



## Community Update

### Caneel Bay Resort at Virgin Islands National Park CERCLA Activity – Asbestos Removal

Winter 2024

#### SITE BACKGROUND

The Caneel Bay Resort (Resort) is located in Virgin Islands National Park on St. John. Available information suggests that the Resort began operating in the 1950s, possibly earlier. 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 (RUE) that allowed private operation of the Resort for 40 years. Operation of the Resort continued through September 2017 when the Resort sustained significant damage from hurricanes Irma and Maria. Since then, the Resort has been closed to overnight guests.

Activities conducted at the Resort, including dumping/landfilling activities and the storage, use, or disposal of pesticides, have resulted in contamination in multiple areas of the Site. In order to address the risks posed by such contamination, the National Park Service (NPS) is exercising its lead agency authority to conduct a removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

#### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

The NPS began investigating the Resort property in 2012. The investigation culminated in the issuance of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Report and EE/CA Report Addendum in 2021 and 2022, respectively. These reports document releases of hazardous substances, including metals, pesticides, and asbestos, at the site and confirm that the presence of such substances poses unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. Following the release of the EE/CA Report and EE/CA Report Addendum, the NPS issued two Action Memoranda, documenting the selection of removal actions to address the risks posed by hazardous substances at the site. These removal actions include: (1)



removal and off-site disposal of asbestos-containing hurricane debris and loose sections of piping; (2) removal of contaminated soil in the Resort's landscaping, maintenance, and engineering area (Area 2); and (3) removal of soil and landfill waste from the landfill near Honeymoon Beach (Area 3).

#### CURRENT EFFORTS AND NEXT STEPS

NPS secured funding for the removal of asbestos-containing material (ACM) debris from the site and awarded a contract for ACM removal on September 18, 2023. Pursuant to the contract, and in accordance with the Action Memorandum dated October 31, 2022, ACM will be removed from the site and disposed in an off-site permitted landfill located in the continental United States. On-site ACM removal work should last approximately 3-4 weeks. During this time, you may notice some equipment noise. Traffic impacts are expected to be minimal.

To protect health and safety, dust control procedures will be followed throughout on-site work to prevent asbestos fibers from being released into the environment. In addition, work areas (see Figure 1 below) will be closed, except to authorized personnel, and air monitoring will be conducted to confirm the effectiveness of dust suppression techniques. Following the asbestos removal, the NPS will issue a Final Report documenting completion of the work. The removal actions in Areas 2 and 3 will be conducted separately.

The NPS appreciates the public input received to date regarding the asbestos removal action and looks forward to completing this important work. If you have any questions regarding the asbestos removal or other information contained in this Community Update, please contact Commander Kelly Kachurak at [kelly\\_kachurak@nps.gov](mailto:kelly_kachurak@nps.gov).

### 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.

[www.parkplanning.nps.gov/CaneelBayAssessment](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/CaneelBayAssessment)

The website will be updated as the site cleanup progresses.

To view the site administrative record, contact:

Superintendent  
Virgin Islands National Park  
Cruz Bay Visitor Center  
Cruz Bay, St. John  
(340) 626-2806

The administrative record is available  
Monday – Friday, from 9:00am – 1:30pm

