



EPA TO PERFORM SITE ASSESSMENT AT PIONEER MILL

Lahaina, Maui

February 2003

This informational flyer is being sent to residents of Lahaina to let the community know about an environmental investigation that will take place at the old Pioneer Mill on Lahainaluna Road (see Site map on back). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing information on these preliminary activities because we believe communities should be kept informed from early on in the process. In addition to this fact sheet, EPA will hold an open house on February 19 to discuss the upcoming investigation with interested residents (see box, right).

Why is EPA looking at Pioneer Mill?

EPA and the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) are performing environmental assessments at former sugarcane facilities throughout Hawaii. The reason EPA and HDOH have been looking at these facilities is because of their historic use of herbicides and other potentially hazardous materials. EPA wants to make sure that any remaining hazardous materials do not pose a threat to people or the environment. The purpose for our investigation of Pioneer Mill is to see if contaminants from past practices remain at the site and, if so, whether they are at levels that warrant a cleanup. These investigations do not include evaluations of the sugarcane fields.

What will EPA be doing at Pioneer Mill?

EPA will conduct a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI). Our contractors will take samples on site which will then be analyzed for contaminants associated with sugarcane operations. Approximately 50 samples (primarily soil samples) will be collected from locations on site where hazardous materials were known or suspected to have been stored, used or spilled. These activities should take place the last week in February. Analysis of the samples and validation of the data will take several months. When EPA has evaluated the results of our sampling, we will let the community know what was found and what, if anything, will happen next.

EPA OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday

February 19, 2003

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Lahaina Civic Center

(Lee Social Hall)

1840 Honoapiilani Highway

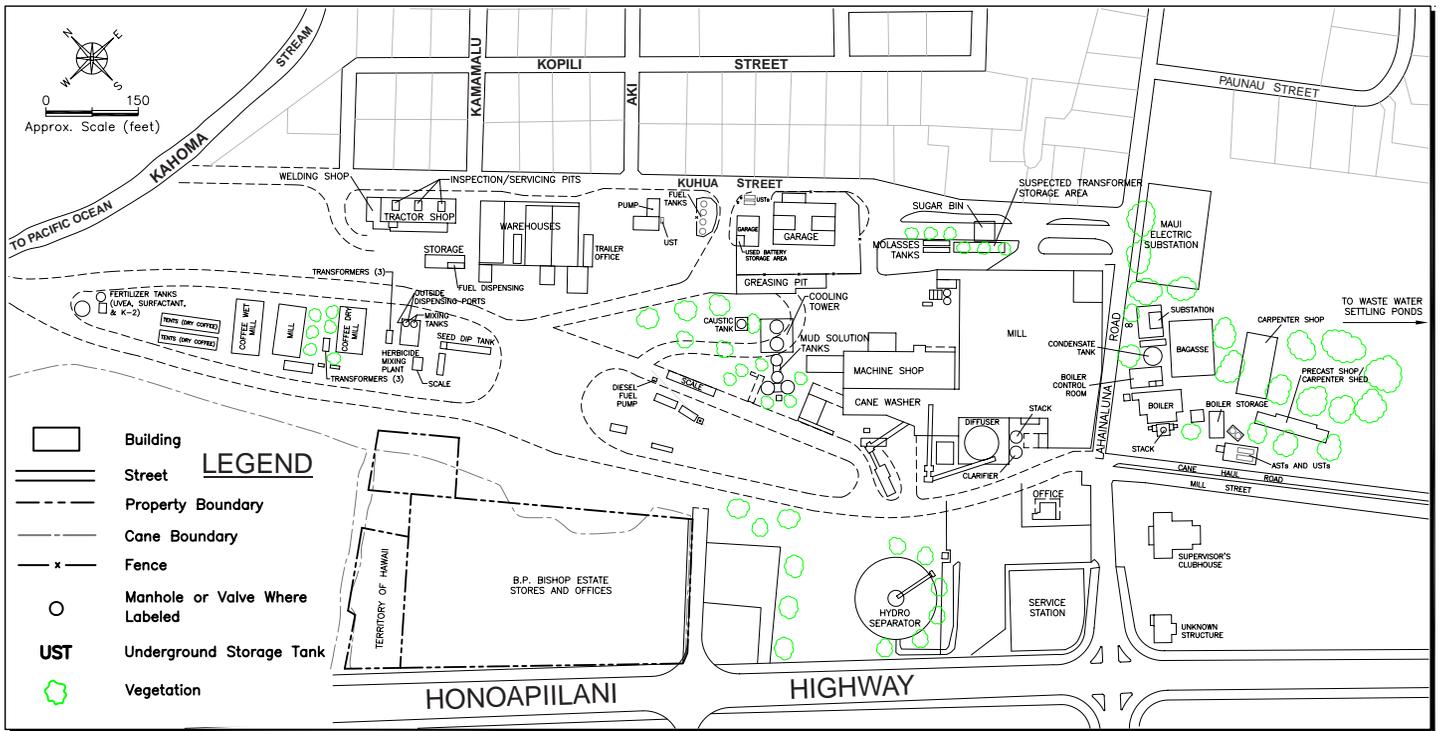
What neighbors will see when EPA is on site

Residents who live near Pioneer Mill or people driving by the site will see EPA contractors or employees on the property collecting samples and wearing protective clothing. The use of protective clothing does NOT mean that the site poses a hazard to people in the area. The reason workers performing sampling activities wear protective clothing and possibly respirators is because of worker-protection laws and the site health and safety plan that will be in place. Because these workers are in close proximity to the area being sampled, and because they do this type of work frequently, they must use personal protection to make sure they are not being exposed to contaminants. There will be no risk posed to neighbors because of our sampling.

Background

During the 100 or so years in which sugarcane was grown in Hawaii, herbicides were used extensively to combat weeds in the fields. According to a State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture report, sugarcane was the largest single user of herbicides in Hawaii and accounted for 75 percent of total herbicide use there during the 1960s, when the report was issued. In 1988, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture conducted a state-wide study on herbicide and pesticide residue in soil near storage and mixing areas at sugarcane operations which revealed elevated levels of several different herbicides and pesticides.

For contact information, please see back of flyer.



Pioneer Mill, Lahaina, Maui

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on EPA's upcoming work at Pioneer Mill or assessments of sugarcane operations by the State of Hawaii and EPA, please contact any of the following people:

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U.S. EPA
 75 Hawthorne St.
 San Francisco, CA 94105

You may also call either of the EPA staff listed above **toll-free at (800) 231-3075**. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Melody Calisay
 Hawaii Department of Health
 Hazard Evaluation Office
 919 Ala Moana Blvd.
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 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
 San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
 Attn: Vicki Rosen

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