



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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IN REPLY REFER TO 3

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JUL 21 2003

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Attn: Mr. Adolph S. Everett, Acting Chief
RCRA Programs Branch
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1865

Re: Draft Final Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) and Draft Preliminary Range Assessment (PRA) Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Everett:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated June 15th, and July 3rd, 2003 regarding both the Draft Preliminary Range Assessment (PRA) and Draft Final Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) for the Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR), Vieques, Puerto Rico, both dated April 2003. The PRA and EBS were independently initiated and performed by the Navy to provide a preliminary assessment of munitions use and environmental conditions of the VNTR prior to the federal property transfer to the Department of Interior (DOI) on May 1, 2003. The preliminary investigative and reporting efforts of the PRA and EBS were conducted under internal Navy policy and regulations and therefore, not performed under or subject to the requirements of the Consent Order between the Department of the Navy and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF), EPA I.D. # PRD980536221. The Department of the Navy submitted the PRA and EBS to the agencies for their technical reviews and comments, in a collaborative effort with all the federal and commonwealth-stakeholders (the agencies! cf VNTR prior to property transfer.

The Navy is in receipt of comments made by USEPA and your contractor, Techlaw, for the Draft PRA and Draft EBS report. It is also the Navy's intent to enter into discussions with the USEPA to determine the most effective way to integrate the EBS report content and findings into the RCRA Current Site Description Report and RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plans for AFWTF. It appears that many of the comments regarding the environmental Photo Identified Sites (PI) and Potential Areas of Concern (PAOC) sites in the Draft EBS can be addressed under the Order through integration and implementation of the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) work plans previously submitted by the Navy in Fiscal Year 2001 and approved by

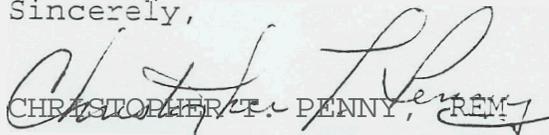
Re: Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF)-EPA I.D.
#PRD980536221; Final Preliminary OE/MEC Site Investigation
Work Plan for Blue Beach and Red Beach, Vieques Island,
Puerto Rico

EPA in FY 2002. It is suggested that an addendum to the RFI Work Plans may be the most effective solution for addressing the EBS comments made by the agencies.

The Navy is continuing to receive comments on the Draft PRA and EBS Report from the agencies. To date, the Navy has not received comments from the Department of Interior (DOI) nor from USEPA's Region 2's Emergency and Remedial Response Division. Within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of all comments from the agencies, the Navy intends to address the comments and finalize the Draft PRA and EBS for redistribution to the agencies and placement into the public repository.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact me at (757) 322-4815.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER PENNY, REM

Project Coordinator
Installation Restoration Section
(South)
Environmental Programs Branch
Environmental Division
By direction of the Commander

copy to:

PREQB (Mr. Esteban Mujica Cotto, Chairman)

PREQB (Ms. Yarissa Martinez)

COMNAVSTA Roosevelt Roads (Captain John R. Warnecke)

COMNAVSTA Roosevelt Roads (Ms. Madeline Rivera)

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DOI (Messrs. Sam Hamilton, Bud Oliver, Cal Garnet, Oscar Diaz)

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