

Community Update

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Caneel Bay Resort at Virgin Islands National Park CERCLA Activity – EE/CA Addendum

Summer 2022

A BRIEF SITE HISTORY

The Caneel Bay Resort on St. John was developed as a modern era resort in the 1950's. In 1983, the resort's owners donated approximately 150 acres of land to the United States pursuant to an Indenture Agreement. The Indenture Agreement established a Retained Use Estate that allows private operation of the resort for 40 years, until 2023. The resort has been closed since September 2017, after sustaining damage from hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Environmental Investigations

The National Park Service (NPS) is the lead agency at this site and has authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to investigate and clean up sites with contamination that may be harmful to human health or the environment. In September 2021, the NPS released an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report. The 2021 EE/CA Report did not identify contamination in areas currently open for public use. Contaminant removal actions will be required in impacted areas to eliminate unacceptable risks. The EE/CA also identified data gaps, which the NPS investigated last winter. The investigation included two weeks of on-site work in November 2021 and January 2022.

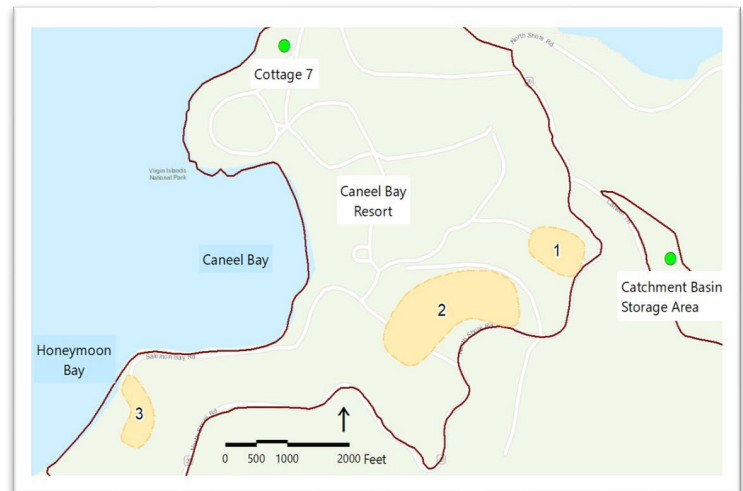


Figure 1: Map of areas investigated at Caneel Bay Resort for potential environmental contamination (VHB, 2021).

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

NPS is preparing an EE/CA Addendum Report, which will contain results of the most recent investigation, analysis of the risks to human health and the environment, response action alternatives considered, and the recommend removal action alternative. Following completion, a Notice of Public Availability of the report will be published in the *Virgin Islands Daily News*. The public comment period will last at least 30 days and will be extended by an additional 15 days upon timely request. During the comment period, the NPS will hold a public meeting to help convey its findings and proposed actions. After the comment period ends, the NPS will inform the public of its decision, provide responses to significant public comments, and issue an Action Memorandum.

The NPS expects to have the EE/CA Report Addendum ready for public review around September 13, 2022. A Community Learning Session is scheduled for September 14 at 5:30pm AST and a Community Listening Session is scheduled for September 27 at 5:30pm AST.

NPS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

An information repository containing the administrative record file, which contains the documents considered in the selection of a cleanup action, has been established and is available for public review from the Virgin Islands National Park. The website at www.parkplanning.nps.gov/CaneelBayAssessment will be updated as the investigation progresses.

Nigel Fields, Superintendent
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Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 1:30pm