

2.3.2 Site 2, Mangrove Disposal Site, Vieques. The mangrove disposal site (Site 2) is located in the northwestern portion of Vieques along North Shore Road (Route 70) (see Figure 2-2). The site stretches along North Shore Road for approximately 300 feet, and extends into a seaside mangrove swamp for about 100 feet. The site is located immediately east of the Laguna Kiani bridge, between Laguna Kiani and the Vieques Passage. During the 1960s and 1970s the site was used as a base disposal area. Materials found at the site include all types of trash, cans of oil and lubricants, solvents, paint, and rubble. The site contains an estimated 800 cubic yards of material. The material was piled, burned, and shoved into the mangrove swamp. No reliable information exists regarding the amount of material disposed of at the site that might be hazardous. The IAS team has calculated that possibly eight cubic yards (between 1,600 and 7,000 pounds) of material could be hazardous (see page 8-3).

Any contamination resulting from the waste disposed of at this site washes immediately into the ocean and would affect sea life, including manatee and sea turtle breeding and feeding grounds. The manatee and various species of sea turtles found in the Vieques Passage are listed as endangered or threatened species by the federal and Commonwealth governments. Contaminants also could enter the human food chain through the consumption of seafood caught in this area, especially the soft-shell crabs that are trapped in the vicinity of the Laguna Kiani Bridge.

Site 2 is recommended for a Confirmation Study.

Recommendations were made to remove the trash in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (TAMS/E & E, 1979) and in the Mangrove Forests of Vieques report (Lewis et al., 1981) to ensure preservation of the mangroves as well as the sea life and wildlife in the area. However, any cleanup activities should be delayed until completion of the Confirmation Study.

8.2 SITE 2, MANGROVE DISPOSAL SITE, VIEQUES. The mangrove disposal site (see Figure 8-1) is located in an 18-acre oceanside mangrove swamp in Laguna Arenas along North Shore Road (Route 70) on the NAF, Vieques. This site was used as a base disposal area during the 1960s and 1970s. Materials present at the site include all types of base trash (glass, metal, wood, etc.), POL, solvent and paint cans, and rubble. These materials extend northeast from the Laguna Kiani Bridge approximately 300 feet, and into the mangrove swamp for about 100 to 120 feet in a northerly direction and about 10 feet in a southerly direction from North Shore Road. The IAS team estimated that there are 800 cubic yards

(100 feet x 75 feet x 3 feet) of materials at the site. The material was apparently piled up, burned, and then bulldozed into the mangrove area. This practice continued to 1978.

Using the parameters mentioned above, as much as eight cubic yards of material weighing 6,400 pounds could be considered potentially hazardous. The fact that the material was burned increases the likelihood of contaminant migration.

These materials are in an existing mangrove. Two previous environmental studies (TAMS/E & E, 1979 and Lewis et al., 1981) recommended that the material be removed from the site to eliminate it as a source of contamination.

