



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
City View Plaza II – Suite 7000  
#48 PR-165 km 1.2  
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8069

April 19, 2022

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Jesus Bolinaga  
President  
Clean Flexible Energy  
350, Carlos Chardon Avenue.  
Suite 1034  
San Juan Puerto Rico 00784

Re: Fibers Public Supply Wells Superfund Site (“Site”), Guayama, PR  
Solar Project Information

Dear Mr. Bolinaga:

I am writing in response to your letter dated February 17, 2022, concerning the Clean Flexible Energy, LLC’s (“CFE’s”) intention to use Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (“PRIDCO”) property located within the Fibers Public Supply Wells Superfund Site (“the Site”) in Guayama, Puerto Rico, as the location of a new 120-megawatt photovoltaic park. The construction of this facility within the Site is consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Region II’s Clean and Green Policy, which aims to enhance the environmental benefits of federal cleanup programs through the promotion of sustainable technologies and practices. The proposed solar project would allow for the redevelopment of a Superfund site, as well as the production of renewable energy to meet the energy needs of users within the Commonwealth. As such, EPA supports this project.

EPA became involved at the Site in 1983, following the discovery of volatile organic compounds (“VOCs”) in the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority’s public supply wells, which are located south of Route 3 at the Site. Since that time, considerable work has been performed at the Site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675 (“CERCLA”), also known as the “Superfund” law. In 1991, potentially responsible parties for the Site, referred to collectively as the “Fibers Group,” completed a remedial investigation (“RI”) to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the Site. EPA selected a Site remedy in a Record of Decision (“ROD”) dated September 1991. In May 1999, the Fibers Group

commenced the operation of a groundwater pump-and-treat system at the Site that was designed and constructed in a manner consistent with the remedy selected for the Site.

The Site is currently in the long-term remedial action stage. Groundwater is extracted from three out of the five extraction wells located at the Site and treated by an air stripping system. The treatment system and four out of the five extraction wells are located on the PRIDCO property that is under consideration for use by CFE. Field activities at the Site include or are anticipated to include sampling of monitoring wells (including further delineation of a haloether groundwater plume also present at the Site), ongoing operation of the groundwater treatment system, implementation of an acid pre-treatment system, and the replacement of the existing groundwater discharge pipeline with a new, above-ground pipeline, which (as depicted in Appendix A1 of your February 17 letter) traverses land being considered for the proposed solar facility. Please also be aware that, over the next few years, the Fibers Group will be implementing a portion of the remedy that will re-route the treated water north of the treatment system to the Patillas Canal to be used for irrigation, among other beneficial uses. Based on the timeline provided in your letter, it is anticipated that this work would be performed concurrently with CFE construction activities.

As you acknowledge in your letter, the remedial activities at the Site require that EPA and the Fibers Group are provided continued access to the PRIDCO property. We are pleased to learn that CFE has been in communication with both PRIDCO and the Fibers Group regarding the proposed solar facility and that it has taken into consideration the ongoing Superfund remediation in its design of the facility. It is EPA's expectation that CFE will remain in communication with these entities and EPA during the construction and operation of the proposed solar facility in order to coordinate any activities that might impact the Site remediation. In particular, before construction activities are undertaken on-Site or in the vicinity of Site features, such as pipelines or monitoring wells, CFE is expected to contact the Site Remedial Project Manager, Adalberto Bosque, PhD, at (787) 977-5825 or bosque.adalberto@epa.gov, to confirm that the planned work will not interfere with the Site remedy. CFE should not engage in activities that would affect the Fibers Group's ability to comply with its remedial obligations at the Site.

In general, based upon our review of data collected at the Site, it appears that soils at PRIDCO's property are not impacted by Site-related contamination at levels currently requiring cleanup by EPA. Furthermore, we do not at this time anticipate the need to perform any further Superfund investigatory or cleanup actions on the property other than the above-described activities, unless new information or conditions not previously known to EPA are discovered. However, please be advised that the groundwater beneath the PRIDCO property is contaminated above cleanup standards and remains the subject of on-going groundwater remediation, and as such it should not be used for any purpose.

You may wish to review the ROD, the RI report, the Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Reports, and other Site-related documents for further information on the extent of groundwater contamination and the ongoing remedial activities. Such documents are available at the Fibers Public Supply Well Site

Profile Page, <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/fibers-public-wells>, as well as at EPA's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division office in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

If you have any technical questions regarding this matter or would like to discuss this matter with EPA, you may call me, at (787) 977-5825 or email at the address listed above. Any questions from an attorney should be directed to Ms. Margo Ludmer, Esq., of EPA's Office of Regional Counsel at (212) 637-3187 or [ludmer.margo@epa.gov](mailto:ludmer.margo@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Adalberto Bosque, PhD, MBA  
REM, CEA, CESCO  
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Joe Biss, Project Coordinator, Fibers Group