



# Superfund Record of Decision:

## Pagano Salvage, NM

CIVIL DIVISION  
PROTECTION  
AGENCY  
DALLAS, TEXAS  
1990

10-8-90  
00580082 # 0700



<b>REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE</b>	1. REPORT NO. EPA/ROD/R06-90/058	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.			
4. Title and Subtitle SUPERFUND RECORD OF DECISION Pagano Salvage, NM First Remedial Action - Final	5. Report Date 09/27/90					
	6.					
7. Author(s)	8. Performing Organization Rept. No.					
9. Performing Organization Name and Address	10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.					
	11. Contract(C) or Grant(G) No. (C) (G)					
	13. Type of Report & Period Covered 800/000					
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 401 M Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460	14.					
	15. Supplementary Notes					
16. Abstract (Limit: 200 words) The 1.4-acre Pagano Salvage site is in Los Lunas, Valencia County, New Mexico, and consists of a family-run salvage business and a residence. During 1983, salvage operations at the site included purchasing "high technology" scrap material from Federal facilities such as transformers, drums containing waste fluids, and capacitors. Site inspections in 1984, 1985, and 1986 revealed several areas of soil contamination in the yard due to leaks from scrap materials, which released PCB-contaminated oil into the soil. These areas included two surface burn areas, a stained soil area, and a surface pool of oil. In 1990, EPA removed approximately 5,100 cubic yards (i.e., soil in excess of 10 mg/kg PCBs based on TSCA cleanup policy) of contaminated soil and debris for disposal in an approved RCRA facility offsite. Soil containing less than 10 mg/kg PCB was covered with a 10-12 inch soil cover. Soil sampling has confirmed that this removal has resolved the PCB contamination at the site and EPA proposes no additional remedial action. Based on this rationale, there are no primary contaminants of concern affecting this site.  The selected remedial action for this site is a no action remedy with ground water monitoring for one year at the request of the State.  <b>PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OR GOALS:</b> Not applicable.						
17. Document Analysis a. Descriptors Record of Decision - Pagano Salvage, NM First Remedial Action - Final Contaminated Media: None Key Contaminants: None  b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms   c. COSATI Field/Group						
18. Availability Statement	19. Security Class (This Report) None	21. No. of Pages 21				
	20. Security Class (This Page) None	22. Price				

**DECLARATION FOR THE RECORD OF DECISION  
PAGANO SALVAGE SITE  
LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 1990**

**Further Action Not Necessary For Protection  
And Five-Year Review Is Not Required**

**SITE NAME AND LOCATION**

Pagano Salvage Site  
Los Lunas, Valencia County, New Mexico

**STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE**

This decision document presents the rationale for determining that further remedial action will not be required at the Pagano Salvage Site. This decision is in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, and the National Contingency Plan (40 CFR Part 300). The decision is based on the administrative record for this site, and includes the results of the removal action conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Emergency Response Branch from June 1989 through January 1990.

**DESCRIPTION OF EPA SITE ACTIVITIES**

EPA's remediation activities at the Pagano Salvage site consisted of removing approximately 5,100 cubic yards of soil and debris contaminated with PCBs in concentrations exceeding health-based levels. Remaining low levels of PCBs (less than 10 ppm) were capped with a minimum 10 to 12-inch soil cover. All contaminated soil and debris removed from the site were disposed of at a permitted facility authorized to receive such wastes pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Detailed information on EPA's removal activities at the site are contained in the On-Scene Coordinator's report titled "Emergency Removal Action", dated August 10, 1990. The removal action meets TSCA cleanup standards for nonrestricted access areas contaminated with PCBs and for residential nonrestricted access requirements as outlined in EPA's Guide on Remedial Actions at Superfund Sites with PCB Contamination, dated July 1990.

# DECLARATION STATEMENT

The removal action conducted by EPA from June 1989 through January 1990 at the Pagano Salvage site is protective of human health and the environment and complies with Federal and State requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate for sites contaminated with PCBs. During the removal action, EPA evaluated various remedial alternatives prior to selecting off-site disposal. These planning activities combined with the fact that all contamination above health-based levels was removed, negated the need for a remedial investigation/feasibility study at the site. The removal action addresses all concerns associated with the high concentrations of PCBs at the site and provides for unrestricted residential usage. Therefore, consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1986 as amended, and the National Contingency Plan, I have determined that as a result of EPA's removal action conducted from June 1989 through January 1990, no further remedial action will be warranted at the Pagano Salvage site to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

Because remaining PCB concentrations do not exceed health-based levels, the five-year facility review will not be required at the Pagano Salvage site.

The State of New Mexico, through the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division, concurs with EPA's no further action proposal. EPA Headquarters also agrees with the recommended proposal.

At the State's request however, a minimum of one more set of ground water samples will be taken from the onsite monitoring wells and the surrounding residential wells. Based on the results of this sampling, additional sampling may be conducted. EPA will sample up to a year after the Record of Decision has been signed. After the one year period, additional sampling, if necessary, will be conducted with State funds.

Robert E. Layton Jr.  
Robert E. Layton Jr., P.E.  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA - Region 6

9/27/90  
Date

**DECISION SUMMARY  
PAGANO SALVAGE SITE  
RECORD OF DECISION**

**SEPTEMBER 1990**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. Site Name and Location . . . . .	1
II. Site History and Enforcement Activities . . . . .	2
III. Highlights of Community Participation . . . . .	3
IV. Response Action . . . . .	3
V. Site Characteristics Before Remediation . . . . .	4
VI. Summary of Site Risks After Remediation . . . . .	5
VII. No Further Action Recommendation . . . . .	6
VIII. Documentation of No Significant Change . . . . .	7
IX. Remedy Selection Criteria . . . . .	7
X. Responsiveness Summary . . . . .	8

## LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

<u>Table/Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Summary of Site Activities, Table 1 . . . . .	14
Location Map, Figure 1 . . . . .	16
Site Map, Figure 2 . . . . .	17

**DECISION SUMMARY  
PAGANO SALVAGE SITE  
RECORD OF DECISION**

**I. SITE NAME AND LOCATION**

The Pagano Salvage site is located at 102 Edeal Road, Los Lunas, Valencia County, New Mexico (Figure 1). The site is used to operate a salvage business and as a residence for Mrs. Mary Pagano. The site covers approximately 1.4 acres and is bordered by Edeal Road to the east, residential property to the north, the Peralta Riverside Drain to the west, and the Wittwer Lateral to the south (Figure 2). The Peralta Riverside Drain converges with the Otero Drain approximately 1.5 miles north of the Pagano site. These drains are part of the Rio Grande drainage and flood control network. A 10-foot high flood control levee is located just west of the Pagano site, between the Rio Grande and Peralta Drain. The Wittwer Lateral is an interior irrigation return flow ditch. The Pagano site is generally flat with a ground slope of less than 5 percent. Surface water runoff from the site flows west to southwest into the Peralta Riverside Drain.

The ground water table at the site is generally encountered at 5 to 6 feet below ground surface but varies seasonally with the water levels in the Wittwer Lateral. Ground water elevations taken from the monitoring wells, Wittwer Lateral, and Peralta Riverside Drain indicate that the ground water flow is generally from east to west towards the Peralta Drain. Additionally, the ground water readings indicate that the Wittwer Lateral acts as a ground water recharge to the area east and south of the site. The Pagano site is located on two major aquifers. The uppermost aquifer is located in a Rio Grande floodplain alluvium deposit approximately 120 feet in thickness and consisting of sands, silts, clays, and gravels. The Santa Fe Group aquifer underlies the floodplain alluvium deposit and is 500 to 5000 feet thick and composed of terrestrial sediments consisting of interbedded sand, silt, clay and conglomerate. Based on geological conditions, the two aquifers are apparently in complete hydraulic connection. Local private wells located near the Pagano site area typically range in depths from 40 to 160 feet. Other ground water wells within a 3-mile radius range in depths from 200 to 600 feet.

The Pagano site lies in a rural area of scattered farms and residences. Agricultural land uses consist of cattle grazing and cultivation of alfalfa for use as cattle and horse feed.

There are no known grain crops or vegetable crops for human consumption raised in the immediate site area. Outside of the Pagano Salvage operations, there are no other industrial or commercial activities within one mile of the site. Approximately 30 persons live within a one-half mile radius and there is a total residential population of approximately 1000 within a two mile radius of the site.

## **II. SITE HISTORY AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Carmen Pagano began the salvage business at the site in the early 1960's and ran it until his death in 1982. Following Mr. Pagano's death, the business was acquired and is still operated by his stepson, Mr. David Peluchette. The upper third part of the salvage site was leased from Ben Smith and the rest is owned by Mrs. Carmen (Mary) Pagano. Salvage operations at the site consisted, in part, of purchasing "high technology" scrap materials from Federal facilities including the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, White Sands Missiles Range, Kirkland Air Force Base, and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). In June and July 1983, Mr. Peluchette purchased transformers, drums with waste fluids, and capacitors from SNL as part of a salvage lot. Several of the transformers and capacitors, and possibly fluid from 55-gallon drums, leaked polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated oil while they were stored at the Pagano Salvage site.

A Resource Conservation and Recovery Act site inspection performed by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division (NMEID) in September 1984, identified several areas in the salvage yard that were contaminated with PCBs. These included two surface burn areas (where wire was placed on the ground and its insulation burned off using the contaminated transformer oil) with PCB concentrations of 57 ppm and 96 ppm, a stained soil area with 130 ppm of PCBs and a pool of oil with 590 ppm of PCBs.

EPA contractors performed field investigations at the site in September and October 1985. These investigations confirmed the presence of PCBs in site soils and identified salvaged materials that contained waste oil contaminated with PCBs. All salvaged materials containing PCB contaminated oil were removed by SNL during several cleanup operations. PCB contaminated materials stored at the SNL facility were in turn disposed of by ENSCO, Sandia's PCB disposal contractor.

In March 1987, a Hazard Ranking System (HRS) analysis was performed for the Pagano site. The HRS analysis is the method by which EPA determines the eligibility of a site to qualify for proposal to the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term



remedial response using money from the Trust Fund. The Pagano site was proposed to the NPL on update 7 in June 1988 and promulgated on October 4, 1989. A summary of site activities is included on Table 1.

### III. HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Proposed Plan for the Pagano Salvage site was released to the public on August 15, 1990 and copies locally maintained at the Los Lunas Public Library. This document was made available to the public as part of the administrative record. The administrative record was available for review at the EPA library in Region 6 and at the NMEID offices in Santa Fe. The notice of availability of the Proposed Plan and the administrative record was published in the Valencia County News on August 12, 1990. The public comment period was held from August 15, 1990 through September 14, 1990. Although a public meeting was not scheduled, a statement was made in the published Proposed Plan that a public meeting would be held if requested. Although no requests for a meeting were made, EPA met informally with county officials and other interested parties. A response to the comments received during the public comment period will be included in section X, Responsiveness Summary.

This document presents EPA's recommendation that no further remedial action is warranted at the Pagano Salvage site, in Los Lunas, New Mexico. This recommendation is made in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) and, to the extent practicable, the National Contingency Plan. The decision for the site is based on the administrative record.

### IV. RESPONSE ACTION

EPA's earlier response action at the Pagano Salvage site was to address the PCB contaminated soils. The high concentrations of PCBs (500 ppm or greater) present in on-site soils, prior EPA's removal action, posed imminent and substantial risks to human health and the environment, as documented by the action memoranda, dated March 23, 1989, for the site. Additionally, there was a potential risk of PCB contamination migrating from the surface soils to the shallow ground water zone or being transported by runoff to the adjacent surface drains. EPA's removal action, detailed in the On-Scene Coordinator's report titled "Emergency Removal Action", dated August 10, 1990, and discussed in this Record of Decision, mitigates the risk associated with current and future ingestion, inhalation, and dermal exposures to PCB contaminated soil at the site. By removing the high concentrations of PCBs and capping remaining residual levels (less than 10 ppm), the potential

for PCBs to migrate into the ground water or surface drains at concentrations above health-based levels has been eliminated. Additionally, PCBs are highly insoluble in water and have a high affinity for soils, thereby remaining adsorbed to the soil particles.

V. SITE CHARACTERISTICS BEFORE REMEDIATION

The potential exposure pathways at the Pagano Salvage site, prior to EPA's removal action, included direct contact with contaminated soils, ingestion, and inhalation of contaminated dust particles. The PCB concentrations in the site soils, prior to EPA's removal action, exceeded the TSCA clean up standard for unrestricted usage sites and posed significant health threats via the potential exposure routes.

Site investigations conducted by NMEID and EPA between 1984 and 1988 found on-site soils contaminated with PCB concentrations as high as 2310 ppm. Although the highest concentration was found in a localized area, concentrations of PCBs exceeding the Toxic Substances Control Act unrestricted usage cleanup level of 10 ppm (assuming removal of 10 inches of soil and replacement with clean soil) were found throughout the site. Off-site PCB concentrations did not exceed specified health-based levels. In sediment samples taken from the Peralta Riverside Drain, PCB concentrations did not exceed 0.5 ppm. The highest concentration of PCBs identified in edible portions of fish, sampled from the Peralta Riverside Drain, was 1.7 ppm. No PCB contamination was detected in the waters of the adjacent surface drains, in the residential wells, or in the site monitoring wells.

A Public Health Assessment of the Pagano site was prepared for EPA by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in a report dated December 20, 1989. This report reviewed the potential risks to human health and the environment posed by the PCB contamination identified at the Pagano site prior to the EPA cleanup action. The ATSDR determined that PCBs were present at levels of public health concern in on-site soils. Since the site was and still is an active salvage yard, on-site workers, site customers and the general public could have been affected by the site contaminants.

The best documented effects of human exposure to PCBs are an acne-like skin malady known as "chloracne" and increases in hepatic (liver) enzyme activity. PCBs have been associated with other adverse health effects including cancer of various organs and skin, liver, and neurological dysfunctions. PCBs have been shown to be carcinogenic in laboratory mice and rats and are therefore, classified as probable human carcinogens.

The ATSDR health assessment identified the following potential

pathways in which individuals could become exposed at the site (assuming pre-removal conditions):

- o Ingestion, inhalation, and dermal exposure to contaminants in on-site soils,
- o Ingestion exposure to contaminants which may migrate from the surface to the ground water table,
- o Dermal exposure to contaminants from off-site sediments (if significant migration occurred), and
- o Ingestion of contaminated fish from the Peralta Riverside Drain (assuming significantly elevated concentrations were found).

#### VI. SUMMARY OF SITE RISKS AFTER REMEDIATION

The remediation level for PCBs at the Pagano site was based on the Toxic Substances Control Act cleanup level of 10 ppm (assuming removal of 10 inches of soil and replacement with clean soil). This level meets the requirements for unrestricted access areas and represents approximately a one in one hundred thousand ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$ ) excess cancer risk. This risk level means that one person in one hundred thousand, assuming daily ingestion of .0001 kg/day of PCBs at a concentration of 10 ppm for 70 years, is at risk of getting cancer. This level is consistent with EPA's regulatory goal of ensuring protection to an excess cancer risk of between  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  and  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ .

The need for additional remedial actions was evaluated based on unrestricted residential usage as outlined in EPA's Guide on Remedial Actions at Superfund Sites With PCB Contamination dated July 1990. The guide recommends a soil cover at sites containing over 1 ppm but less than 10 ppm PCBs to provide unrestricted access at residential sites. The soil cover is recommended because Mrs. Pagano has a residence at the salvage site. EPA's removal action addressed all of these concerns by removing approximately 5,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris and capping remaining low levels (less than 10 ppm PCBs) of PCBs with minimum a 10 to 12-inch soil cover. These activities will mitigate risk associated with ingestion, inhalation, and dermal exposures to the remaining residual levels of PCBs. No ground water contamination has been detected and none is expected to occur since PCBs are highly insoluble and have an affinity to soil particles.

During EPA's removal action, numerous soil samples were taken during the different removal phases. Ground water samples from the site monitoring wells were taken after the removal action was completed. According to the test results, the contaminated

soil was removed such that the remaining soil did not exceed specified health-based levels (less than 10 ppm PCBs) and no ground water contamination was detected. Therefore, the potential exposure pathways for surface and ground water were addressed.

Off-site sediment samples were also taken, primarily from identified off-site flow pathways, and not found to contain appreciable concentrations of PCBs (less than 0.5 ppm). Based on these test results it was found, subsequent to the Health Assessment, that these sediments did not present a significant environmental or human health risk.

PCB concentrations were found in edible portions of fish sampled from the Peralta Drain at levels generally below 1.0 ppm and up to a maximum of 1.7 ppm. These concentrations are below the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) "advisory level" of 2.0 ppm and well below the "action level" of 5.0 ppm. Since the source of high concentrations of PCBs has been removed from the site and the remaining low levels capped to significantly reduce the potential for migration, it is not expected that an increase in bioaccumulation will occur in fish from PCB contamination associated with this site.

#### VII. NO FURTHER ACTION RECOMMENDATION

Under the Superfund Program, studies are conducted at NPL sites to characterize the nature and extent of contamination and to determine the most feasible cleanup approaches. At this site, EPA's removal action (soil removal) conducted from June 1989 through January 1990, achieved the environmental and health based cleanup objectives. These objectives consisted of removing all soil contaminated with PCB concentrations exceeding TSCA's cleanup level of 10 ppm and providing for unrestricted residential usage. By removing soils contaminated with PCB concentrations greater than 10 ppm and capping remaining low levels, the removal achieved the remediation goals for the site. Therefore, based on the removal action and past site investigations, no additional cleanup alternatives are required and EPA proposes no further remedial action at the Pagano Salvage site.

The State of New Mexico through the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division has concurred with EPA's proposal at the Pagano Salvage site. With their concurrence, the State has requested that additional ground water samples be taken from the site monitoring wells and surrounding residential wells to confirm that no PCB contamination of the shallow ground water table has occurred. This ground water monitoring will be conducted by EPA for up to a year after the Record of Decision has been signed. Any sampling performed after the one year period will be conducted by the NMEID.

Request for deletion of the Pagano Salvage site from the National Priorities List will not be made until the ground water sampling has been completed and the samples show no significant site related contamination. IF PCB concentrations above health-base levels are detected, EPA in coordination with NMEID, will address the site accordingly.

Long-term management controls with regard to maintaining the integrity of the soil cover are not considered necessary. Under a worst case scenario of cap erosion or loss of integrity and subsequent human exposure, a significant health threat would not result. Remaining soil concentrations of 10 ppm are within EPA's regulatory acceptable health risk range, even considering a lifetime of exposure.

#### VIII. DOCUMENTATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

The Proposed Plan for the Pagano Salvage site was released for public comments from August 15, 1990, through September 14, 1990. The Proposed Plan recommended, that as a result of EPA's removal action at the site, no further remedial action was warranted at the site. EPA reviewed all written comments submitted during the public comment period. Based on these comments, it was determined that no significant change to EPA's proposal, as originally identified in the Proposed Plan, was necessary.

#### IX. REMEDY SELECTION CRITERIA

The following evaluation criteria were used to determine the effectiveness of the past removal action to adequately protect public health and the environment.

**Overall Protection.** The EPA removal provides overall protection of human health and the environment. The high concentrations (500 ppm or greater PCBs) of PCBs were removed to safe levels (less than 10 ppm PCBs) through excavation of contaminated soil and replacement with clean soil. This will provide for a long-term solution to the past PCB contamination problem at the site.

**Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs).** ARARs are the Federal and State requirements that a selected remedy must meet. EPA's removal action met all of the Federal ARARs (TSCA cleanup action levels and RCRA disposal regulations) for PCB contamination removal. No State ARARs more stringent than Federal ARARs were identified.

**Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence.** By removing and disposing of soils contaminated with PCB concentrations

greater than 10 ppm in a RCRA permitted facility, the removal provides a permanent reduction of contaminated soils at the site and the soil cover will prevent/mitigate mobility of PCBs (ability of the remaining low levels of PCBs to move to off-site locations or to adjacent drainage ditches). Remaining low concentration of PCBs (less than 10 ppm) meet health-based level requirements.

**Short-Term Effectiveness.** The protection to human health and the environment during soil removal operations was addressed by restricting access to the site. Additional safeguards used consisted of monitoring the air in and around the site to detect and address air emissions during the cleanup.

**Implementability.** EPA's cleanup activities were relatively easy to implement. Construction equipment for removal and disposal of contaminated soils and debris are readily available.

**Cost.** The estimated cost of the cleanup and related activities is approximately \$2.75 million as of June 1990.

**State Acceptance.** The State of New Mexico, through the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division, has concurred with EPA's proposal for the site. Although no PCBs were detected in the soil samples taken during and after the monitoring well installation, respectively, the NMEID has requested that confirmatory water samples be taken from the monitoring wells and adjacent residential wells before requesting deletion of the Pagano Salvage site from the National Priorities List.

**Community Acceptance.** Community acceptance of EPA's proposal for the site was favorable and is included in Section X, Responsiveness Summary.

#### X. RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

Valencia County officials and representatives for the Pagano Salvage site agree that EPA's removal action removed site contaminants to health-based levels and concur with EPA's recommendation that no further remedial action is warranted at the Pagano Salvage site. The New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division has provided formal concurrence with the proposed action.

Integration of Comments Received from representatives (Attorney Peter V. Domenici, Jr. and consultant Douglas G. Brookins) for the Pagano Salvage site on the Proposed Plan. No comments were received from the local community or other parties.

1. **Comment:** Mr. Peluchette also purchased drums from Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), which often contained fluids of an unknown nature.

**Response:** We agree that drums were also purchased from SNL and this will be added to the report.

2. **Comment:** No mention is made of the areas at Pagano Salvage Yard (PSY) where PCB-containing drums were stored, and where high surface PCBs were encountered. Further, it has not been confirmed if PCB-containing oils were actually used to burn insulation off wire.

**Response:** The contaminated areas referenced in this comment are the areas that were initially identified as being contaminated with PCBs. Subsequent field investigations (part of the Pagano administrative record) documented high levels of PCB contamination at other locations at this site. Based on the high PCB concentration levels found at the burn areas, it was concluded that oil contaminated with PCBs had been used to burn insulation off of wire.

3. **Comment:** If PCB levels of threat to public health were confirmed in September-October 1985, why was no immediate order given for site cleanup at that time?

**Response:** Sampling performed in the Fall of 1985 was of a preliminary nature. More detailed investigations were conducted from 1987 to 1988 from which soil data was obtained at various depths, sediment samples tested from the adjacent surface drains, and water samples tested from the surface drains and from the adjacent Peralta Drain. The results of these detailed investigations illustrated the need for a Time Critical Removal Action due to the high potential of contaminating the shallow ground water table and adjacent drainage systems.

4. **Comment:** This statement (site formally added to the NPL) ignores the fact that SNL posed a formal challenge to the HRS score.

**Response:** The challenge posed by SNL was addressed in a memorandum dated June 28, 1989, Subject: Support Document for Final Rule #6. This information is a matter of public record.

5. Comment: There may have been PCBs in capacitors at PSY, but, so, too, were PCB sources such as transformers, transformer cases (one which contained PCBs), fluid-bearing drums (and possibly totally corroded drums).

Response: Drums containing waste fluids will be added to the report.

6. Comment: No fish were tested away from the site drain area, i.e. we (Pagano representatives) have no idea what background PCB levels in fish are up-and down-stream from the site. Without this information, no origin-specificity can be given for the PCBs in the fish as reported.

Response: According to the information available, it is not unreasonable to assume that the Pagano Salvage site is the source of PCB contamination in the fish sampled. Sediments contaminated with PCBs were detected in at least three locations in the Petalta Drain immediately to the west of the Pagano site. Since PCBs are known to bioaccumulate in fish and other aquatic organisms, it was therefore, concluded that the fish sampled may have been contaminated with PCBs found in the site sediments. Other sources of this contamination are not readily apparent.

7. Comment: While PCBs were distributed widely at PSY, they were not everywhere present at levels in excess of 10 ppm (TSCA cleanup action level).

Response: Correct. It was not stated that PCBs were "present everywhere" in levels exceeding 10 ppm, the report states that PCBs were present "throughout" the site.

8. Comment: No reason has been given for EPA having waited four years before initiating an emergency removal.

Response: Prior to conducting the remedial action, additional analytical information was necessary. Once this information was collected and analyzed a decision was made on the need for an emergency action.



9. Comment: After starting the removal process, EPA quickly over ran its budget, and a several month delay resulted, with large piles of PCB bearing dirt precariously positioned for maximum off-site transport by wind, etc. If the threat was so real, why this delay?

Response: The delay occurred in trying to obtain additional funds to complete the removal action. As the soil data summary indicates (OSC's report), most of the soil contaminated with high concentrations of PCBs had been removed by the time the delay occurred. EPA is unaware of information showing off-site contamination occurred due to this delay.

10. Comment: The ATSDR report should have been prepared in 1985.

Response: The report was prepared as soon as detailed site information became available.

11. Comment: The differences in the physiologies of mice and rats are so extreme that laboratory testing of one cannot be used to predict the behavior of the other; and certainly extrapolating either rat or mice data to humans is unwarranted.

Response: It is routine medical practice to test potential carcinogens substances on mice and rats to determine the potential affects on humans. This is consist with EPA risk guidance which often use data from laboratory animals to estimate human cancer risks.

12. Comment: I (Pagano consultant) submit that the exposures from eating, breathing and direct touching of PCB contaminated materials are far less than EPA suggests.

Response: As detailed in ATSDR's Health Assessment dated December 20, 1989, the site posed a current and potential health threat. This information was used in concert with TSCA regulations to determine the need for and level of contaminant cleanup.

13. Comment: Off-site PCB levels have all been determined to be slight, and in view of the virtually complete removal of all PCB bearing soils at PSY, it is totally uncalled for to suggest any further PCB accumulation off site due to material from PSY.

Response: This statement is correct. As stated in the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision, since the removal action addressed the soil contamination, off-site migration of residual PCB contamination is not anticipated.

14. Comment: I (Pagano consultant) doubt "that a significant increase in bioaccumulation of PCBs in fish will occur", in fact it hasn't been determined if an accumulation has occurred.

Response: Although bioaccumulation was not firmly established from the fish sampled, it is a known fact that bioaccumulation of PCBs occurs. The potential for bioaccumulation to occur was evident due to the high concentrations of PCBs present at the site and the fact that sediment samples, however low, also identified PCB contamination.

15. Comment: I (Pagano consultant) am perplexed as to why an additional groundwater study will be carried out; the statements show no groundwater contamination, and removal of possible contaminants takes away the source(s). Therefore, what is achieved by more sampling?

Response: Ground water sampling will be conducted to confirm that indeed no PCB contamination of the ground water has occurred. One round of sampling is inconclusive especially considering the local stratigraphy and potential for gradient reversals.

16. Comment: Pagano (Pagano Salvage Yard) questions why additional ground water sampling may take 3 to 6 months.

Response: The time period mentioned for ground water sampling is only an estimate. Sampling will be conducted as work schedules allow and as requested by NMEID.

17. Comment: Were air monitoring results taken well away from site for background determination? If not, why not? And if so, where are the data.

Response: Air monitoring results are presented in the OSC's report dated August 10, 1990, Attachment G1 and locations of air monitoring station are shown on Attachment G2. Recorded levels were below the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health exposure limits of 0.5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.

**TABLE 1**  
**SUMMARY OF SITE ACTIVITIES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Summary of Results</u>
Sept. 1984	NMEID conducts a RCRA site inspection.	Several areas identified that were contaminated with PCBs.
Fall 1984	SNL removes 37 large capacitors, a box of small capacitors, 55 gallon drums and an unknown quantity of oil stained soil.	PCB contaminated oil in the capacitors and drums was identified as the source of contamination and removed.
June 1985	SNL removes six capacitors.	Capacitors overlooked during initial remedial action were removed.
Sept. and Oct. 1985	EPA conducts site investigation.	Investigations confirmed the presence of PCBs in the soil.
March 1987	EPA conducts resampling at site.	Resampling performed to conduct a Hazardous Ranking System analysis.
June 1988	Pagano site proposed to the National Priorities List.	The site scores high enough in the HRS analysis to be proposed to the NPL.
Sept. 1988	EPA samples fish from Peralta Riverside Drain.	Fish found to have low level concentrations of PCBs.
Oct. 1988	SNL removes additional drums from site.	Additional 55-gallon drums containing waste oil contaminated with PCBs were removed from the site.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Summary of Results</u>
Oct. 1988	EPA conducts soil sampling.	Sampling showed that PCBs were distributed throughout the site surface soils. These results prompted EPA to pursue a Time-Critical Removal Action for the site.
June 1989	EPA begins Time-Critical Removal Action.	
Oct. 1989	Pagano Salvage site promulgated to the National Priorities List.	
Jan. 1990	EPA completes Time-Critical Removal Action (soil removal).	EPA removes a minimum of 10 to 12-inches of soil from the entire site. A total of 5100 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris are removed and disposed of off-site at a permitted facility.
Aug. 1990	EPA issued Proposed Plan.	The Proposed Plan recommends that no further remedial action is considered necessary.

Figure 1  
LOCATION MAP  
(Not to scale)

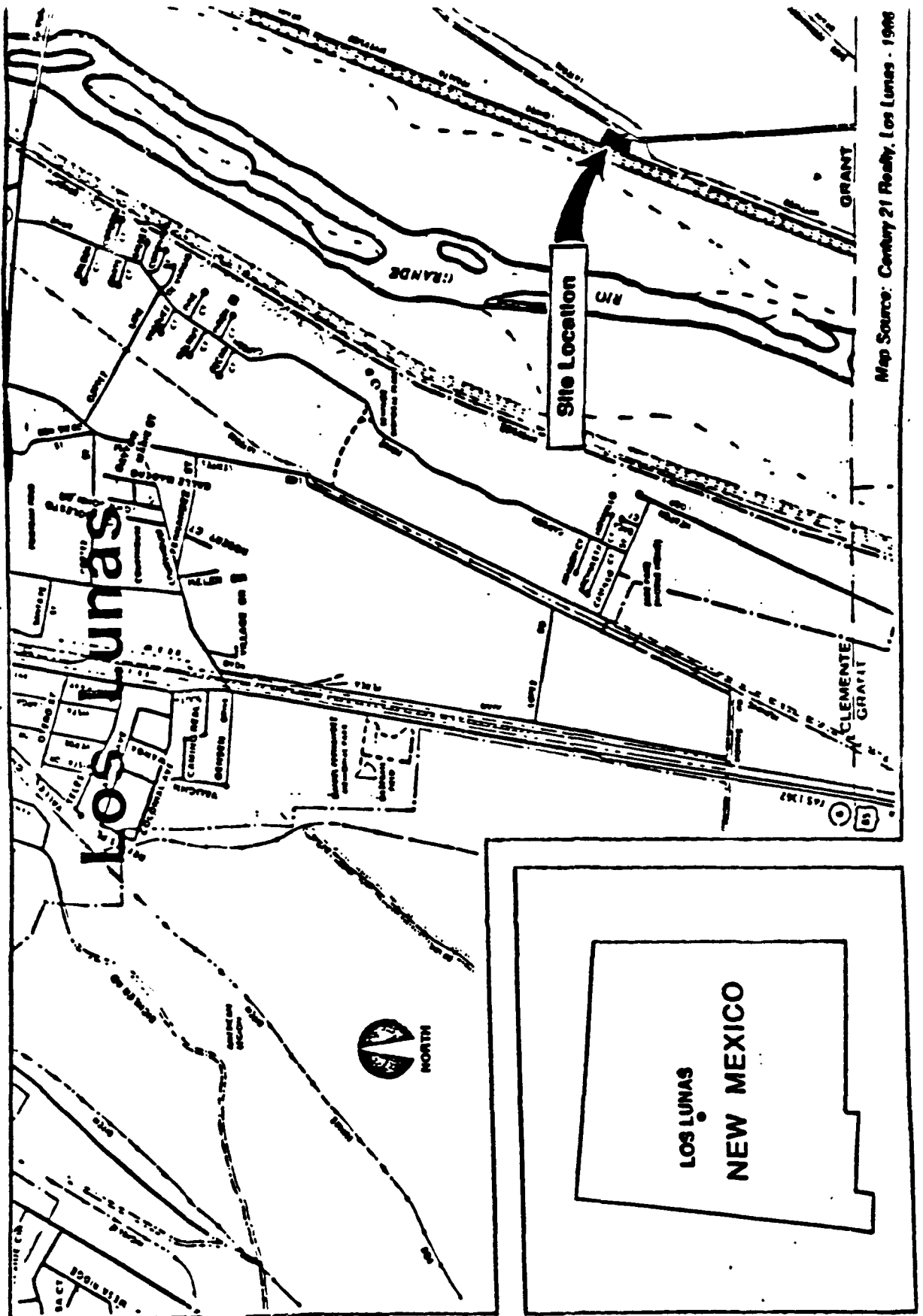
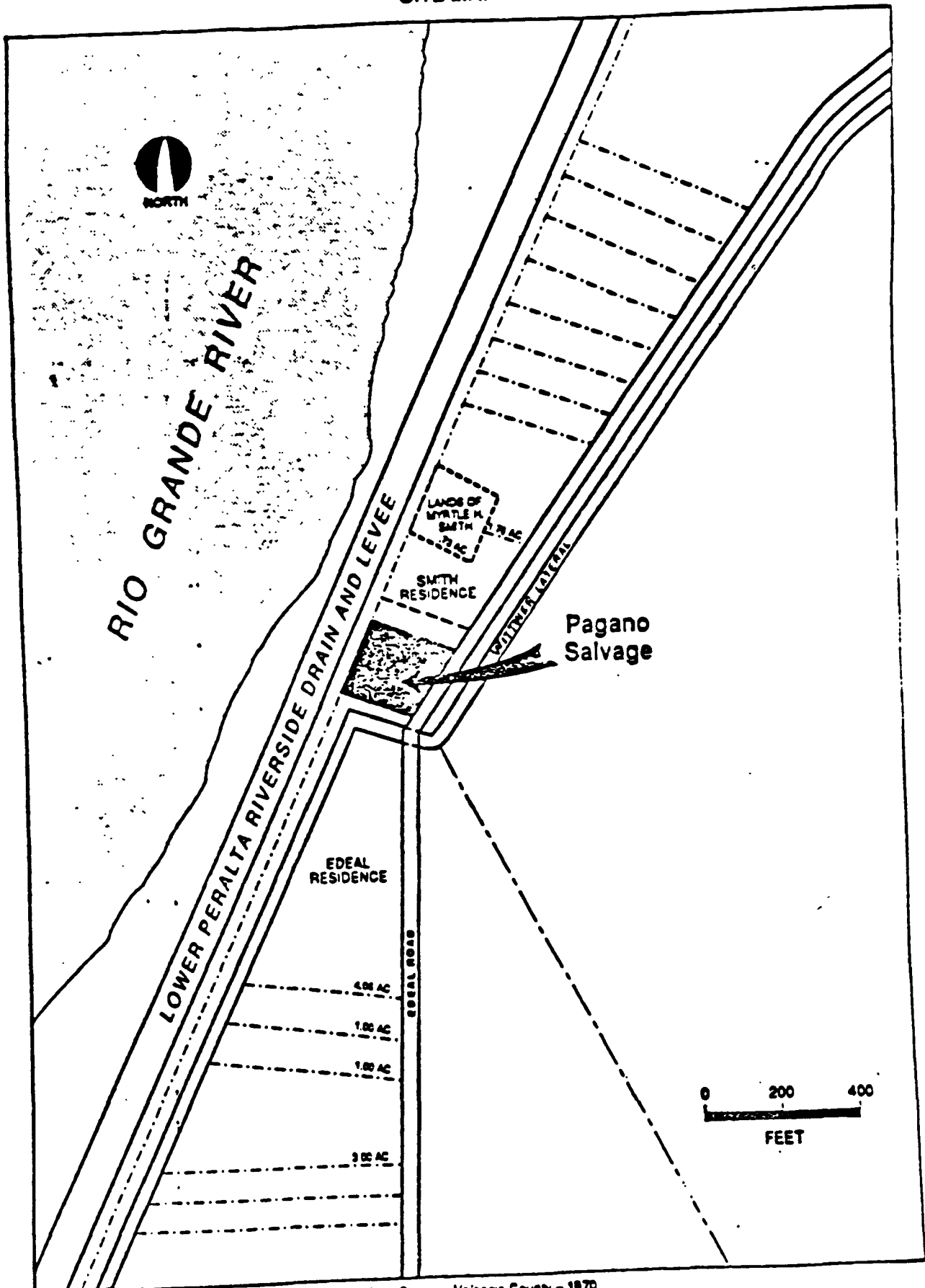


Figure 2  
SITE MAP



Map Source: Valencia County - 1970