

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. The image shows the island's coastline with turquoise water, sandy beaches, and green vegetation. In the foreground, a white lighthouse sits on a hill. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Vieques Munitions Response Program

Prescribed Burn Plan Update

Former VNTR

Vieques, Puerto Rico

RAB Meeting

February 7, 2008

Prescribed Burn Plan

The Need

- **Portions of LIA and ECA, are covered with dense brush vegetation.**
 - Mechanical vegetation removal is prohibited.
 - Manual vegetation cutting equipment has a risk of contacting munitions items.
- **Several of the munitions that remain on the surface are dangerous (sub munitions)**
 - Can explode from even the slightest disturbance.
 - Significant safety hazard for workers.
- **Controlled burns provide the safest alternative.**
 - Allows the cleanup workers to more readily see the ground
 - Procedures and controls will protect of human health and the environment
 - Air monitoring will be conducted to minimizes air quality impacts

The Need- Dense Vegetation



The Need- Small munitions are difficult to see



Controlled burns allow small munitions to be readily seen



EQB Regulations for the Control of Atmospheric Pollution - Variance Application

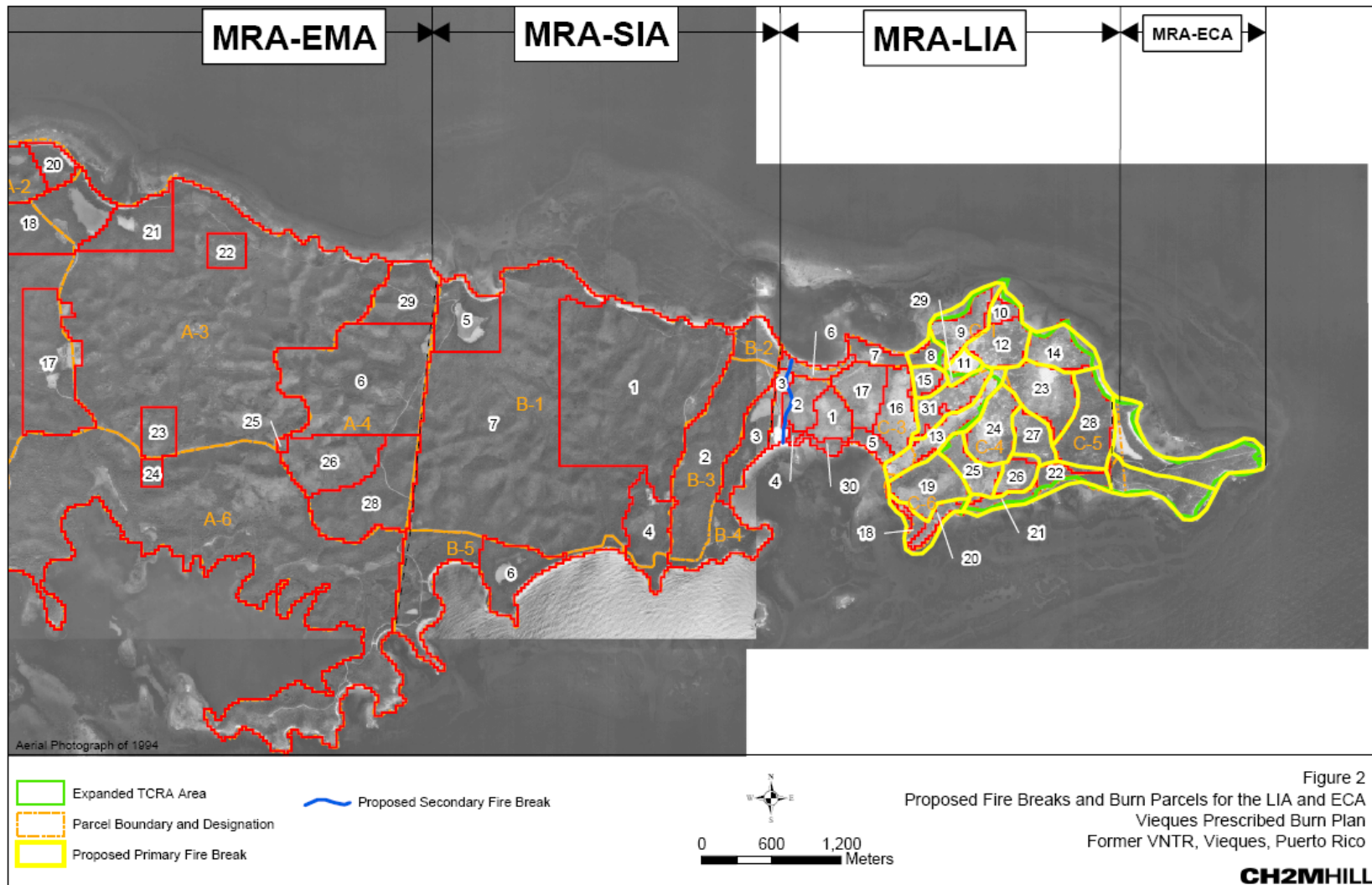
- **Executive Summary of Variance Application of the Regulations for the Control of Atmospheric Pollution to Conduct Controlled Burning of Vegetation at the former Vieques Naval Training Range**
- ***Draft Prescribed Fire Plan for the Live Impact Area and Eastern Conservation Areas, Former Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto Rico.***
- ***Draft Air Monitoring Plan for TCRA Prescribed Vegetation Burns on the Vieques Naval Training Range***
- ***Draft Report- Air Dispersion Modeling for TCRA Prescribed Vegetation Burns on the Former Vieques Naval Training Range***

Prescribed Burn Plan *Procedures & Controls*

- **Advance planning and coordination.**
 - Inter-agency coordination (EPA, EQB, DOI/FWS, Fire Department)
 - Notification procedures for the stakeholders
 - Public notice, public comment period
- **Engineering & Administrative controls**
 - Firebreaks
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Fire Fighting equipment
 - On-site equipment
 - Stand-by equipment
 - Site Conditions
 - Wind speed and direction
 - Air Temperature
 - Relative Humidity
 - Soil moisture
 - Air Monitoring
 - Site Access Control

Prescribed Burn Plan

Fire Breaks within the LIA and ECA



Status of Variance Application

- **Previous submittals**

- Variance Application submitted: 2/14/07
- Comments received from EPA and EQB: 6/21/2007- 9/4/2007
- Navy Response to EQB comments: 12/13/07
- Additional comments from EQB: 1/10/08

- **Path Forward**

- Respond to EQB comments
- Reach agreement on comments from EPA and EQB
- Issue Public Notice
- Submit revised documents for public review
- Schedule Public Hearing