

RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup + Productive Use

Economic Profile

BASF Agricultural Products of Puerto Rico
Manatí, Puerto Rico

BEFORE

Veterinary products manufacturer

AFTER



Herbicides
Manufacturer

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board

This facility in northern Puerto Rico began making veterinary products in 1976 under a previous owner. In 1990, a Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB) inspection of the facility revealed hazardous waste streams generated from several facility operations. In response to a recommendation from PREQB, the former facility owner conducted additional soil and groundwater sampling in one area of the facility to investigate possible tars being released into the soil. This work was especially important because the facility is situated above a sensitive karst aquifer, an important water source for the region.

Now under new ownership and in compliance with environmental regulations, the facility supports Puerto Rico's agricultural industry by producing liquid herbicides. With 150 employees and \$121 million in sales per year, the facility is a productive contributor to the local economy.



ANNUAL SALES

\$121 million



EMPLOYEES

150



ANNUAL WAGES

\$16 million

For more information about RCRA and the economic benefits of site reuse, visit www.epa.gov/hw/learn-about-hazardous-waste-cleanups





Imagery ©2021 CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, Map data ©2021

BASF WORKED CLOSELY WITH USEPA REGION II TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE SITE MEETS AND EXCEEDS QUALITY STANDARDS FOR ALL ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA, (SOIL, SURFACE WATER AND GROUND WATER). BASF CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN A MANUFACTURING ENVIRONMENT FOCUSED UPON, AND CONDUCTIVE TO, BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

- BASF Corporation

BASF Agricultural Products purchased the facility in 2000 and began making liquid herbicides there in 2009. EPA's RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program (formerly the RCRA Corrective Action Program) began a review of the facility in 2009 to ensure that its operations were in compliance with environmental regulations. As part of this review, BASF submitted an Environmental Site Assessment detailing the soil and groundwater sampling that had been done on the facility. In 2013, after site visits by PREQB and EPA, EPA determined that the facility had met its corrective action obligations under RCRA.

The plant continues to operate, supporting the local economy and striving to make a positive impact on the community. In 2017, after Puerto Rico was devastated by the impact and aftermath of Hurricane Maria, BASF donated \$350,000 in disaster relief aid to support BASF employees impacted by the storm, as well as the Red Cross and Unidos por Puerto Rico, a relief organization helping meet the basic needs of hurricane victims across Puerto Rico.

Today, BASF continues to produce liquid herbicides at the facility, supporting Puerto Rico's agriculture and providing 150 jobs with a combined employee income estimated at \$16 million per year. With oversight by the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program, the facility continues to support agriculture and the regional economy in an environmentally sound manner.



Soil and groundwater samples were collected to ensure the protection of the sensitive aquifer beneath the facility, an important water source for the region.



In addition to providing jobs, the facility supports the community through donations. In 2017, BASF provided \$350,000 to support hurricane relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Maria.