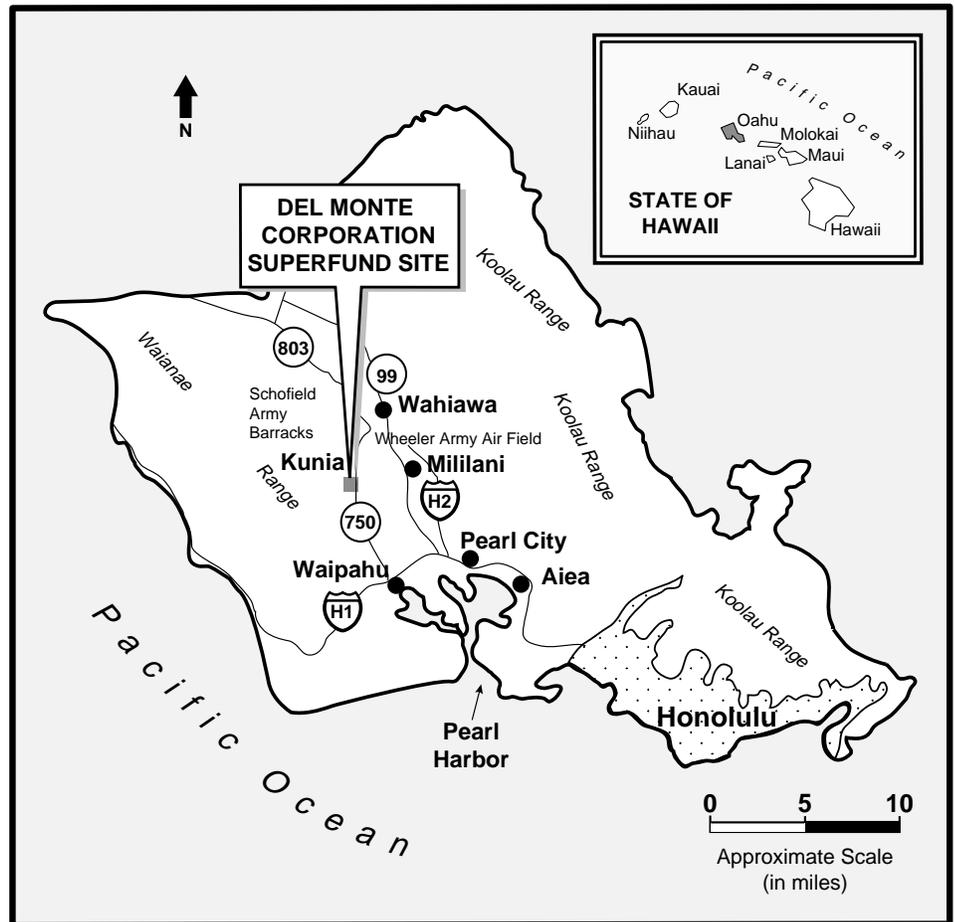


Figure 1: site location map

and straddles Kamehameha Highway (80), Wilikina Road (803), and Kaukonahua Road (801). It includes the community of Poamoho Camp and surrounding fields. Approximately 29,000 people live within four miles of the site.

The Kunia area of the site consists of office buildings, storage buildings, maintenance sheds,

pesticide mixing and storage areas, agricultural fields and the village of Kunia.

The Del Monte Site has been used for growing pineapples since the early 1940s. During that time, a number of chemicals were applied to the soil to kill nematodes (worms that attack pineapple roots). A spill of 495 gallons of

ethylene dibromide (EDB), a pesticide (also called a soil fumigant), occurred near the Kunia Camp Well on April 7, 1977. This well supplied domestic and agricultural water to the Kunia residents. The well was immediately tested. No contamination was found.

In 1980, tests by the State of Hawaii Departments of Health and Agriculture and the Pineapple Growers Association of Hawaii found EDB and 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP, another soil fumigant) in the Kunia Camp Well. The well was disconnected from Kunia's drinking water system the following day.

The Del Monte Corporation conducted voluntary cleanup efforts. They removed contaminated soil during the first three years after discovering the contamination and began extracting contaminated groundwater (the water beneath the surface of the soil), which continued until September 1994. Drinking water is currently supplied to the residents of Kunia from a well located to the north of the Kunia community.

On December 16, 1994, the site was added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) of the most seriously contaminated sites in the nation. This allows EPA to use Superfund resources to oversee a cleanup of the site.

Superfund Process at Del Monte Site

The Superfund process at the Del Monte Site is illustrated in Figure 2. Some of the activities are specific tasks or events. These are

What is Superfund?

Superfund is the commonly used name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a federal law passed in 1980. CERCLA enables EPA to respond to hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment.

Under Superfund, EPA finds those who are responsible for contaminating a site and seeks their agreement to perform cleanup activities. If an agreement cannot be reached, EPA can order them to perform the cleanup activities. These individuals and organizations are called Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) by EPA.

If EPA is unsuccessful in finding the responsible parties, EPA will use money from the Superfund to perform the cleanup. These funds come from taxes on the petroleum and chemical industries, and an environmental tax on corporations. Under Superfund, EPA tracks many types of contaminated sites. The 1,275 most serious of those sites are now listed on the National Priorities List (NPL).

represented by the tall blocks with headings. Other activities take place throughout the cleanup project. These are represented by the arrows which run across the bottom of the figure.

As shown in the diagram, the process began with the discovery of the groundwater contamination at the Del Monte Site in 1980. The next step was a site investigation, which was completed in 1990, followed by the site being listed on the NPL in 1994.

Several important steps will begin in the coming months. The first of these is an examination of the extent and nature of the contamination at the site. This process is called the remedial investigation (RI). EPA will look at contamina-

tion in the soil and in both the shallow (perched) and deep (basal aquifer) groundwater. The costs and construction requirements for the cleanup of soils will be evaluated through an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The groundwater cleanup alternatives will be evaluated through a Feasibility Study (FS).

When the EE/CA and FS evaluation processes are finished, EPA will propose the methods it considers the best for cleaning up the site. These are called the preferred cleanup methods. Each preferred cleanup method will be publicized during its own 30-day public comment period. This means the public will be given 30 days to tell EPA what they think

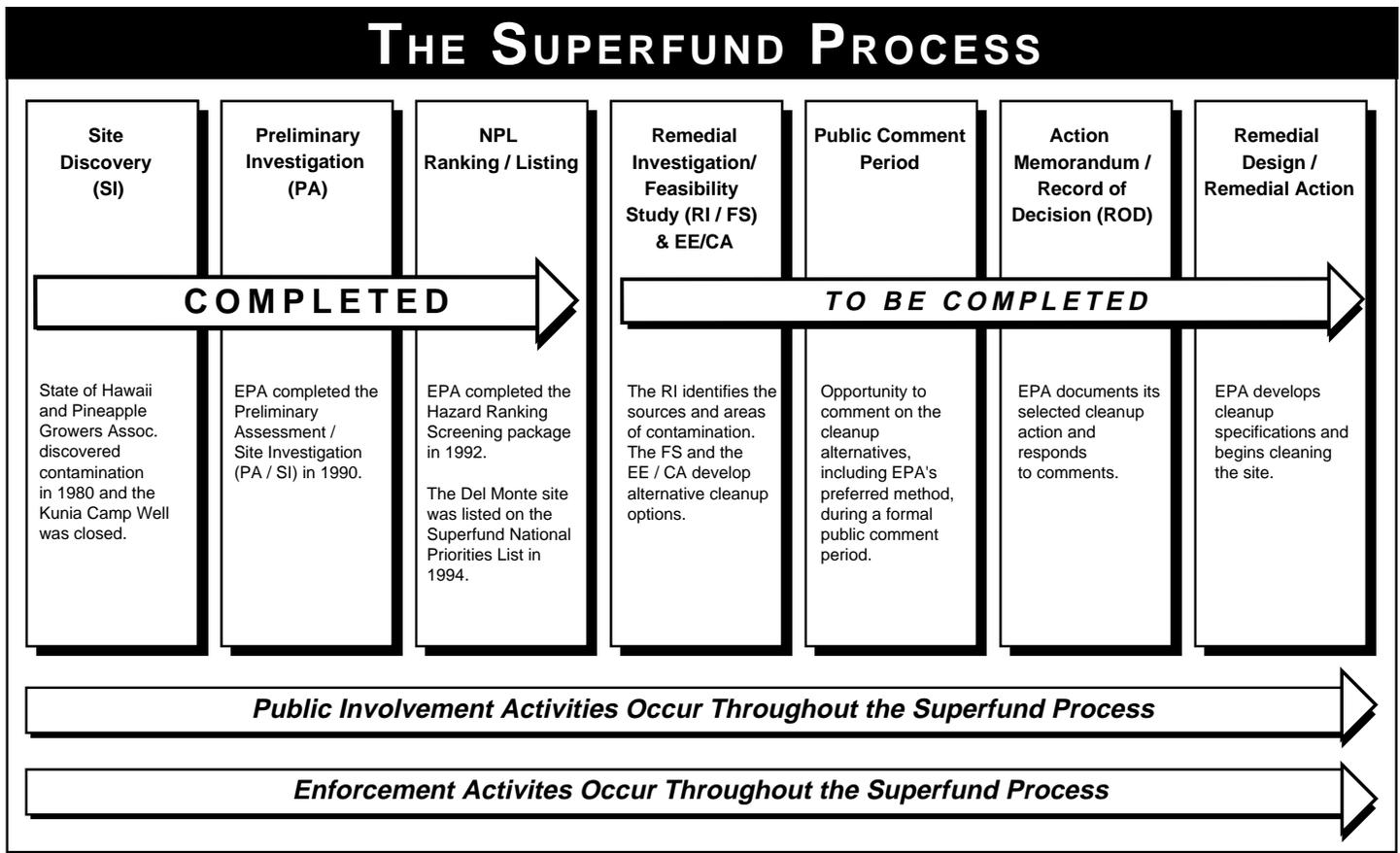


Figure 2: The Superfund Process

about the way EPA plans to clean up the site. Once all comments on each proposal are considered, EPA will finalize its decision in an Action Memorandum and/or a Record of Decision (ROD) and begin the cleanup of the site.

There are several Superfund activities that occur throughout the cleanup process. The first activity is called enforcement. During the enforcement phase of the cleanup, EPA attempts to identify all those who are responsible for contamination at the Del Monte Site and require them to pay for the actual site cleanup. The second continuing activity is called Community Relations. Through a community relations plan, EPA will keep the residents informed about the

cleanup progress and involved in the decision-making process for the entire period of the site cleanup.

Future Del Monte Site Activities

EPA plans a number of important activities during the coming months. EPA will continue to work with companies that may be involved in the contamination or become responsible for the cleanup.

EPA will develop additional public documents as it continues its investigations. These may include a Baseline Risk Assessment to identify possible sources of health problems, an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) which develops cleanup options for the

soil contamination, and a detailed groundwater contamination analysis called a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

EPA Community Involvement Program

EPA policy and the Superfund law establish a strong program of public participation in the site cleanup decision-making process. The purpose of EPA's community involvement program is to create two-way communications between the affected community and EPA. EPA will answer the community's questions about the cleanup effort, provide information about site activities, and listen and respond to the community's concerns and issues.

EPA will use a community relations plan to organize and direct efforts to keep the community informed about the site. The plan will be based on interviews with residents of Kunia and other interested parties, comments received at public meetings and comments telephoned to EPA's toll-free Superfund Hotline (800-231-3075). Community interviews will begin in Fall 1995.

A number of public meetings and formal comment periods will occur as more site information becomes available. Typically, these events include the release of technical documents and the choice of the final cleanup method. The meetings/comment periods will be announced through fact sheets and through public notices. The first public meeting will be held within the next few months.

Throughout the cleanup process, EPA will keep the residents

informed based on the community's preferences about the best methods to reach them. These methods will include mailing fact sheets, publishing notices in local newspapers, conducting local meetings and placing a variety of information in a local repository.

The EPA Community Relations Coordinator is David Cooper. He is available to answer questions, mail additional fact sheets to interested parties and coordinate community involvement activities, including the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program (see details in box below). His phone number is 415-744-2182 and his FAX number is 415-744-1796. You may also leave him a message on the toll-free Superfund Hotline at 800-231-3075.

Written comments may be sent to: US EPA, ATTN: David Cooper (H-1-1), 75 Hawthorne, San Francisco, CA, 94105.

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Technical documents, public comments, the community relations plan and other information concerning the Del Monte site will be available for public review at an information repository. These documents include the Del Monte Site Conceptual Model, the Del Monte Data Summary and Evaluation Report and the Del Monte Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation. The repository will also include general information about Superfund. The repository is located at:

Wahiawa Public Library
820 California Avenue
Wahiawa, HI 96786
(808) 621-6331

Hours of Operation:
Mon, Wed, Sat - 10am - 5pm
Tues, Thurs - 10am - 8pm
Fri, Sun - CLOSED

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program Available

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) helps communities understand technical issues and information concerning site work, particularly the selection of a final cleanup method. Under the TAG, one eligible community group may obtain a grant of up to \$50,000 to receive technical assistance and information. Groups may use TAG money to hire a technical advisor to review site conditions, the kinds of wastes involved and the kinds of technology available to clean the site. To be eligible, a group must:

- Incorporate
- Meet a 20% matching fund requirement (usually achieved through the donation of goods and services)
- Meet financial and administrative requirements
- Prepare a plan to use the technical assistance based on EPA's work schedule to help educate the affected community about work at the Superfund site

For more information about the TAG program, please call David Cooper at

(415) 744-2182

or the Superfund Toll-Free Hotline

800-231-3075

GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

The following is a list of government-initiated actions at the Del Monte Superfund Site:

- **1977** - Hawaii Department of Health sampled the Kunia Camp Well and found no contamination
- **1980** - Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the Pineapple Growers Association performed a joint groundwater testing program, discovered contamination and closed the Kunia Camp Well
- **1990** - EPA completed a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI)
- **1992** - EPA completed a Hazard Ranking Screening package (to measure the health risk to humans and the environment)
- **1993** - EPA proposed the Del Monte Site for the Superfund National Priorities List
- **1994** - Del Monte Site was listed on the NPL
- **1994** - U.S. EPA and State of Hawaii Department of Health signed a Superfund Memorandum of Agreement, designating EPA as the lead agency and the State as a support agency
- **1995** - US Public Health Service published Del Monte Public Health Assessment
- **1995** - EPA began negotiations with some of the parties believed to be responsible for the contamination at the site

DEL MONTE CORPORATION, HAWAII MAILING LIST COUPON

To help us maintain an accurate mailing list, please mark the appropriate box below and complete the coupon. (If you are already on our list and do not have any changes, you do not need to respond). You may also call TOLL FREE, 1-800-231-3075, to provide us the information.

- If you would like to be added to our list.
- If there is a change in your address.
- If you would like to be taken off our list.

Name: _____ Representing: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Telephone (optional): _____

Return to: David Cooper, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne Street, (H-1-1), San Francisco, CA 94105

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional copies of this fact sheet or general information on the Superfund process, you may contact:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: David Cooper

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Inside:
DEL MONTE SITE
ADDED TO SUPERFUND LIST

