

The Virgin Islands Consortium

NPS Issues Results of Caneel Bay Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Ahead of 30-Day Public Comment Period

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Caneel Bay in St. John before Hurricane Irma struck. By. GETTY IMAGES

The National Park Service on Wednesday released the [Draft Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis \(EE/CA\) Report Addendum](#) for the Caneel Bay Resort site at the V.I. National Park, beginning a 30-day public comment period.

The Draft EE/CA Report Addendum supplements the [EE/CA Report completed in 2021](#) and addresses data gaps identified in the original report, NPS said. Field investigations to support the EE/CA Addendum were completed in November 2021 and January 2022.

These investigations included subsurface soil and groundwater sampling, sampling of suspected lead-based paint and asbestos containing materials, excavation to identify an underground storage tank and a mass of concrete (previously unknown buried anomaly), well closure and background/reference soil sampling. All samples were analyzed by an accredited laboratory.

The recommendations in the Draft EE/CA Report Addendum are in addition to and are not intended to replace the recommendations in the 2021 EE/CA Report.

According to the release, by way of a generous donation from Laurance S. Rockefeller in 1983, NPS maintains a vested interest in the natural and cultural features of Caneel Bay. NPS's plans for the environmental cleanup and long-term stewardship and use of Caneel Bay continue with active consideration of input from the St. John community and public, at large.

NPS said it will hold a Community Learning Session on the EE/CA Report Addendum on Wednesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m. AST. At this hybrid meeting, to be held virtually and at the park's Cruz Bay Visitor Center conference room, the NPS will convey its findings and recommended removal actions.

The presentation will include information regarding potential risks to human health and the environment and response action alternatives evaluated in the draft EE/CA Report Addendum. Virtual meeting access will be hosted using Microsoft Teams [here](#).

Additionally, the NPS will host a hybrid (in-person and virtual) NPS Listening Session on Tuesday, September 27 at 5:30 p.m. AST at the park's Cruz Bay Visitor Center Conference Room to receive public comments and input on the results of the EE/CA Report Addendum.

The public comment period on the EE/CA Report Addendum will run from September 13 through October 12. The comment period will be extended for an additional 15 days upon timely request. Once the comment period ends, the NPS will provide responses to significant public comments and inform the public and stakeholders of its decision in an Action Memorandum. The Action Memorandum will be made available to the public in the site administrative record file, which can be found on the project website and at the park's Cruz Bay Visitor Center on St. John.

Members of the public may review all the EE/CA Addendum documents and submit comments by visiting <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CaneelBayAssessment>.

Written comments may also be hand-delivered or mailed to the park headquarters at:

Caneel Bay Redevelopment Management Plan

c/o Superintendent Nigel Fields

1300 Cruz Bay Creek St. John, VI 00830

NPS said community engagement remains a priority. Current information about the NPS investigation and response to environmental contamination and the redevelopment of Caneel Bay will be available throughout the cleanup, planning and development process [here](#).

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