11/17/05-02770

MEETING MINUTES

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Environmental Restoration and Munitions Response Program in Vieques, Puerto Rico

Meeting Number 6 – November 17, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING REMARKS

The meeting began at 6:00 pm with welcoming and introductions of those present. Instructions on how to use the simultaneous translation equipment were also given.

A community member asked if the UXO technician training was part of the agenda.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from August meeting were approved without changes.

III. ONGOING BUSINESS

The agenda for this meeting was reviewed and the technical presentations were discussed first (see Section IV).

III.a Action Items Review

Action items were briefly reviewed. The following table summarizes the "open" action items carried over from previous meeting(s) and additional action items resulting from this meeting.

Description	Responsible Party	Status
Charter / Membership Discussion	RAB Members	Open – Ongoing. Will be discuss in the next RAB Meeting of February 2006
Include budget information on next Monthly Report	Jeff Harlow/Navy	Open – To be discuss in the next RAB Meeting of February 2006
Request by RAB member to record meetings via audio tape	Jeff Harlow/Navy	Open – Request will be evaluated, an answer will be provided in the next February meeting

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Description	Responsible Party	Status
Groundwater Study	Jeff Harlow/Navy	Open – Process has been initiated for workshop development, planned tentatively for early 2006
Provide RAB members with a copy of presentations		Closed, presentations included with this minutes
Send attendance list to all RAB Members		Closed, list included with this minutes
Schedule visit to removal action sites	Jeff Harlow/RAB Members	New - Open

IV. TECHNICAL PRESENTATONS

IV.a NOAA

George Graettinger (NOAA) is doing a watershed database for Vieques. Watershed database and mapping project is being done in many places. NOAA has done this before and follows a standard procedure. The database will include all watershed related studies for Vieques.

Questions and Answers

- Nilda Medina (RAB Community Member) – Are you making recommendations on the use of the Vieques water resources, specifically for the biobay?
- George – We have not considered this. We will provide the data to whatever agency is responsible for this action.
- Nilda – If you are investigating the watershed in Vieques, then you should do something with the data collected to correct a problem. If not, then your work is only academic.
- George – We are not a regulatory agency responsible for this.

IV. b Environmental Restoration Program Update

Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) gave a status update on document submittals and upcoming fieldwork (Maps showing sites under discussion were available to use as reference)

- AOC E and I – Draft Final Work Plans were submitted to RAB in September 2005. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin in November/December, depending on such factors as weather and subcontractor availability.

Questions and Answers

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- Stacie Notine (RAB Community Member) – EPA and EQB are having problems understanding the plans. Are you going to continue with the work without the approval of EPA?
- Danny Rodríguez/EPA – The agencies submitted comments and the Navy responded satisfactorily to those comments. We now have a draft final.
- Brett – The draft final work plans were sent out to the RAB in September 2005. The plans include an appendix with regulatory agency comments and the Navy's responses to comments that have been accepted by the regulatory agencies.

o AOC R – The Draft Final Work Plan was submitted to the RAB in September 2005

- The site is overgrown with vegetation. CH2M HILL conducted an endangered species survey to identify whether there are any threatened or endangered plants or animal species or habitat in the area where debris removal is to take place. No threatened or endangered species were identified within AOC R, but two specimens of the Cobana Negra tree were identified near AOC J, which is "downstream" of AOC R. The trees will be protected when doing work at AOC J. A letter summarizing this information has been sent to DOI.
- Vegetation clearance began this week and field sampling will begin after the Thanksgiving holiday.

o AOC J, AOC R, SWMUs 6 and 7 – Draft EE/CA were submitted to regulatory agencies in August 2005. The regulatory agencies provided comments in September 2005. Preliminary responses to comments were submitted to the regulatory agencies in November 2005, which are under consideration. Once responses that are satisfactory to both the regulatory agencies and The Navy are finalized, the Draft Final EE/CA will be prepared, incorporating those finalized response to comments. The Draft EE/CA will be submitted to the RAB and a public comment period initiated.

- Public comment period for EE/CA for AOC J, R and SWMUs 6 & 7 by end of 2005. Removal action anticipated to begin in early 2006, pending consideration of public comments on the EE/CA and other factors, such as weather.
- Ricardo asked for a site visit. Jeff stated that when removal action begins we could schedule a visit.

o Myrna Pagán (RAB Community Member) asked how much money has been spent on the clean up of Vieques

- Jeff Harlow/NAVFAC – there is a formal process to report to Congress how much was spent every year. For FY 06: Environmental - $3M, MEC- $20M
- Myrna asked to have something in writing showing how much has been spent. It was taken as an Action Item for next meeting.
- A member recommended that the Navy send the information before the meeting for the members to review.

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- Susana Struve/CH2M HILL distributed copies of the Monthly Report in English. Spanish translation will be available later.
- Some members commented that the documents being discussed should have been distributed before the meeting so they have the opportunity to review them before the meeting.
- Danny Rodríguez/EPA explained that the Navy is just presenting what is coming for review and that not all documents that will be discussed in meetings will be available to the RAB prior to the meetings. Members will still have an opportunity to review the documents. (At this moment the presentation was disrupted by loud/emotional arguments presented by a community member)
- Several community members stated that the way the one community member was behaving was not proper. They wanted to continue with the presentation.
- Danny Rodriguez – After several members commented that the agenda should include issues that concern the RAB members, he stated that the draft agenda was submitted to the RAB for review but comments were not submitted by RAB members.
- The community would like to record the meetings. Jeff Harlow/NAVFAC will check on Navy policy and/or procedures for this.
- Jeff Harlow – Because of scheduling constraints and funding availability, there are many documents being issued in a short timeframe.
- Colleen MacNamara (RAB Community Member) – We have commented on several major documents but we have not received answers to the comments. The same urgency that you are requesting from us needs to be applied to our comments. For example, the background investigation report and the TCRA.
- Stacin Martin/CH2M HILL – Responses to comments on the TCRA are ready and can be sent to members.
- Brett Doerr/CH2M HILL – The public comments on the background investigation work plan are being considered by the agencies and responses will be submitted.

IV. e BACKGROUND SOIL INVESTIGATION

- Brett Doerr - Some locations were moved based on comments received from RAB members during site visit.
    - Danny – Comments (300+) were received and are being considered. Once responses to substantive comments have been prepared, a public meeting will be conducted to present answers to comments. Revisions to the background investigation approach will be considered, based on the comments, if the revised approach may improve the study results.
    - Nilda – We are still saying that all Vieques is contaminated and recommend taking background samples outside Vieques.

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- Brett – It is important to keep in mind that the purpose of the background samples is to distinguish contamination attributed to the specific sites under investigation from inorganics concentrations not attributable to the specific sites. Therefore, collecting samples at locations away from the sites, but on Vieques, is technically appropriate.

IV. f EIGHT (8) PI/PAOC SITES

- Brett Doerr summarized the status of the PA/SI for the 8 PI/PAOC sites. Specifically, a threatened and endangered species survey was completed and not threatened or endangered species were identified within the 8 PI/PAOC sites. Regarding the PA/SI work plan, he stated that the draft final was submitted to the RAB in September, no comments were received, and the final is anticipated to be released in December 2005. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin in December 2005 or January 2006.

IV. g RONCO CONSULTING CORPORATION PRESENTATION

Spencer Nelson/RONCO provided a brief presentation on their technology about Munitions and Explosives of Concern Detecting Dogs (MECDD) that can be used to detect explosive compounds.

A demonstration was done on the north beach and south beach of the former range in 2005 and on SWMU 4 (west) in 2003. The process uses items or explosive compounds anticipated to be found on the specific location to train the dogs to locate them.

- This is a cost effective technology – dogs can discriminate between scrap and explosives. Heat is a factor. Dogs can work approx 20 minutes and rest 40.

Questions and Answers

- A RAB member asked what kind of training the dogs have on explosives chemicals. Spencer Nelson – if we suspect chemical weapon compounds then we train the dogs specifically on these. This is much easier than explosives.
- Michael Diaz (Community Member) – Many things have been denied that have been used here, if we can use to detect these items, then we can trust more.
- Colleen – Will the scrap remain on site or will it be removed?
- Jeff – The TCRA is removing scrap
- Roberta Britton (Community Member) – How long will it take to cover the area with the dogs?

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- Spencer – We are doing an acre per day, but depend on site conditions.
- Jeff – We don't have a contract with RONCO. This is a tool that we are evaluating to be used in conjunction with the removal process currently underway. It is an example of continuing to evaluate various removal processes and their potential applicability to ordnance removal on Vieques.

IV. h AIR MONITORING – John Lowe (CH2M HILL)

Purpose is to document concentration in air from three (3) monitoring stations located near the western line of former LIA. Locations are OP1, boathouse and OP5 – downwind from detonation area. Equipment set to collect metals, explosives and particulate matter. Results – based on three (3) data events collected no contamination from detonations is suspected.

Questions and Answers

- Stacie – Was EPA present during data collection?
- Danny – Yes, I was present
- Nilda – The air monitoring is being done to demonstrate that open detonation is safe but we don't agree. We insist that the chamber should be used.
- Stacin (CH2M HILL) – The air monitoring is an ongoing process. Depending on data collected and in consultation with EQB and EPA, we may move the stations or add others.
- Colleen – This is a move in the right direction. Why aren't you placing the stations closer to the community?
- John Lowe (CH2M HILL) – you may only see emissions from car exhaust and background contamination from other sources if placed to close to the developments.
- A set of graphics showing detected contamination was presented. Detection is very low, basically showing no difference in the data collected prior to detonation, during detonation, and after detonation. One station did show elevated levels following a detonation event. However, this elevated concentration may be attributable to the volcanic eruption in Montserrat Island. The data are still being evaluated before drawing any firm conclusions.
- Colleen – Everything in Vieques is blamed to volcanic eruption or Sahara desert dust. How can you determine this is the case?
- John – It was just observed that the volcanic eruption was reported just before the elevated readings were recorded, and we have not seen elevated concentrations before or after other detonations. Again, the data are still being evaluated,

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additional air monitoring data are being collected, and no decision will be made on just this one piece of information.

- Sixto Pérez (RAB Community Member) – Proposed to write a letter to government requesting stopping the open detonations needed to collect data for air monitoring because this way the Navy will complete the removal of munitions while collecting data.

IV. i GENERAL DISCUSSION

- The Technical Workshop is tentatively scheduled for January 2006.
- It seems that the Public Library in Isabel II is closed. The library has not been accepting the more recent documents submitted.
- RAB Community member assistance to meetings

    - María Padilla officially resigned.
    - Discussed the approach of sending a letter to those members not attending the meetings. Several RAB members expressed that the Charter provides the means to remove from the RAB those not attending (or sending a delegate), and that a letter is not necessary. These members recommended the procedure in the Charter be followed.
    - The Co Chairs are reviewing the draft letter. Susana proposed a conference call to discuss membership and technical workshop.
    - Again members restated that the Charter procedure be followed because there may never be a majority of the members present to make a decision.
    - A community member asked what the minimum membership is.
    - Susana answered that there is no fixed number, but this is one of the larger RABs.
    - Danny – The RAB membership should be open again to request new members.

V. Next RAB Meeting

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2006 at 5:00 PM. The location will be confirmed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

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Naval Facilities Engineering Command – Atlantic

RAB Status Report: October, 2005

Former Navy Property, Vieques, Puerto Rico

This report provides the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) with a status of on-going work at the Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern (SWMUs and AOCs) on the former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) property in western Vieques and an overview of activities on eastern Vieques. The following is a summary of the activities completed through October, 2005, and the activities planned for completion for the next few months.

CURRENT AND COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

- **AOC E (Former Waste Oil Tank)**

  After receiving approval from EPA in August 2005 the work plan was submitted to the RAB as draft final on September 13, 2005. Subcontractor procurement is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2005, the final work plan will be submitted in November 2005, and the field work is anticipated to begin in November 2005.

- **AOC H (Abandoned Power Plant)**

  Regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted for review in April 2004 were received in October 2005. Comment responses will be prepared and submitted to the agencies for consideration in December 2005.

- **AOC I (Former Asphalt Mixing Plant)**

  After receiving approval from EPA in August 2005 the work plan was submitted to the RAB as draft final on September 12, 2005. Subcontractor procurement is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2005, the final work plan will be submitted in November 2005, and the field work is anticipated to begin in November 2005.

- **AOC J (Former Operations/Staging Area Disposal Site)**

  The draft RI report submitted for regulatory review in April 2004 is still under review. In addition, a draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to remove the debris at AOC J was submitted for regulatory review in August 2005. Regulatory agency comments were received in October 2005. Comment responses are being prepared and will be submitted to the agencies for consideration in early November 2005. The public comment period on the EE/CA is anticipated to occur in late 2005.

- **AOC R (Former Staging and Operations Area)**

  After receiving approval from EPA, the draft final work plan was submitted to the RAB on September 30, 2005. A threatened and endangered species evaluation took place in September 2005 in preparation for the investigation field work. No threatened or endangered species or habitats were identified in the AOC R area of investigation. However, two species of the threatened plant species *Stahlia monosperma* were identified in the vicinity of AOC J, which is adjacent to AOC R. Protective measures for these trees will be implemented during any future work at AOC J (such as the removal action referred to above) that may be conducted in the vicinity of the trees. A letter summarizing the results of the survey and protective measures to be implemented will be submitted to the Department of Interior in November 2005. Subcontractor procurement is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2005, the final work plan will be submitted in November 2005, and the field work is anticipated to begin in November 2005.

  In addition, a draft EE/CA to remove the debris at AOC R was submitted for regulatory review in August 2005. Regulatory agency comments were received in October 2005. Comment responses are being prepared and will be submitted to the agencies for consideration in early November 2005. The public comment period on the EE/CA is anticipated to occur in late 2005.

- **SWMU 4 (Former OB/OD Unit)**

  The draft RI work plan submitted for regulatory review in June 2004 is still under review.

- **SWMU 6 (Mangrove Disposal Site at Kiani Lagoon)**

  The draft RI report submitted for regulatory review in April 2004 is still under review. In addition, a draft EE/CA to remove the debris at AOC R was submitted for regulatory review in August 2005. Regulatory agency comments were received in October 2005. Comment responses are being prepared and will be submitted to the agencies for consideration in early November 2005. The public comment period on the EE/CA is anticipated to occur in late 2005.

- **SWMU 7 (Quebrada Disposal Site)**

  Responses to regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted to the regulatory agencies in November 2004 are still under consideration. In addition, a draft EE/CA to remove the debris at AOC R was submitted for regulatory review in August 2005. Regulatory agency comments were received in October 2005. Comment responses are being prepared and will be submitted to the agencies for consideration in early November 2005. The public comment period on the EE/CA is anticipated to occur in late 2005.

- **Site Management Plan**

  The Site Management Plan is currently being developed.

EASTERN VIEQUES

- **Original 12 SWMUs/AOCs Contained in the RCRA Consent Order**

  A data summary report summarizing the data collected during the Phase I RFI was submitted to the regulatory agencies in May 2005. The draft Phase I RFI report will be completed once the soil inorganics background investigation has been completed and its report finalized.

- **PI/PAOC sites**

  The approach to the Phase I RFI for eight PI/PAOC sites was concurred upon by the regulatory agencies and the Navy in June 2005, but regulatory approval is pending. The draft final work plan was submitted to the RAB on September 30, 2005. A threatened and endangered species evaluation for several of the sites took place in September 2005 in preparation for the investigation field work. The final work plan is anticipated to be submitted in November or December 2005. The field work is anticipated to begin in early 2006.

- **Background Soil Inorganics**

  The public comment period on the Work Plan ended on June 11, 2005. The comments received remain under EPA review.

MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

- **SWMU 4 (Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Area)**

  The Draft Munitions/Explosives Remedial Investigation Report dated April 2004 is still under regulatory review.

- A draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to remove munitions at selected areas in the vicinity of SWMU 4 will be submitted to the regulators by the end of November.

EASTERN VIEQUES – Munitions Response Actions

- The Time Critical Removal Action in the LIA continues.

- Ecological survey to identify State and Federally listed flora and fauna has been conducted for the first 850 acres at the LIA. Ecological surveys will continue to be conducted.

- Air monitoring is being conducted to assess the BIP activities. An Air Monitoring quarterly report was submitted October 19, 2005.

Public Involvement Activities

- RAB members, Navy and regulatory agencies representatives had a conference call on October 13th to discuss several outstanding items related to the RAB and discuss the agenda for the next RAB meeting. Notes from the call have been distributed to RAB members.
- The next RAB meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2005 at the Multiple Use Center in Isabel Segunda from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

VIEQUES DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL UPDATE (as of October, 2005)

Site	Document	Submitted By Navy To Regulators for Review	Regulator Comments Submitted To Navy
West Vieques			
AOC E	Draft Final Supplemental RI Work Plan	Submitted to RAB in September 2005	
AOC H	Draft RI Report	April 2004	October 2005
AOC I	Draft Final Supplemental RI Work Plan	Submitted to RAB in September 2005	
AOC J	Draft RI Report Draft EE/CA	April 2004 August 2005	October 2005
AOC R	Draft Final RI Work Plan Draft EE/CA	Submitted to RAB in September 2005 August 2005	October 2005
SWMU 4	Draft RI Work Plan	June 2004	Not received as of October 31,2005
SWMU 6	Draft RI Report Draft EE/CA	April 2004 August 2005	October 2005
SWMU 7	Response to comments on Draft RI Report Draft EE/CA	November 2004 August 2005	October 2005
NFA Sites	No Further Action Report	May 2003	Not received as of October 31,2005

East Vieques			
Background Soil	Revised Draft Final Background Investigation Work Plan	Public Comments Submitted to EPA in June 2005	Navy has not received public comments as of October 31,2005
Original RFI Sites	Data Summary Report	May 2005	Not applicable
8 PI/PAOC Sites	Draft Final Phase I RFI Work Plan	Submitted to RAB in September 2005	Final Work Plan will be submitted by end of November
Baseline Groundwater	Draft Final Groundwater Baseline Investigation	May 2005	

Naval Facilities Engineering Command – Atlantic

RAB Status Report: November - December, 2005

Former Navy Property, Vieques, Puerto Rico

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CURRENT AND COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

- **AOC E (Former Waste Oil Tank)**

  After receiving approval from EPA in August 2005 the work plan was submitted to the RAB as draft final on September 13, 2005. Subcontractor procurement was completed and the final work plan was submitted in November 2005. The field work, comprising soil and groundwater sampling, began in November 2005 and is expected to be completed by the end of December 2005.

- **AOC H (Abandoned Power Plant)**

  Regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted for review in April 2004 were received in October 2005. Comment responses will be prepared and submitted to the agencies for consideration in December 2005.

- **AOC I (Former Asphalt Mixing Plant)**

  After receiving approval from EPA in August 2005 the work plan was submitted to the RAB as draft final on September 12, 2005. Subcontractor procurement was completed and the final work plan was submitted in November 2005. The field work, comprising monitoring well installation and sampling, began in late November 2005 and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2006.

- **AOC J (Former Operations/Staging Area Disposal Site)**

  The draft RI report submitted for regulatory review in April 2004 is still under review. In addition, a draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to remove the debris at AOC J was submitted for regulatory review in August 2005. Regulatory agency comments were received in October 2005. Comment responses were prepared and submitted to the agencies for consideration in early November 2005. The agencies discussed and concurred upon the final comment responses in November 2005, and the Draft Final EE/CA was submitted in December 2005. The public comment period on the EE/CA is anticipated to occur from about mid-December 2005 to mid-January 2006. The removal action is anticipated to take place in mid-February 2006.

- **AOC R (Former Staging and Operations Area)**

  After receiving approval from EPA, the draft final work plan was submitted to the RAB on September 30, 2005. A threatened and endangered species evaluation took place in September 2005 in preparation for the investigation field work. No threatened or endangered species or habitats were identified in the AOC R area of investigation. However, two species of the threatened plant species *Stahlia monosperma* were identified in the vicinity of AOC J, which is adjacent to AOC R. Protective measures for these trees will be implemented during any future work at AOC J (such as the removal action referred to above) that may be conducted in the vicinity of the trees. A letter summarizing the results of the survey and protective measures to be implemented was submitted to the Department of Interior in early November 2005. Subcontractor procurement was completed and the final work plan was submitted in November 2005. The field work, comprising monitoring well installation and surface water, sediment, soil, and groundwater sampling, began in December 2005 and is expected to be completed in January 2006.

  In addition, an EE/CA for AOCs J and R and SWMUs 6 and 7 was prepared, as described under AOC J above.

- **SWMU 4 (Former OB/OD Unit)**

  The draft RI work plan submitted for regulatory review in June 2004 is still under review.

- **SWMU 6 (Mangrove Disposal Site at Kiani Lagoon)**

  The draft RI report submitted for regulatory review in April 2004 is still under review. In addition, an EE/CA for AOCs J and R and SWMUs 6 and 7 was prepared, as described under AOC J above.

- **SWMU 7 (Quebrada Disposal Site)**

  Responses to regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted to the regulatory agencies in November 2004 are still under consideration. In addition, an EE/CA for AOCs J and R and SWMUs 6 and 7 was prepared, as described under AOC J above.

Site Management Plan

The Site Management Plan is currently being developed.

EASTERN VIEQUES

- **Original 12 SWMUs/AOCs Contained in the RCRA Consent Order**

  A data summary report summarizing the data collected during the Phase I RFI was submitted to the regulatory agencies in May 2005. The draft Phase I RFI report will be completed once the soil inorganics background investigation has been completed and its report finalized.

  PI/PAOC sites

  The approach to the Phase I RFI for eight PI/PAOC sites was concurred upon by the regulatory agencies and the Navy in June 2005, but regulatory approval is pending. The draft final work plan was submitted to the RAB on September 30, 2005. A threatened and endangered species evaluation for several of the sites took place in September 2005 in preparation for the investigation field work. The final work plan is anticipated to be submitted in December 2005. The field work is anticipated to begin in early 2006.

- **Background Soil Inorganics**

  The public comment period on the Work Plan ended on June 11, 2005. The comments received remain under EPA review. It is anticipated that the responses to public comments will be released in January 2006, with the Final Work Plan and field work commencing relatively soon thereafter.

MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

- **SWMU 4 (Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Area)**

  The Draft Munitions/Explosives Remedial Investigation Report dated April 2004 is still under regulatory review.

- A draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to remove munitions at selected areas in the vicinity of SWMU 4 will be submitted to the regulators by the end of November.

EASTERN VIEQUES – Munitions Response Actions

The Time Critical Removal Action in the LIA continues including ecological surveys of the first 850 acres; air monitoring still in effect to assess the BIP activities.

Public Involvement Activities

- The RAB meeting was held on November 17, 2005. Minutes, presentations and related materials will be available for RAB review in early December.
- The next RAB meeting was tentatively schedule for February 16, 2006
- The Navy is working with the agencies and RAB representatives to develop a technical workshop for the public. We anticipate the workshop to take place in late January 2006.

VIEQUES DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL UPDATE (as of November, 2005)

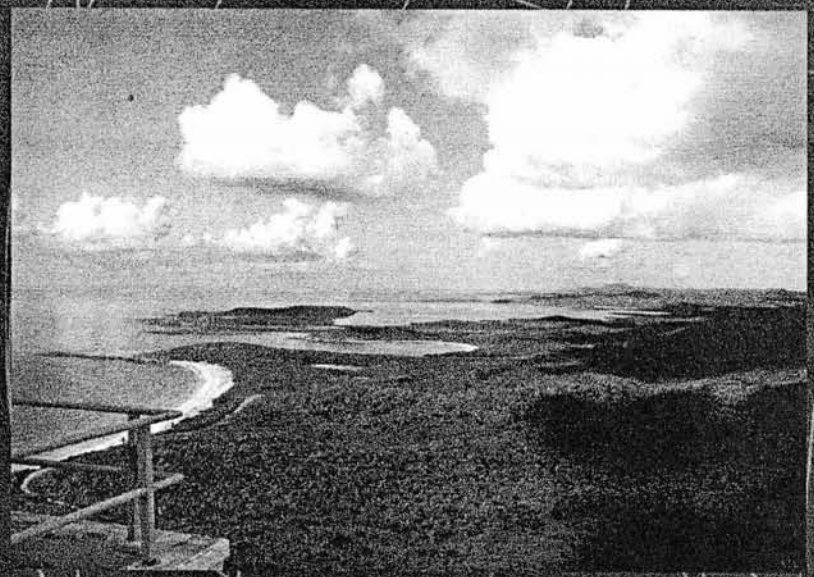
Site	Document	Submitted By Navy To Regulators for Review	Regulator Comments Submitted To Navy
West Vieques			
AOC E	Final Supplemental RI Work Plan submitted in November 2005	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
AOC H	Draft RI Report	April 2004	October 2005
AOC I	Final Supplemental RI Work Plan submitted in November 2005	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
AOC J	Draft RI Report Draft EE/CA Draft Final EE/CA	April 2004 August 2005 Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	Not Received October 2005 Not Applicable
AOC R	Final RI Work Plan submitted in November 2005 Draft EE/CA Draft Final EE/CA	Not Applicable August 2005 Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	Not Applicable October 2005 Not Applicable
SWMU 4	Draft RI Work Plan	June 2004	Not Received
SWMU 6	Draft RI Report Draft EE/CA Draft Final EE/CA	April 2004 August 2005 Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	Not Received October 2005 Not Applicable
SWMU 7	Response to comments on Draft RI Report	November 2004	Not Received

	Draft EE/CA Draft Final EE/CA	August 2005 Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	October 2005 Not Applicable
NFA Sites	PREQB Response to Public Comments on No Further Action Report	Not Applicable	Not Received
East Vieques			
Background Soil	Revised Draft Final Background Investigation Work Plan	Public Comments Submitted to EPA in June 2005	EPA Responses Not Received
Original RFI Sites	Data Summary Report	May 2005	Not Applicable
8 PI/PAOC Sites	Draft Final Phase I RFI Work Plan	Submitted to RAB in September 2005	Final Work Plan will be submitted in December
Baseline Groundwater	Draft Final Groundwater Baseline Investigation	May 2005	

RONCO

Vieques Island MECDD Demonstration

Aug 19 – Sept 12, 2005



RONCO

RONCO Consulting Corporation

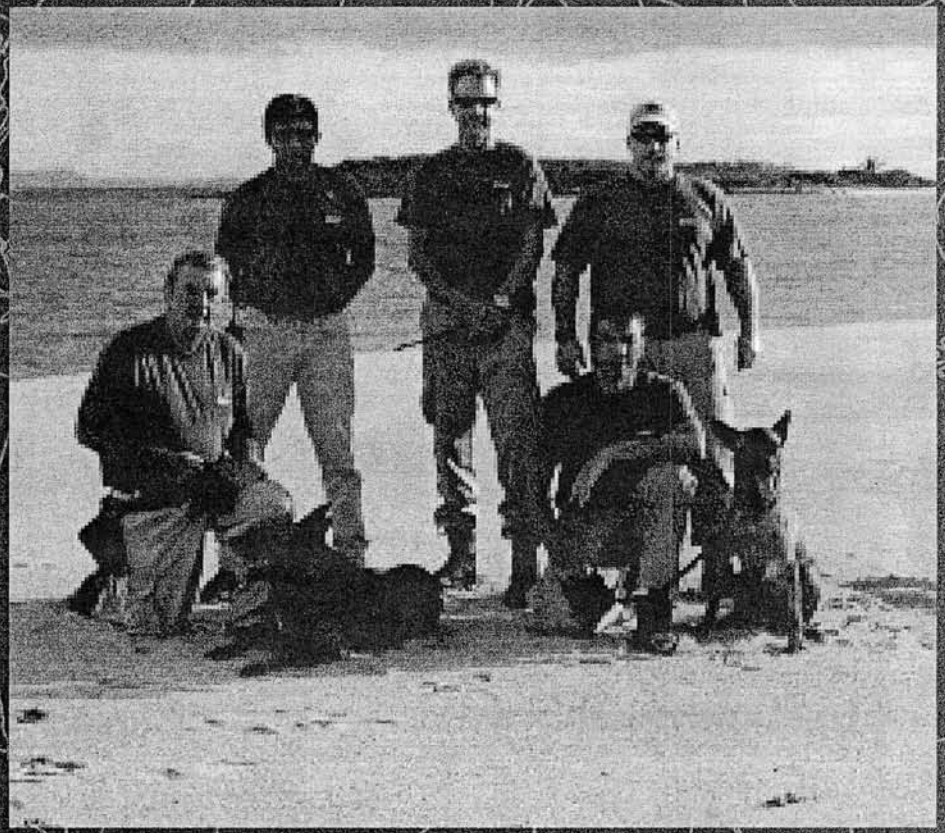
Spencer Nelson

Mike Green

Paul Brown - Rasja

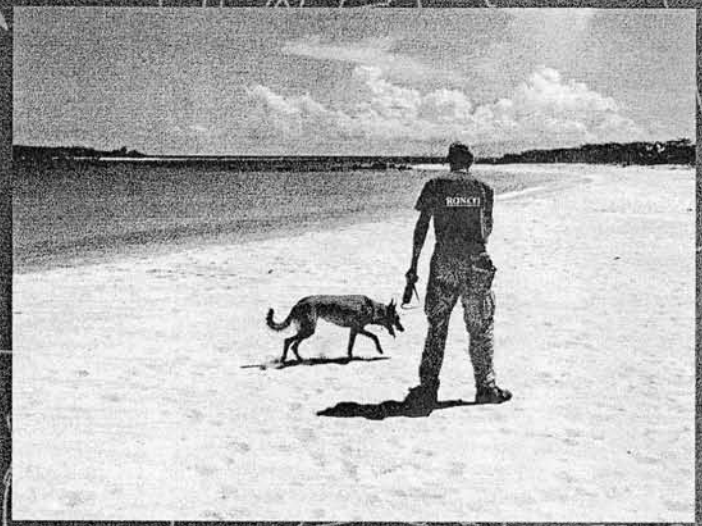
Ken Nelson - Hero

Nelson Figeac



RONCO Consulting Corporation

- Small Business
- 59 Full Time Employees
- 64 Contract Employees
- $500 Million in Contract Awards
- $80 Million in 2004 revenues



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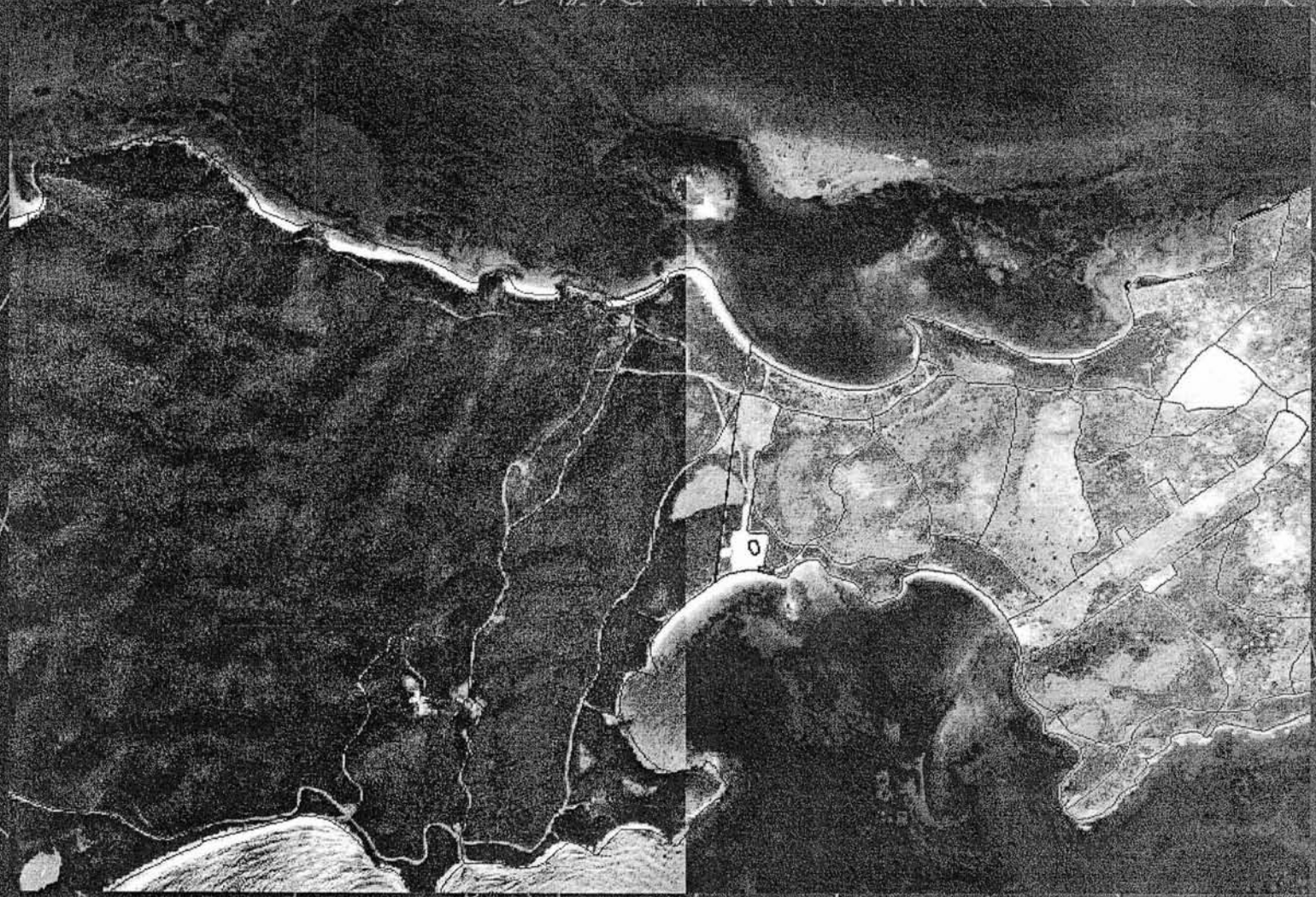
Since 1998 more than 13,000 acres of MEC and landmine contaminated land have been successfully cleared, under the most difficult and severe conditions, positively impacting millions of lives...

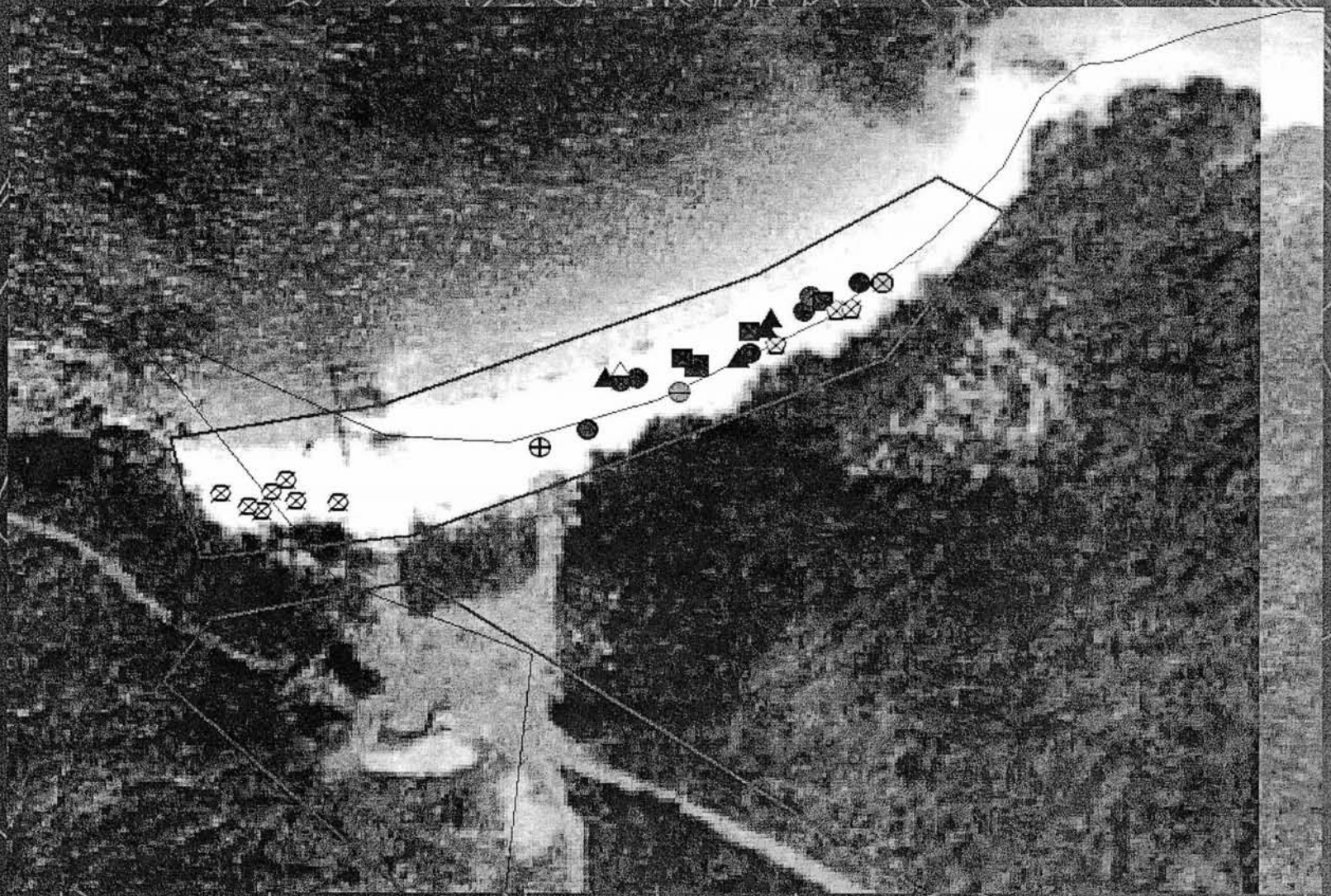
RONCO

Vieques SIA/LIA



RONCO

North Beach Op Area



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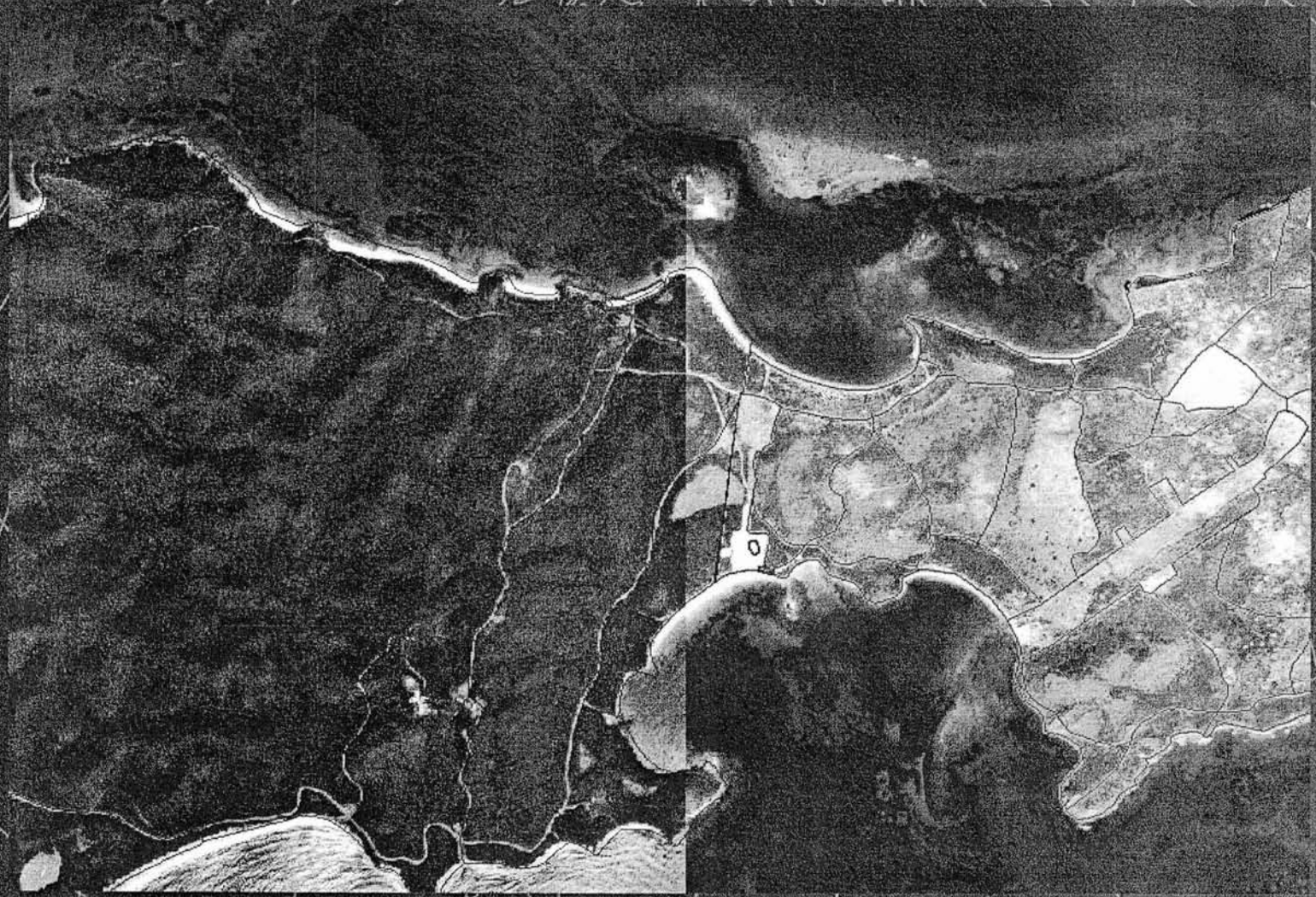
Vieques SIA/LIA



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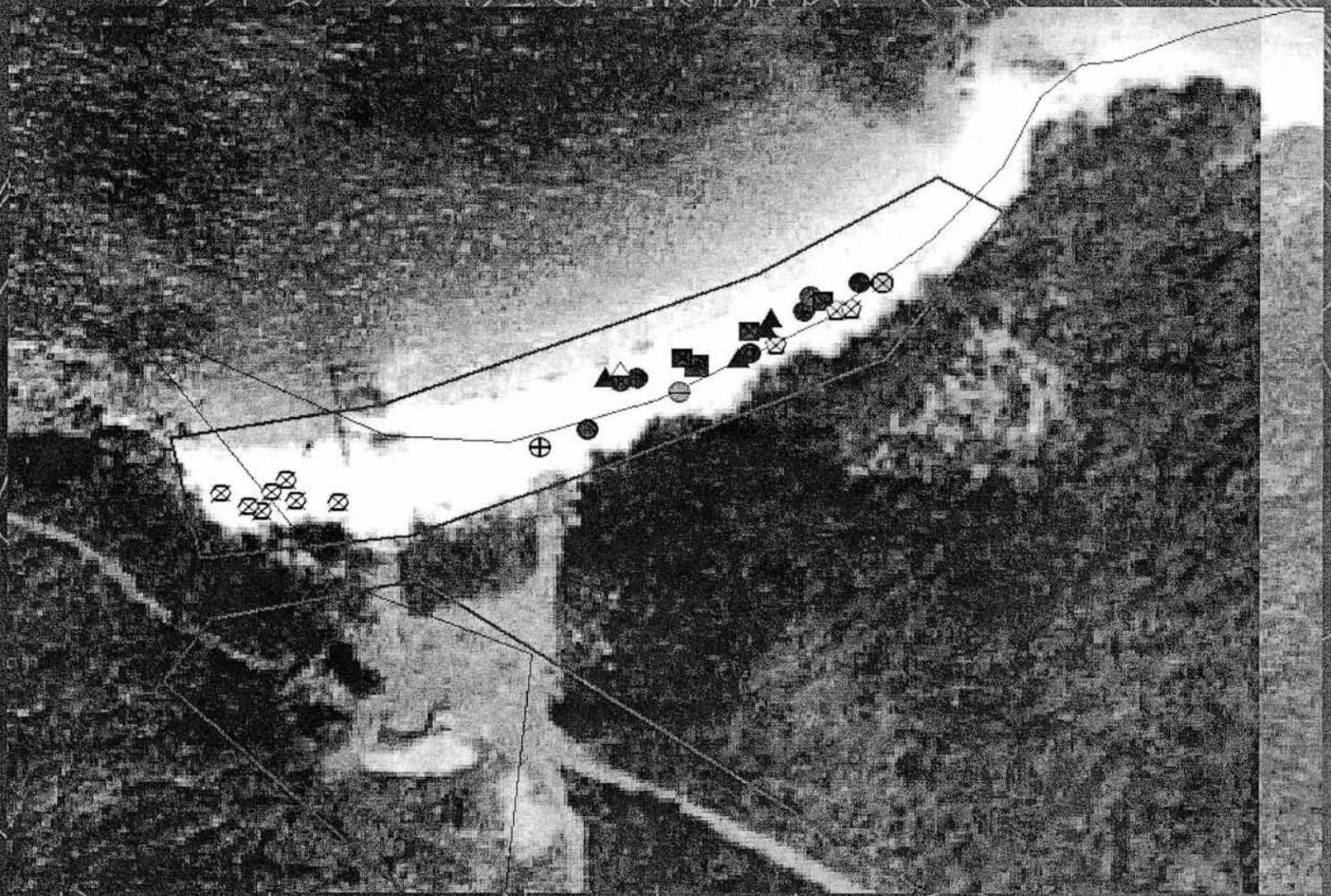
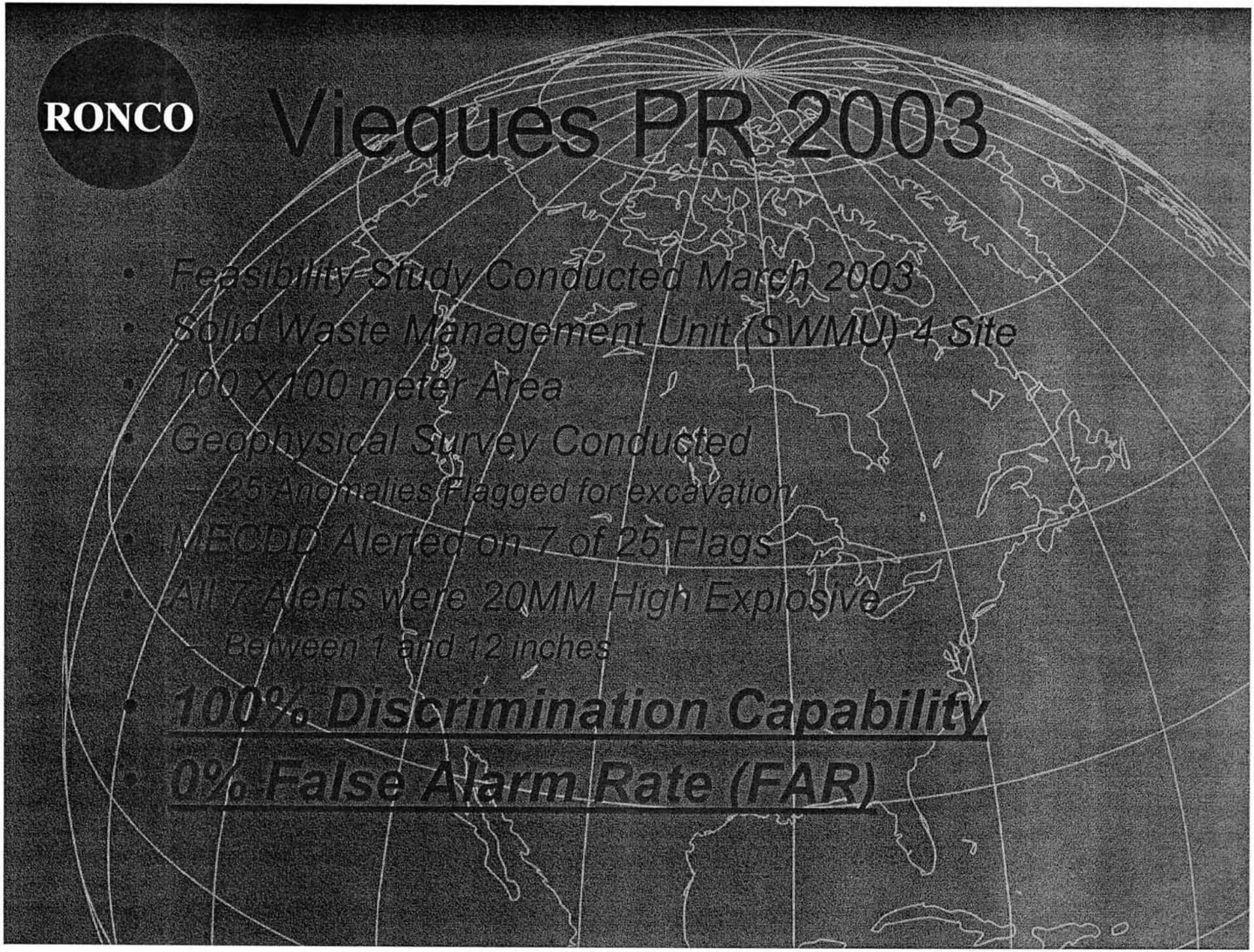
North Beach Op Area




RONCO
Vieques PR 2003
• Feasibility Study Conducted March 2003
• Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 4 Site
• 100 X 100 meter Area
• Geophysical Survey Conducted
– 25 Anomalies Flagged for excavation
• MECDD Alerted on 7 of 25 Flags
• All 7 Alerts were 20MM High Explosive
Between 1 and 12 inches
• 100% Discrimination Capability
• 0% False Alarm Rate (FAR)

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Vieques 2003 Cleared Grid

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Vieques PR 2003

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Vieques PR 2003 (Cont.)

- MECDD detected 25 lbs of rocket propellant on a grid that had passed QA

- MECDD detected/ located live 20MM HE rounds in scrap previously inspected and ready for transfer

RONCO

RONCO MEC Detecting Dogs

- *RONCO Consulting Corporation*
- *Global Training Academy Inc.*
- *Formed a partnership in 1989 to provide Mine Detecting Dogs (MDD) to Afghanistan for the clearance of land mines, merging RONCO's international experience and Global's expertise in training detection dog teams*

RONCO

RONCO MEC Detecting Dogs

- *Technology based on proprietary training methodologies developed at Global through explosive and chemical weapons olfactory research which enables RONCO/Global MECDDs to consistently detect trace levels of explosives*

- *Sixteen years training and operational experience of MDDs in the international humanitarian demining industry*

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RONCO

RONCO MEC Detecting Dogs

- *MECDD Teams would be used in coordination with geophysical operations to discriminate between targets that contain explosives and those that do not*

- *MECDD Teams would conduct operations during anomaly reacquisition and prior to anomaly investigation*

RONCO

RONCO MEC Detecting Dogs

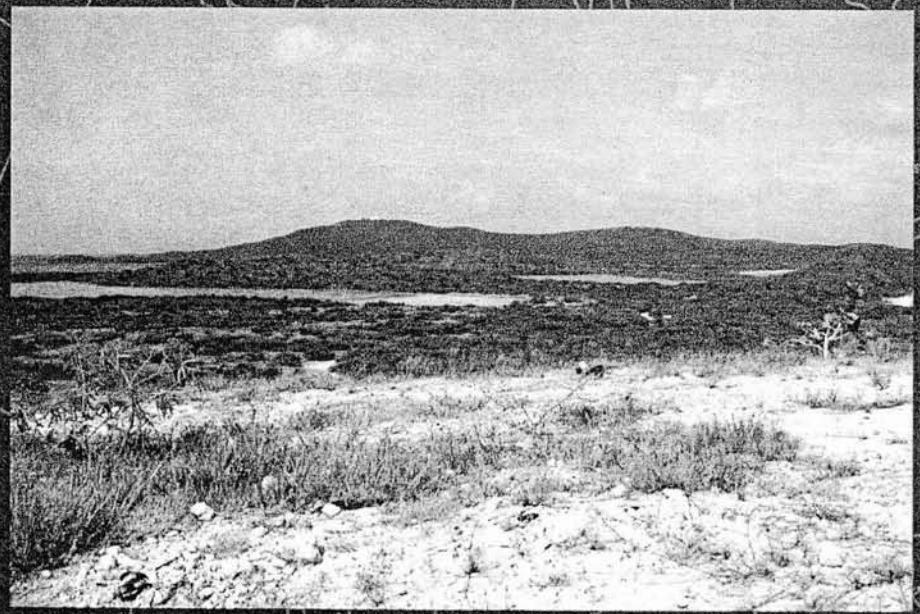
Training Procedure

- *MECDD Teams would check each flagged target*
- *MECDD would indicate on flagged targets containing explosives*
- *All MECDD targets would be initially investigated to determine false positive rate*

RONCO

OE Scrap Inspection

- *MECDD Teams can also be used to verify the presence of explosive materials in scrap processing missed by traditional inspection*



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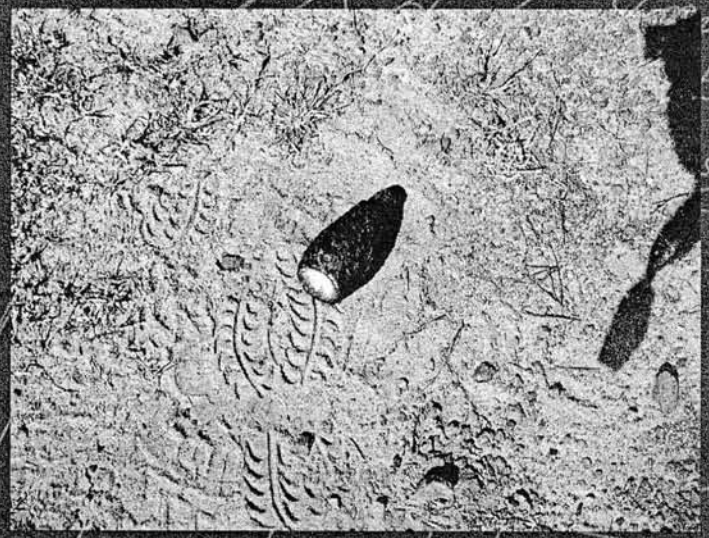
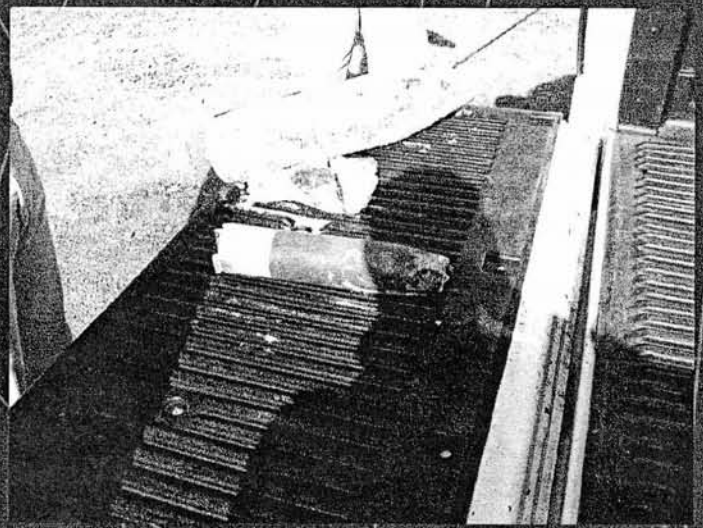
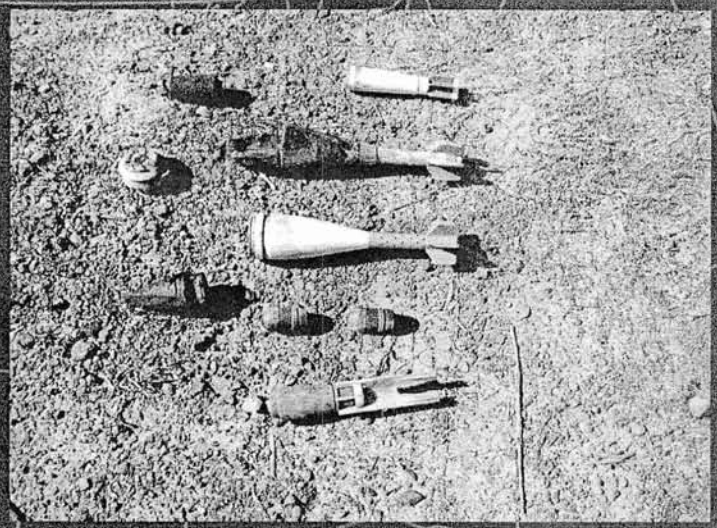
Training Aids







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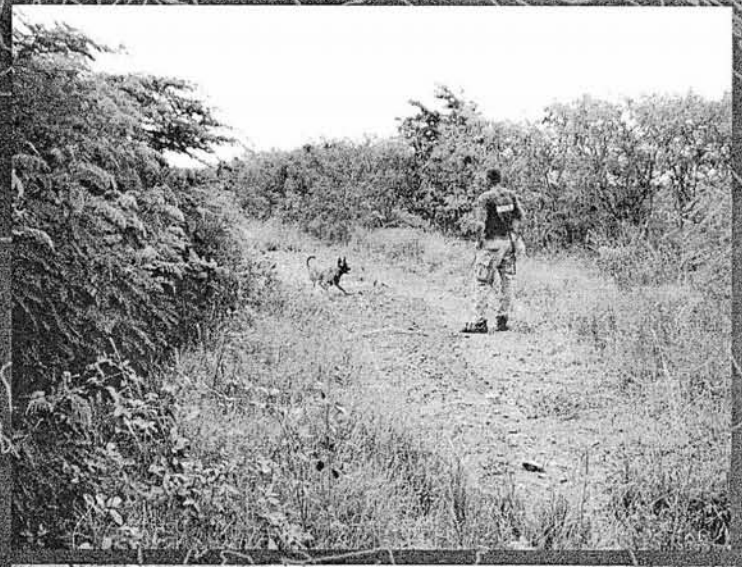
OP-1 Operations Area

- Training/Order/Introduction
- Transect Type exercise
- 20MM HE



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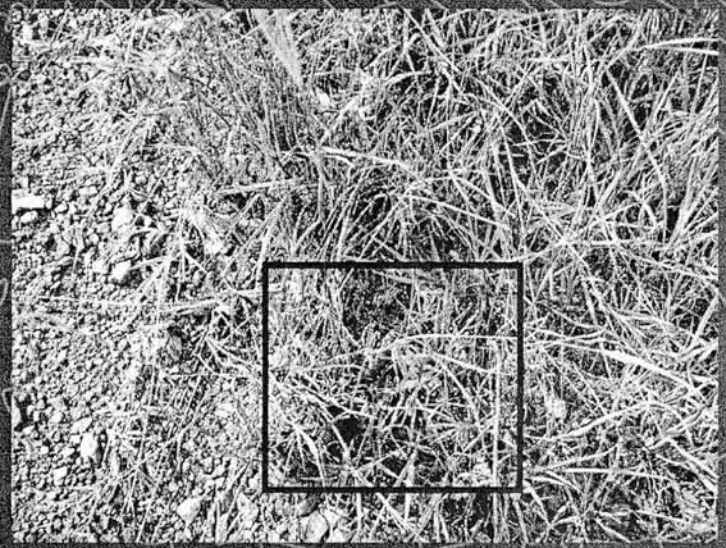
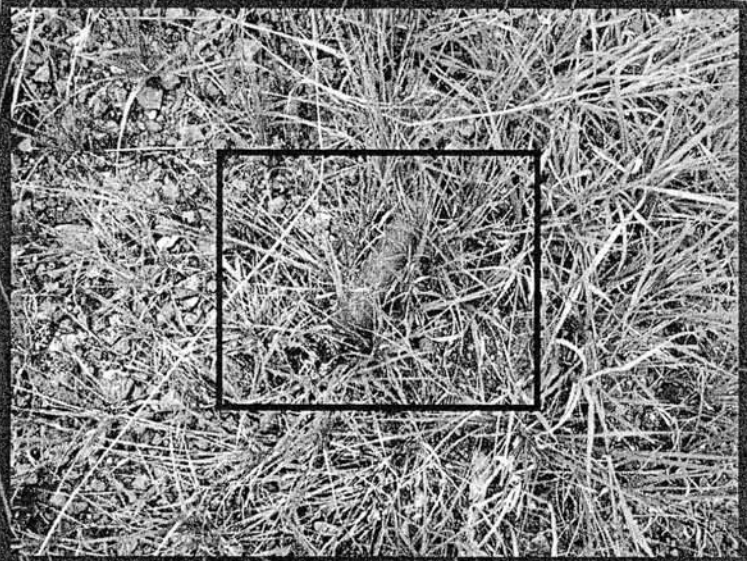
OP-1 Operations Area (cont.)

- *Items were well hidden, invisible to the naked eye*
- *If geophysics (pinflags) had been employed time would have been drastically reduced*





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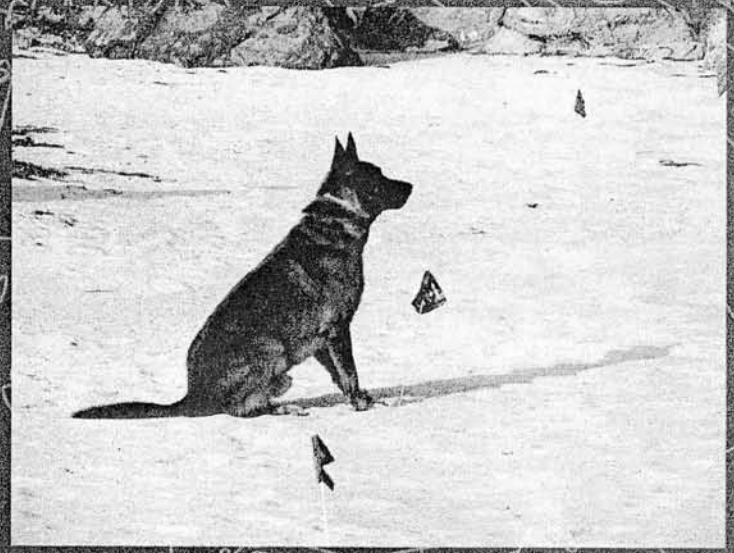
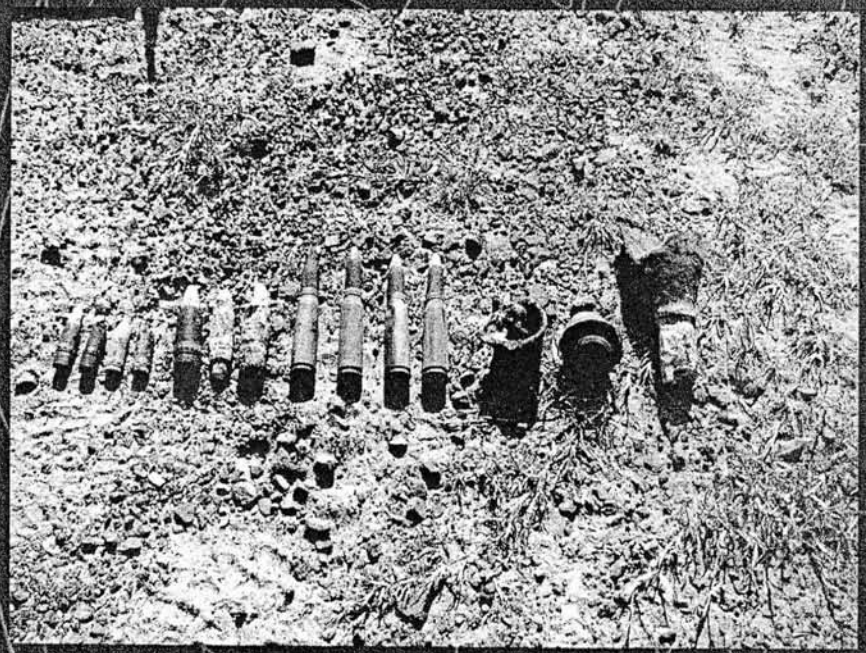
North Beach Operating Area

- Beach area and Transects
- Surface and near Surface
- A Variety of Ordnance





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North Beach Op Area (cont.)

- Multiple 10 item scenarios
- Two positives (energetic UXO items)
- Four inert (training) UXO items
- Four blank flags

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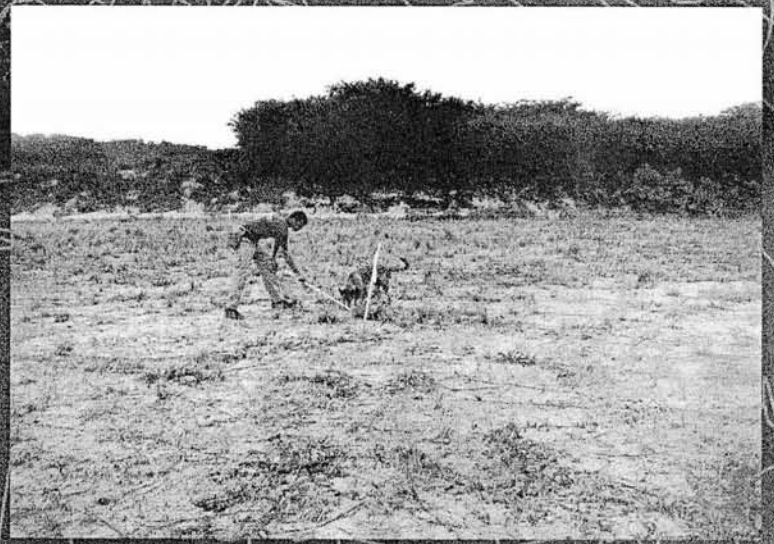
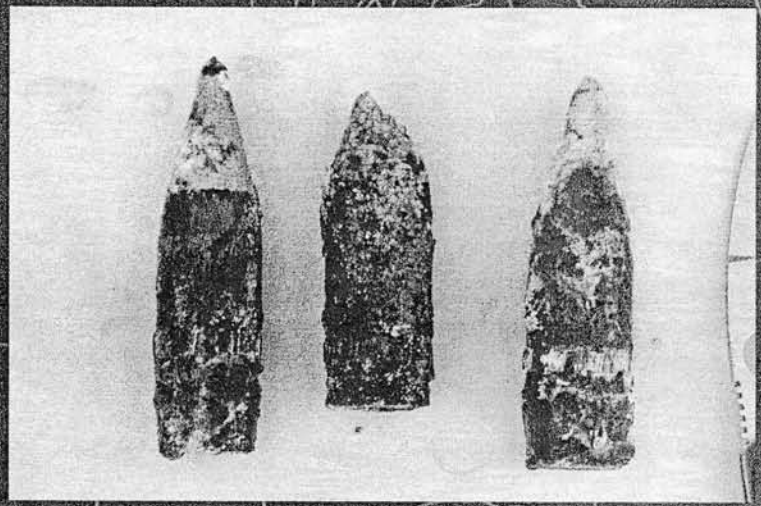
QA Grid Operations Area

- All intrusively investigated
- One 5.56 (live)
- Three 20MM
- Remainder frag





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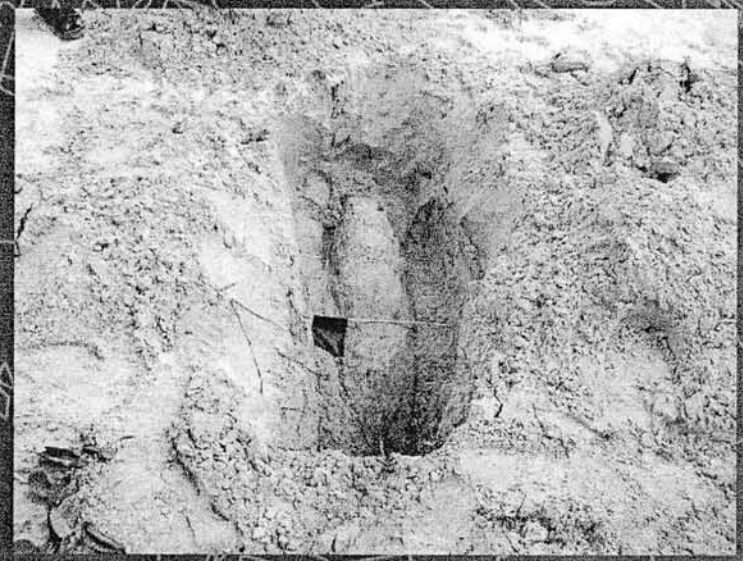
South Beach Operations Area

- *10 anomalies selected from data provided*
- *One alert*
- *All intrusively investigated*



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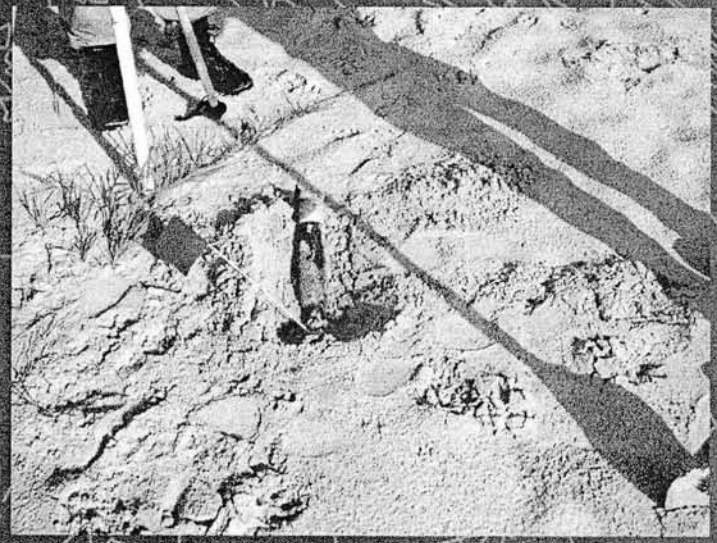
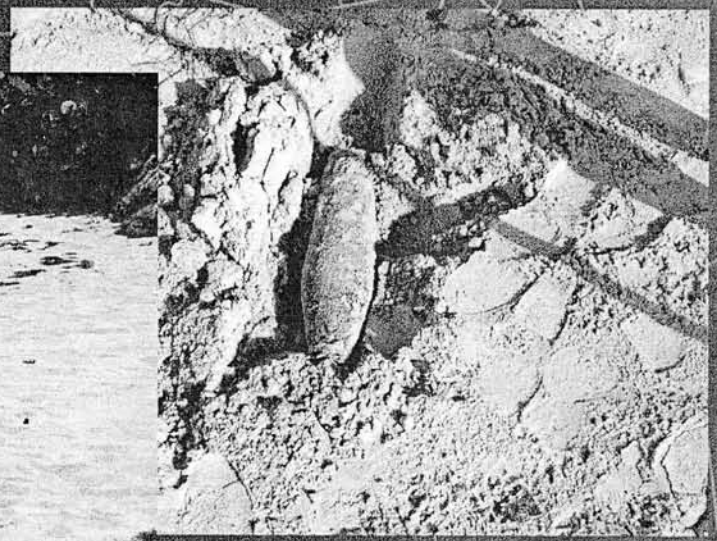
5 Inch 54 Comp B Test

- MECDD's had no prior Comp B exposure
- Small amount collected and placed in sample jar
- Item buried (Wednesday)
- Both dogs alerted (positive) on Monday





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Conclusions

- *With proper training MECDD's are capable of detecting surface and subsurface UXO/MEC items*
- *Ignore scrap and frag*
- *While heat is a limiting factor, production is not hampered*
- *MECDD teams and supporting systems will validate traditional geophysical data for defensible land transfer*

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Applications

- *Wide Area Assessment, Footprint Reduction*
- *Beach clearance and transfer*
- *QA production grids*
- *Screen scrap prior to transfer*

RONCO

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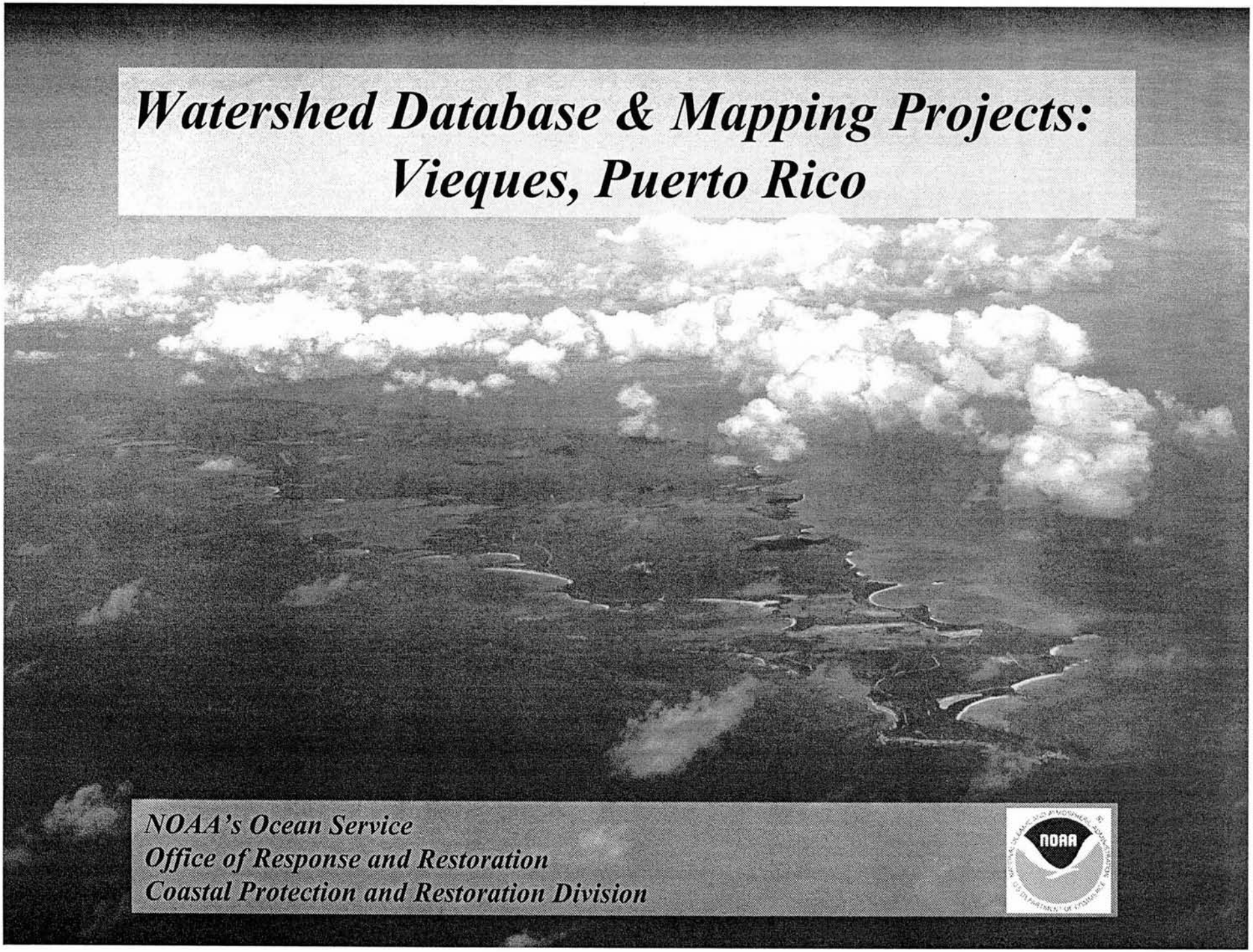
Mike Green 540.372.6414 mgreen@roncowash.com

Watershed Database & Mapping Projects: Vieques, Puerto Rico



NOAA's Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
Coastal Protection and Restoration Division

NOAA's Trustee Role

. . . acts on behalf of the ***Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee*** for living and non-living natural resources in coastal and marine areas.

Natural resources of concern to NOAA include:

- all life stages of coastal fishery resources; migratory fish species throughout their ranges; and rivers, lakes and streams which historically or presently support these species
- federally endangered and threatened species, including critical habitat, and marine mammals, under NOAA's responsibility
- tidal wetlands, salt marshes, estuaries, and other important supporting habitat
- all resources of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Reserves.

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Objectives for Protection and Restoration of NOAA Trust Resources

- ***Program Goals*** are based on mandated link to releases of hazardous substances (*site driven*)
  - Reducing loading of contaminants to coastal waters
  - Protecting sensitive species from contaminant effects
  - Protecting and restoring the function of sensitive habitats such as wetlands
  - Re-opening fisheries closed to public use because of contamination
  - Allowing full use of port areas where dredging or development may be affected by the presence of contaminated sediments

CPRD Watershed Database & Mapping Projects

- What is a Watershed Project:
  - a collection of data, information and tools to facilitate the exploration of environmental conditions
  - a user friendly environment to help a broad range of users to formulate and ask better questions

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CPRD Watershed Database & Mapping Projects

- Watershed Project objectives:
  - Provide data and tools to users in an easy to use package
  - Integrate *site specific* and *watershed wide* data to protect and restore trust resources
  - Support coordination with external Partners
  - Encourage data sharing

noaa

CPRD Watershed Database & Mapping Projects

- Watershed Project development:
  - Build and distribute standardized GIS projects with our partners
  - Provide multiple technology options for users
    - Simple, cost effective, portable – Query Manager (QM)/Marplot
    - Easy to use, online - QM/ArcIMS
    - Full function, desktop GIS spatial analysis - QM/ArcView - ArcMAP

noaa

CPRD Watershed Database & Mapping Projects

Provide Decision Support Tools for:

- Assessment
  - Site discovery/ characterization
- Remediation
  - Extent/ magnitude of contamination
  - Source identification
- Restoration
  - Habitat/.site identification

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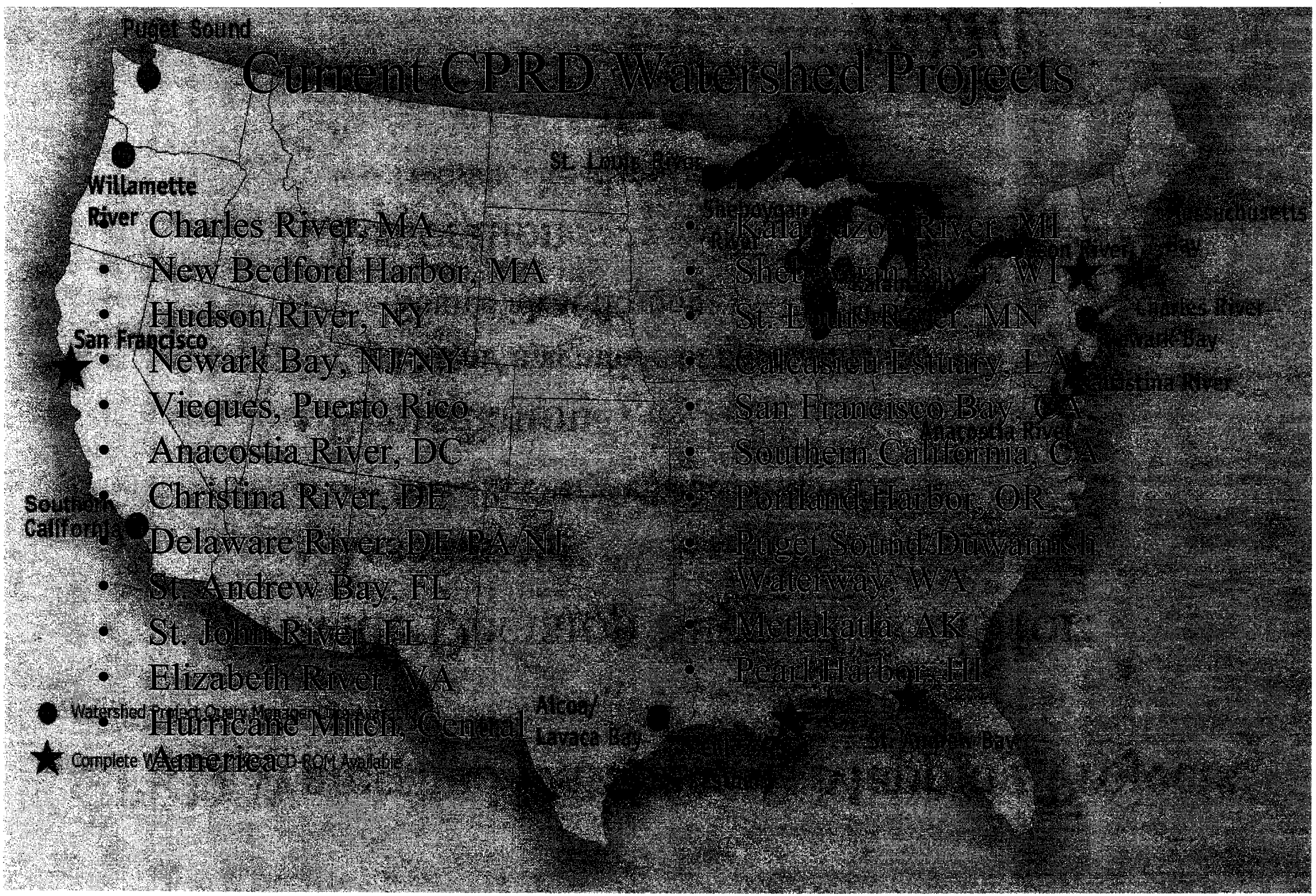
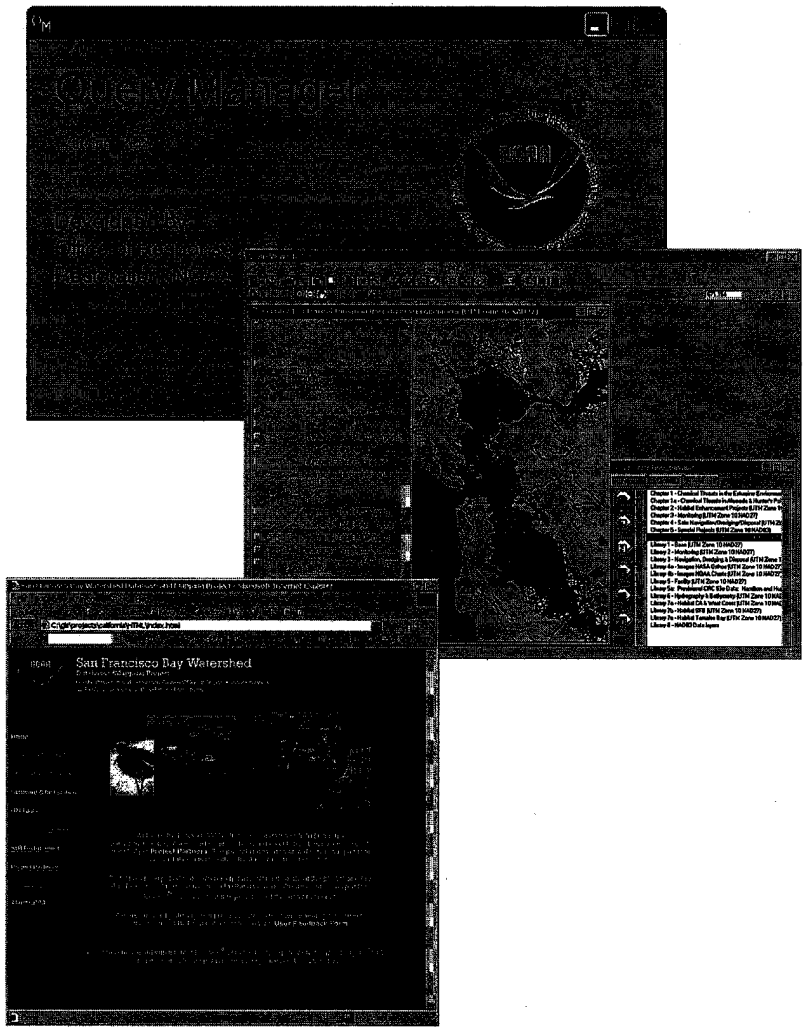


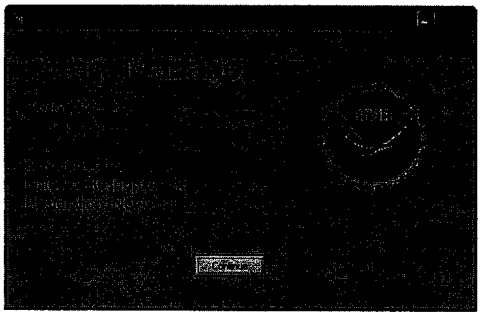
Current CPRD Watershed Projects

- Charles River, MA
- New Bedford Harbor, MA
- Hudson River, NY
- Newark Bay, NJ/NY
- Vieques, Puerto Rico
- Anacostia River, DC
- Christina River, DE
- Delaware River, DE/PA/NJ
- St. Andrew Bay, FL
- St. Johns River, FL
- Elizabeth River, VA
- Hurricane Mitch, Central America
- Kalamazoo River, MI
- Sheboygan River, WI
- St. Louis River, MN
- Calcasieu Estuary, LA
- San Francisco Bay, CA
- Southern California, CA
- Portland Harbor, OR
- Puget Sound/Duwamish Waterway, WA
- Metlakatla, AK
- Pearl Harbor, HI

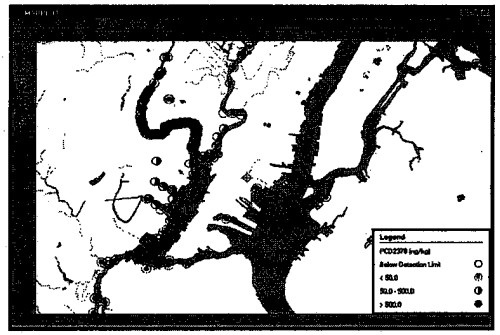
Major Components of CPRD Watershed Projects

- Query Manager database-mapping application
- ArcView Watershed GIS Project and Custom Tools
  (includes ArcView 3.x/9.x, ArcGIS & ArcIMS)
- Watershed Project Webguide





Query Manager 2.54



- Query Manager Database-Mapping application
  - Self-contained run-time application (free, no additional software required)
  - Standardized watershed databases include studies from a variety of sources
  - Menu of standard flexible queries for evaluation of sediment (surface and subsurface) chemistry, tissue chemistry, and sediment toxicity
  - Effect models: dioxin toxic equivalency (TEQ), PAH toxic unit, logistic regression model probability of toxicity
  - Application and Databases Downloadable from CPRD web site: http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/cpr/watershed.html

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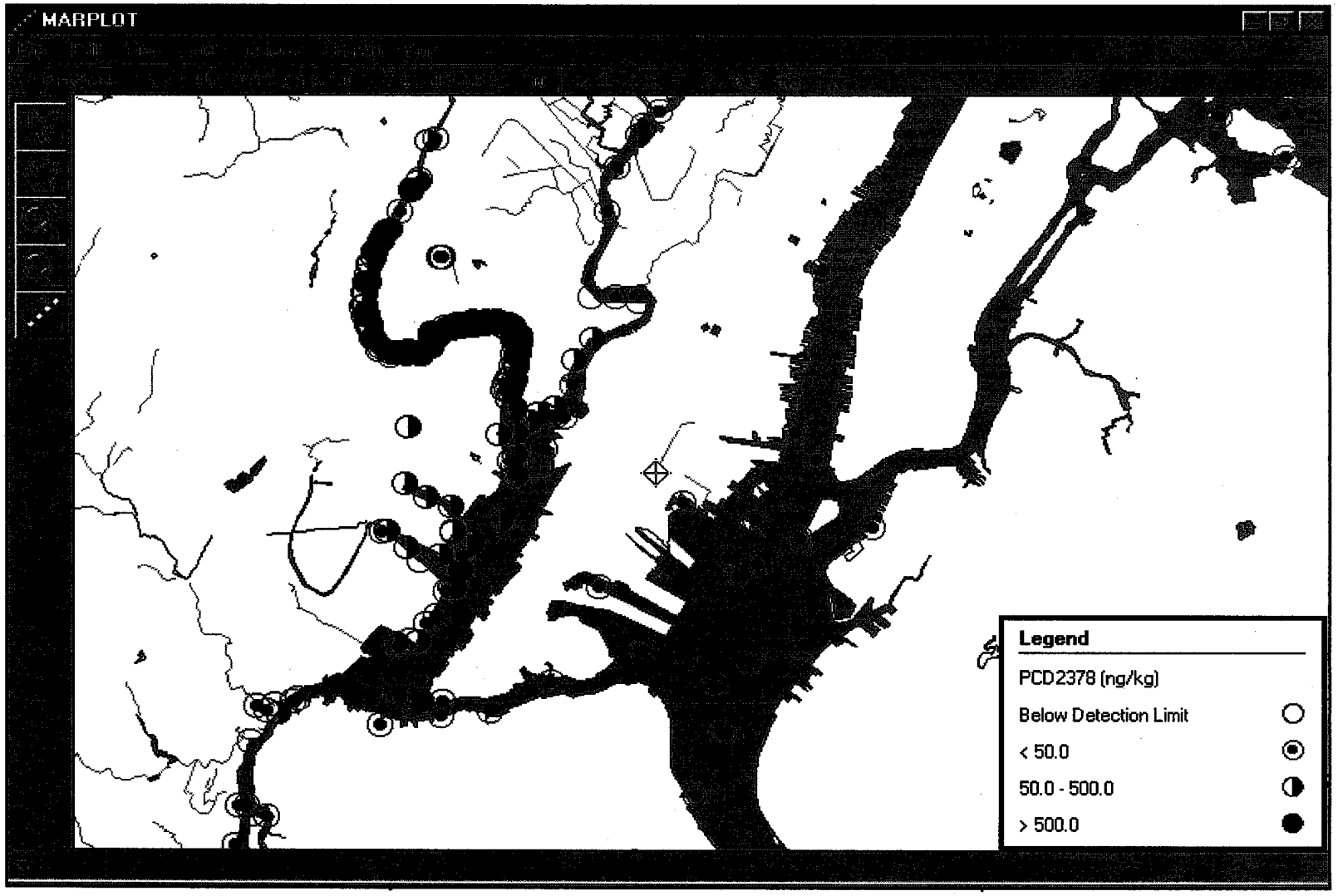
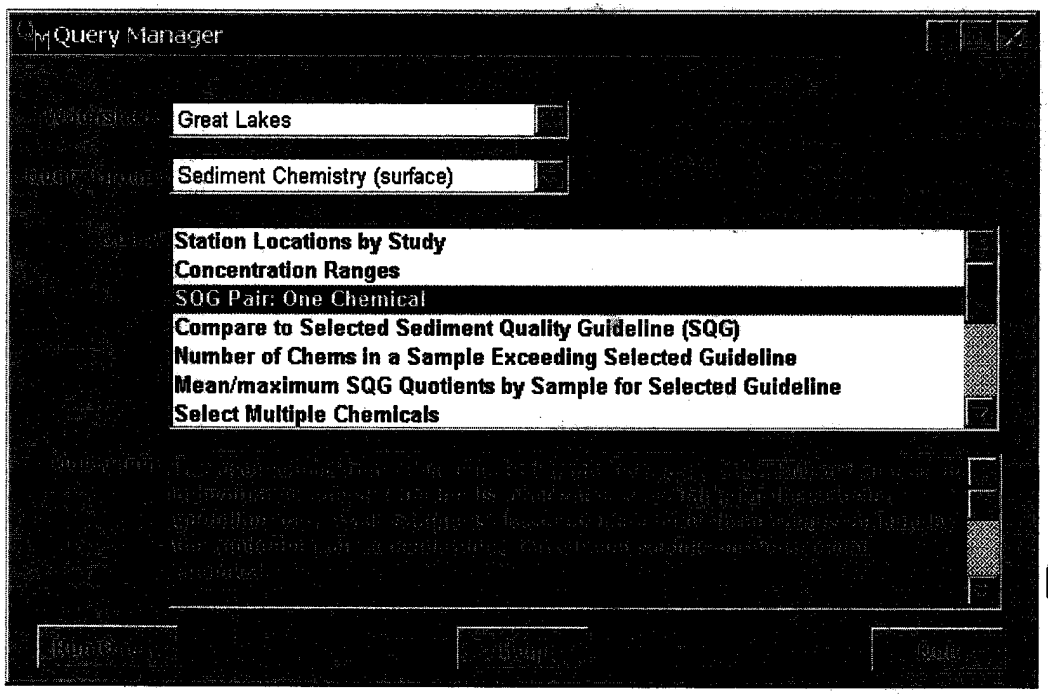
Data exploration –

Contaminant concentration: Dioxin in surface sediments



Data screening –
QM Sediment Quality Guidelines



- Over 30 individual guidelines supported
- 10 paired guidelines supported

Select a Sediment Quality Guideline pair:

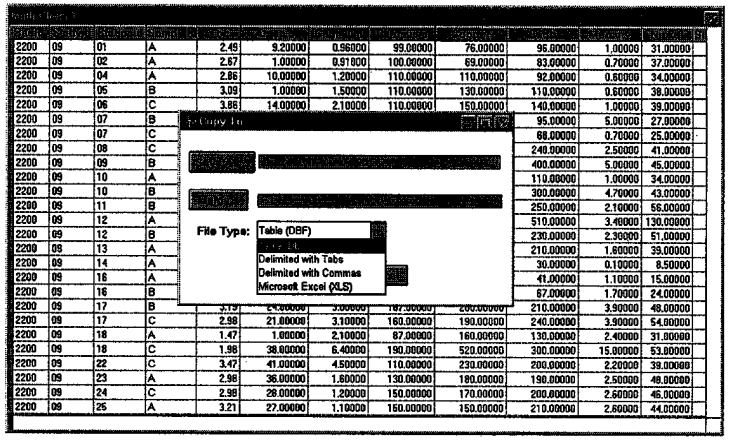
Pair name	Low	High
EPA Human Health Cancer Risk	CR_10E-5	CR_10E-4
EPA Human Health Non-Cancer Risk	EPANCHQ_1	EPANCHQ_10
Effect Level, Freshwater (TEL/PEL)	TELFW	PELFW
Effect Level, Marine (TEL/PEL)	TELSW	PELSW
Effects Range (ERL,ERM)	ERL93	ERM93
Equilibrium Sediment Benchmarks (ESB)	ESB_SCV	ESB_SAV
Freshwater Consensus Effect Concentrations	FWCONTEC	FWCONPEC
Sediment Effect Concentrations: Great Lakes	TEL_GL	PEL_GL
Washington AETs 1988 (LAET/HAET)	LAET88	HAET88
Washington Sediment Management Standards (SMS)	WA_SQS95	WA_CSL95

Data export – QM Tools

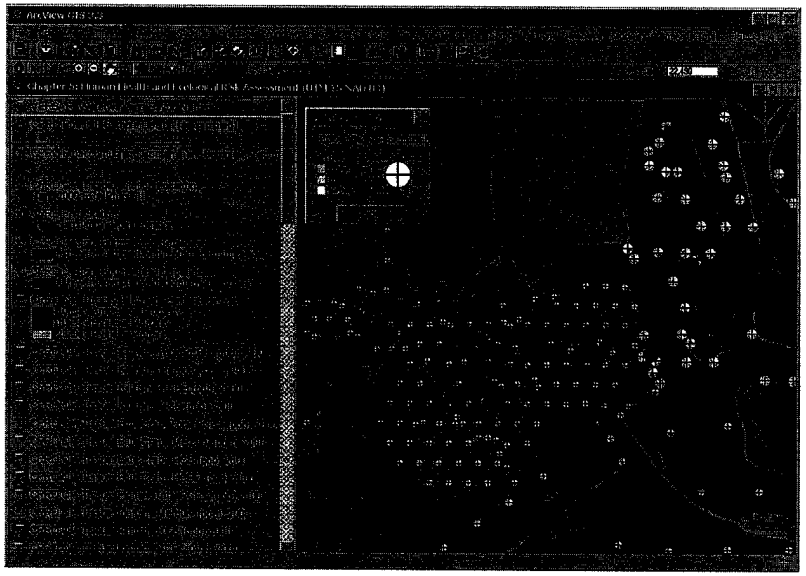
Extract data for

- ArcView
- Graphics
- Statistical analysis

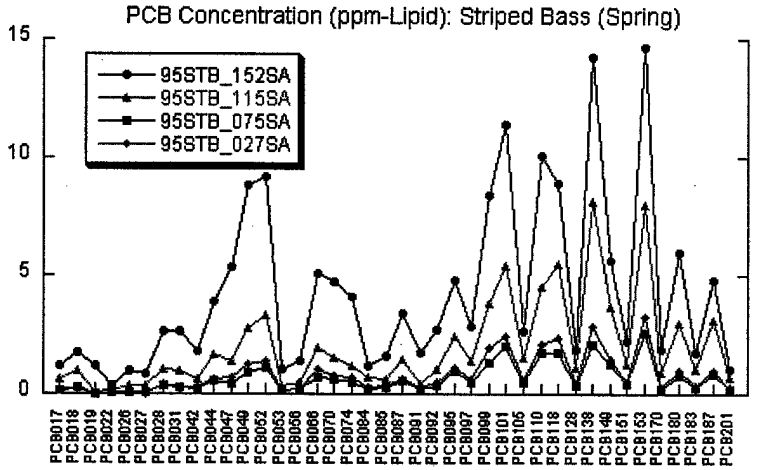
Output Data Table



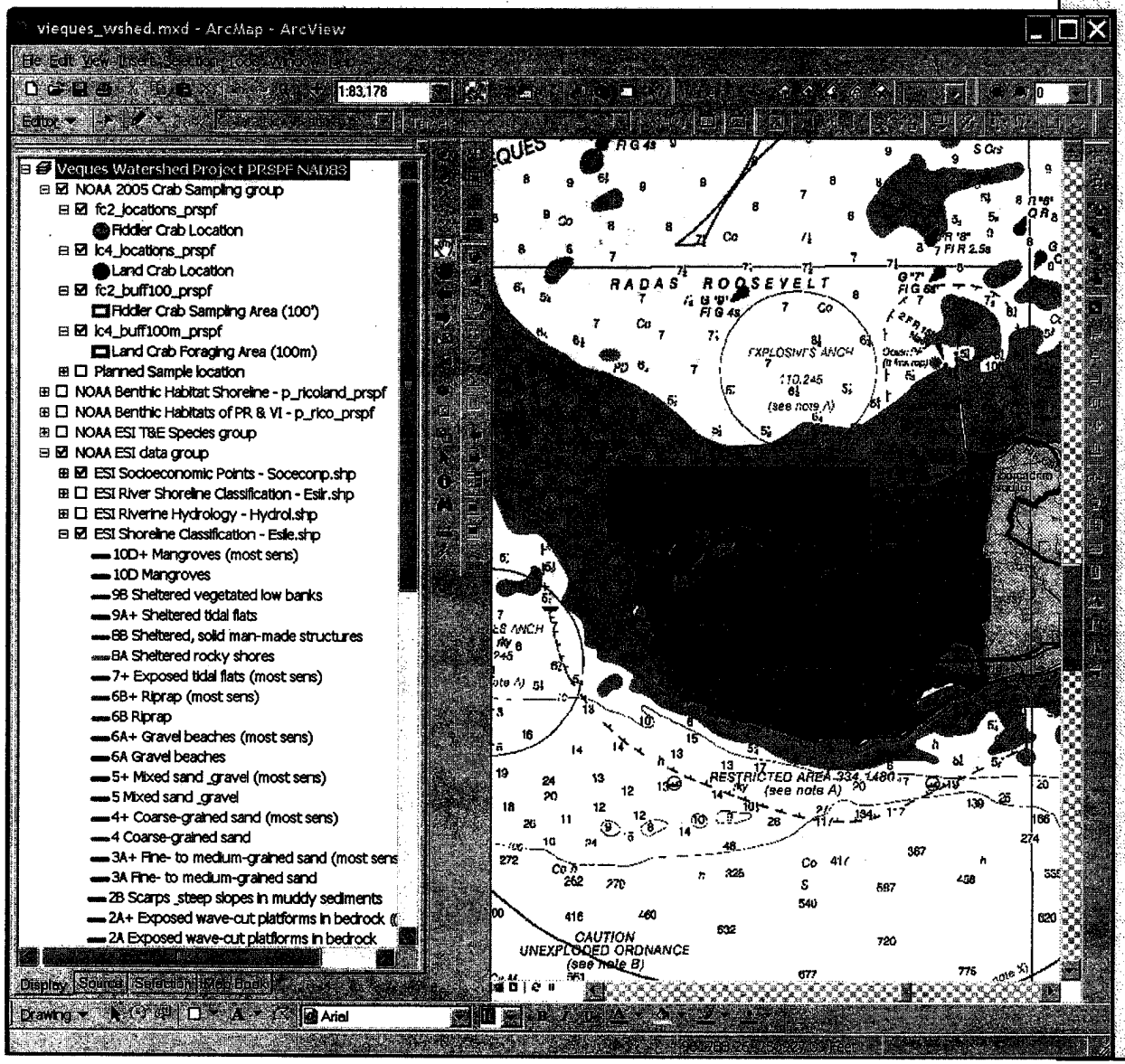
ArcView/ArcMAP



Graphics



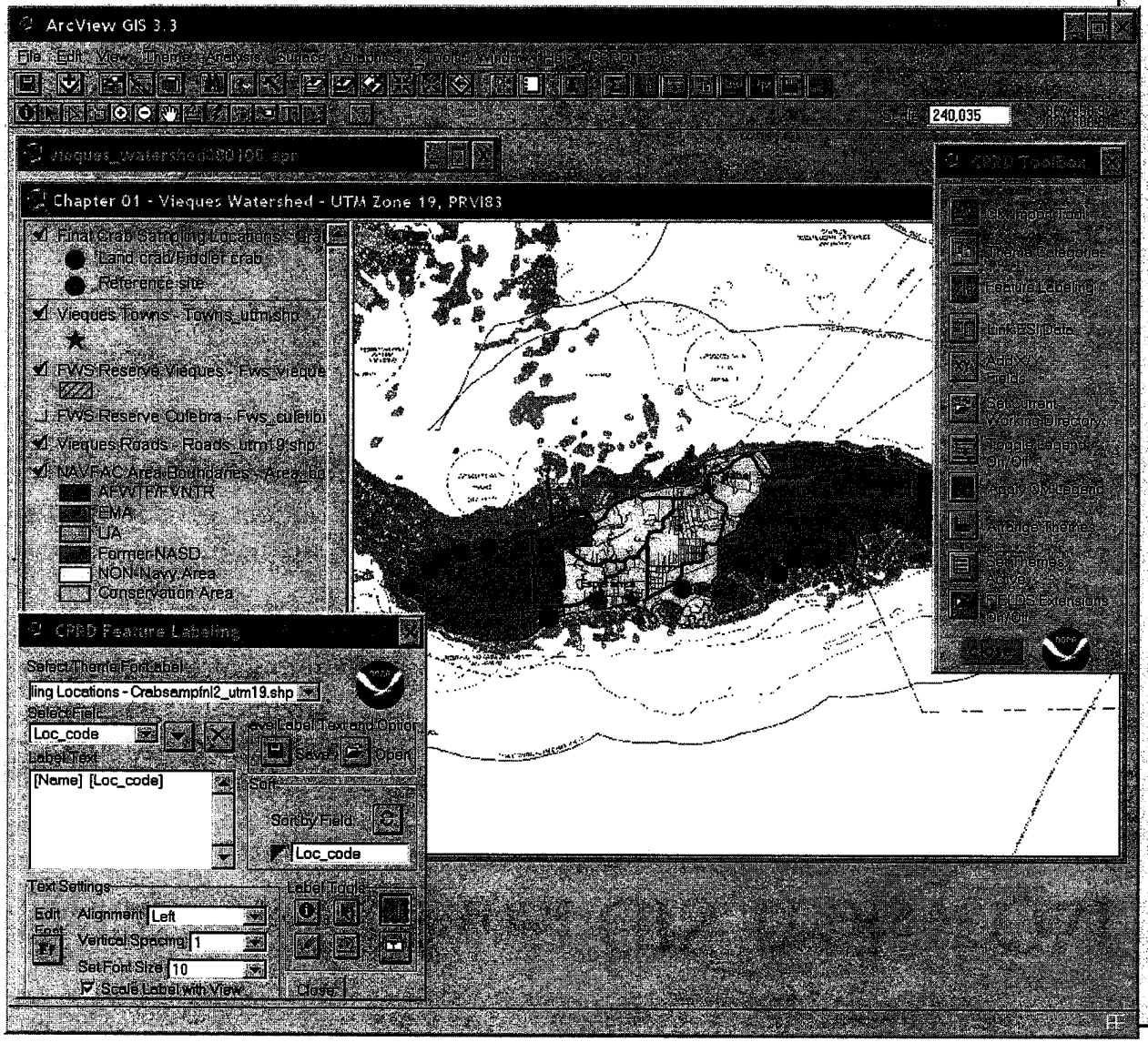
CPRD ArcView Watershed GIS Project



Standard Project Layers

- NOS program data
  - Digital raster navigation charts (1:10K – 1:500K)
  - Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC)
  - Shoreline (1:20K – 1:70K)
  - HAZMAT ESI
- FWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
  - Older, 1:24K dataset
- EPA BASINS data
  - EPA Regulated facilities
  - USGS Hydrology, historic landuse, gage stations
  - other basic features
- Project specific datasets (Federal, state, municipal, NGO)
  - Contaminant data
  - Habitat/Species
  - Aerial photography

CPRD ArcView Watershed GIS Project

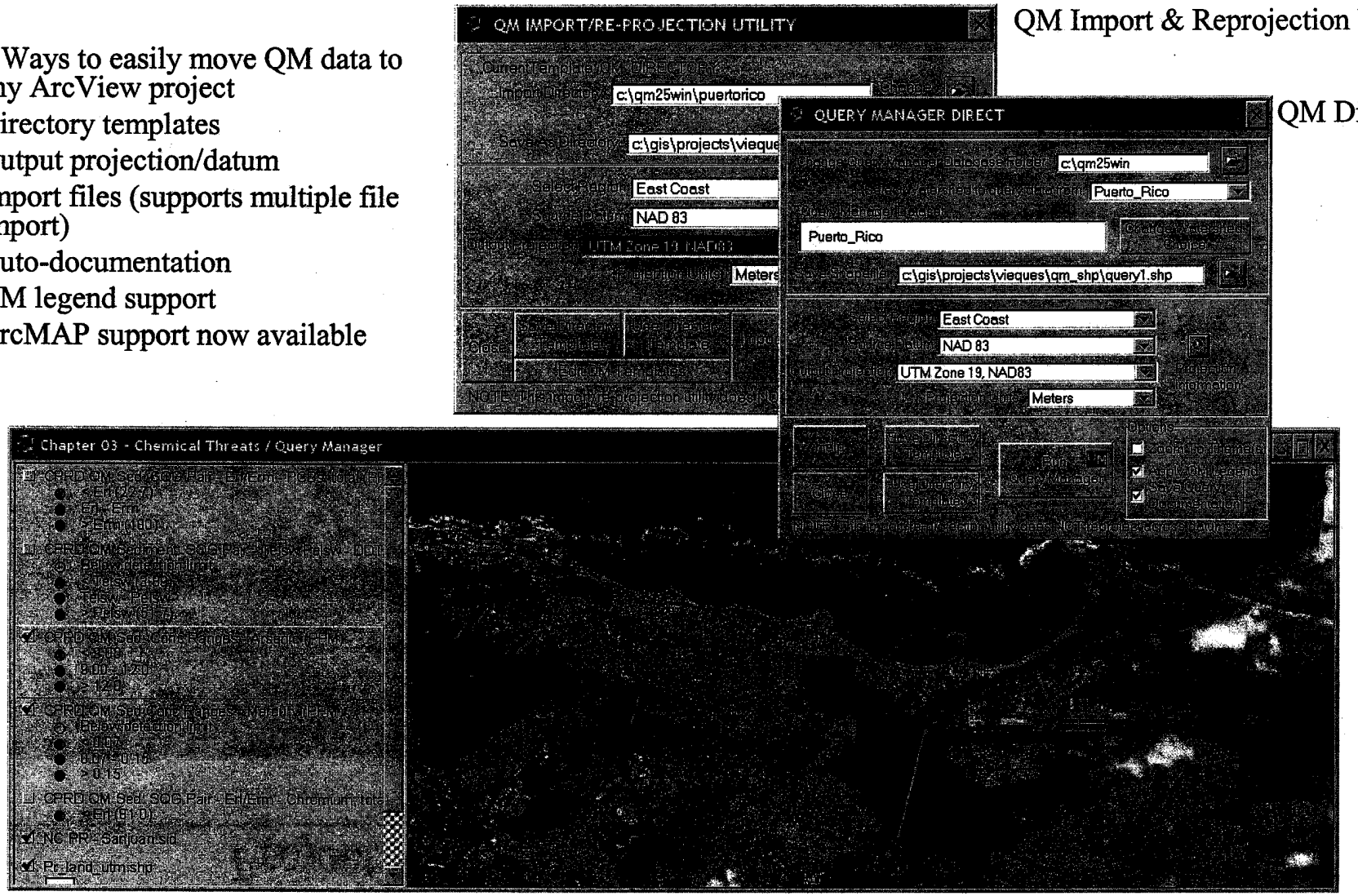


Watershed Project Custom Tools

- Query Manager Import & Reprojection
  - Data import
  - Shapefile Generation
  - Documentation
- Custom Feature Labeling
- ESI Tools
- Advanced analytical tools
  - Remedial Design
  - Ecological Risk
- Common tasks
- Integrated HTML webguide
  - Programmatic data & purpose
  - Query Manager
  - ArcView/ArcMAP
  - Custom Tools
  - Installation
- Tool update for ArcMAP

Custom GIS Tools – QM Import

- 3 Ways to easily move QM data to any ArcView project
- Directory templates
- Output projection/datum
- Import files (supports multiple file import)
- Auto-documentation
- QM legend support
- ArcMAP support now available



QM Import & Reprojection Utility

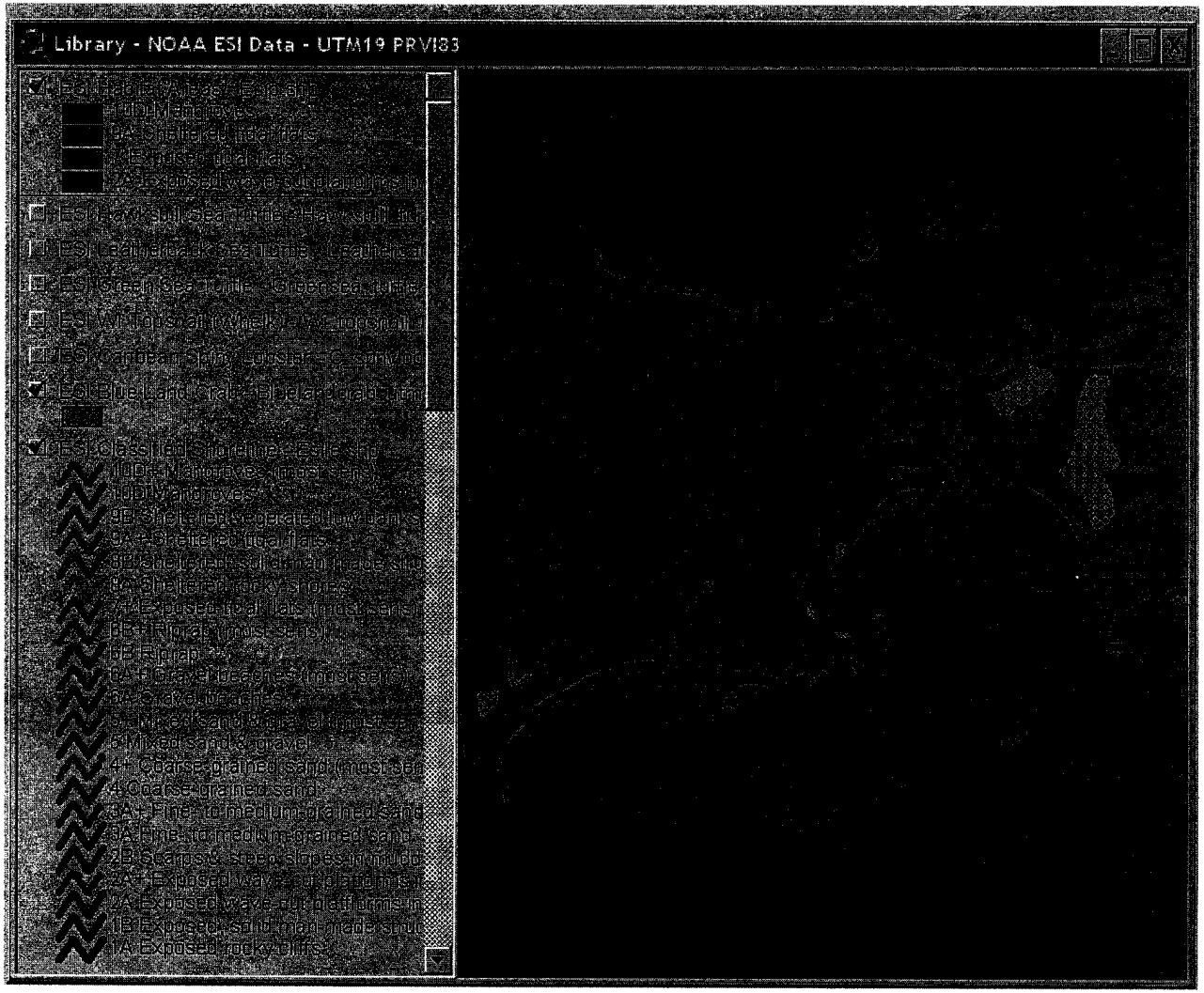
QM Direct

*Currently only USGS 1990-98 study available from National Sediment Inventory, but more to come…

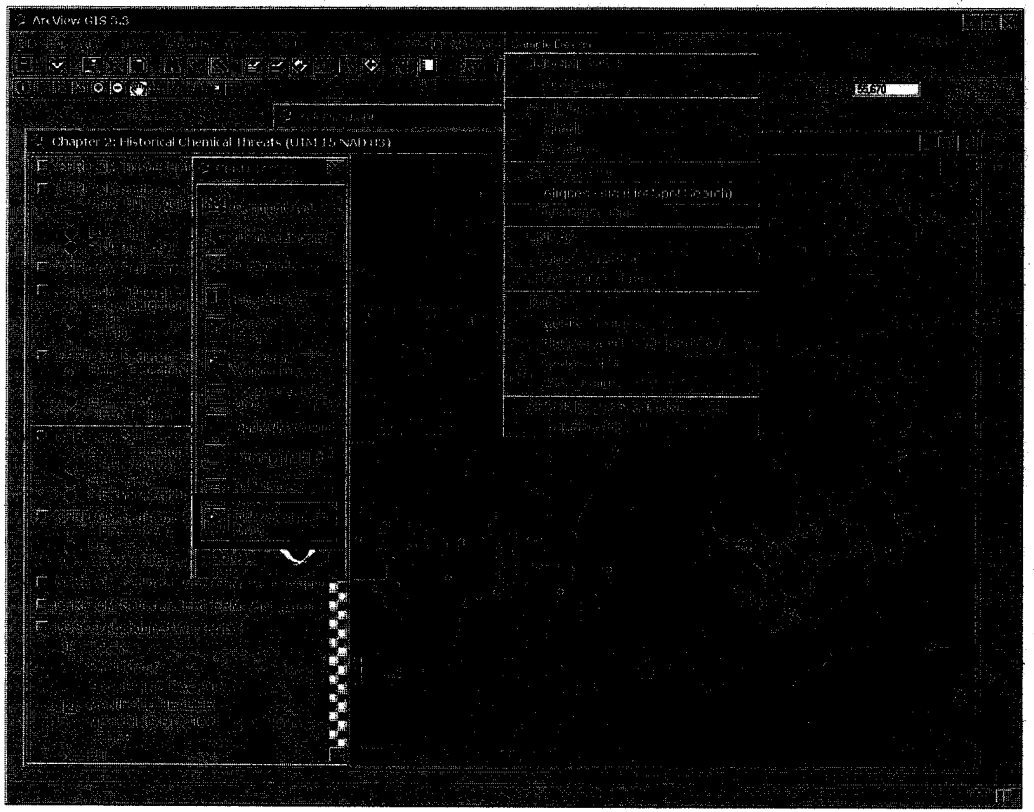
Custom GIS Tools –
Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) data

ESI data provide information on living resources and potential sensitivity to an oil spill

- Shoreline Ranking
  - Classified Shoreline
  - Sensitivity to oiling
- Biological Resources
  - Birds, fish, marine/terrestrial mammals & reptiles
- Human-use Resources
  - Marinas, port facilities, significant socioeconomic features



Custom GIS Tools – Sample Design



The U.S. EPA FIELDS Sampling Design Tools

- easier to create and implement several types of sampling plans
- Summary Statistics

Supported Sample Designs are:

1. Judgmental
2. Random
3. Systematic (Gridded)
4. Linear (River System)

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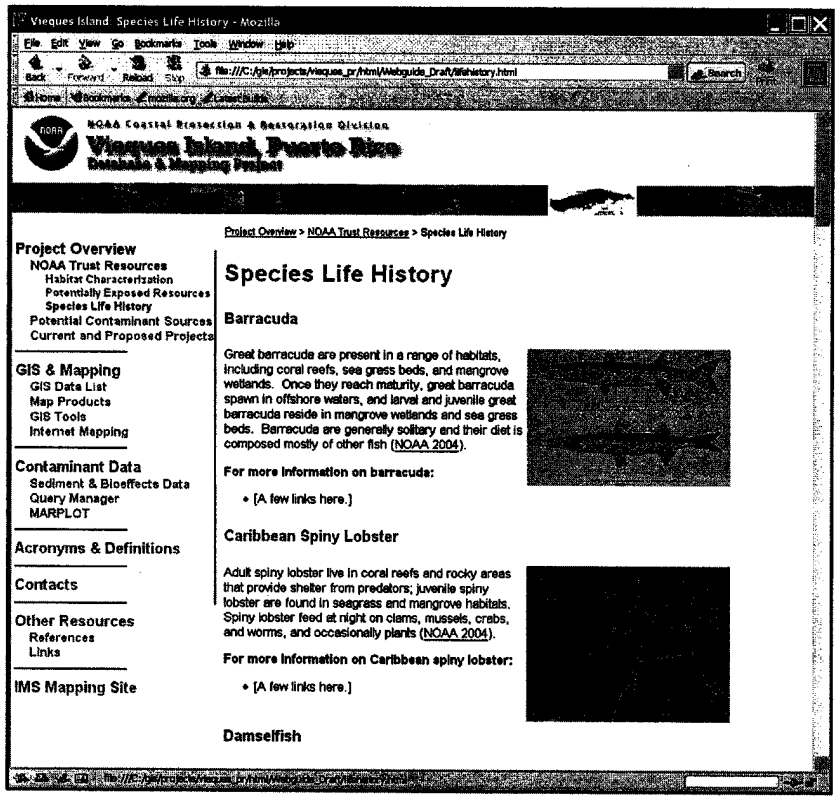
Watershed Project Webguide

- HTML Project webguide for CD-ROM and online distribution



- Project History, NOAA's role
- Environmental setting/resources
- GIS project metadata/map products
- Application guide/help
- Integrated support to ArcView Project
- Significant Outreach Tool

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • National Ocean Service • Office of Response and Restoration

Vieques Watershed Database & Mapping Project
Current Resources

- NOAA
  - NCCOS/CSC Benthic Habitats of Puerto Rico & the Virgin Islands
  - ORR/Hazmat Environmental Sensitivity Index data
    - (queriable species/habitat, classified shoreline, selected T&E, PDF maps)
  - OCS ENC & Digital Raster Charts
  - ORR/CPRD Query Manager Application and GIS Tools
- NAVFAC (Navy & CH2MHILL)
  - Boundaries (Facilities, AOC/SWMU, barrios, airports)
  - Physiographic features (contours, shoreline, hydrology)
  - Habitat Features (Mangrove, marsh, seagrass, coral)
  - Rectified Aerial Photography ('36/37, '59, '62, '64, '67, '70, '84 '94, '99)
- FWS
  - Conservation Area Boundaries
- USGS
  - Mainland PR Rectified Aerial Photography (2003)

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Vieques Watershed Database & Mapping Project
Puerto Rico ESI – T&E Species data

- Crustacean
  - Blue Land Crab
  - Purple, Blackback, Freshwater
  - WI Topsnail (whelk)
- Marine Mammals
  - Humpback Whale
  - Sperm Whale
  - WI Manatee
- Turtles
  - Hawksbill
  - Green Sea
  - Leatherback
- Birds
  - Brown Pelican
  - Peregrine Falcon
  - PR Broad Winged Hawk
  - PR Sharp Shinned Hawk
  - PR Nightjar
  - PR Parrot
  - PR Plain Pigeon
  - Yellow Shouldered Blackbird
- Habitat
  - Coral
  - SAV

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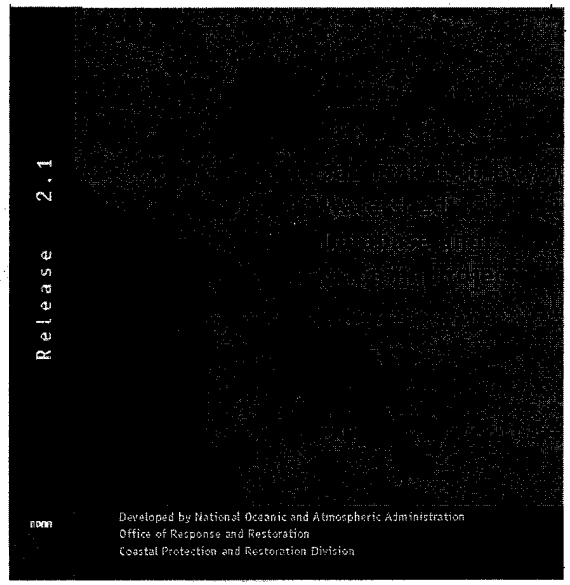
Vieques Watershed Database & Mapping Project Information

- What can we do with the Watershed Project?
  - Resource and data ***visualization***
  - Sample design/ Remedial design & Restoration
  - Use existing data and new data collection efforts to assess resources such as the ***health and safety of Vieques crab fishery***
  - ***Deliver*** maps, data and analysis via ArcIMS browser based interactive mapping and/or project CD-ROMs
  - Support ***data sharing*** between Partners
  - Provide ***communication & outreach*** for all shareholders



What are we doing with the Vieques Watershed Database & Mapping Project?

- June 2005 - Land/Fiddler Crab sampling
  (available early 2006)
- Pilot Underwater Ordnance Identification Project
  (planned spring/summer 2006)
- Vieques Conservation & Historic Trust Outreach
  (ongoing)
- Query Manager database population
  2005 Crab study, National Sediment Inventory and other existing projects
  (under-construction pending data delivery)
- Watershed Database & Mapping Project
  (never-ending…)

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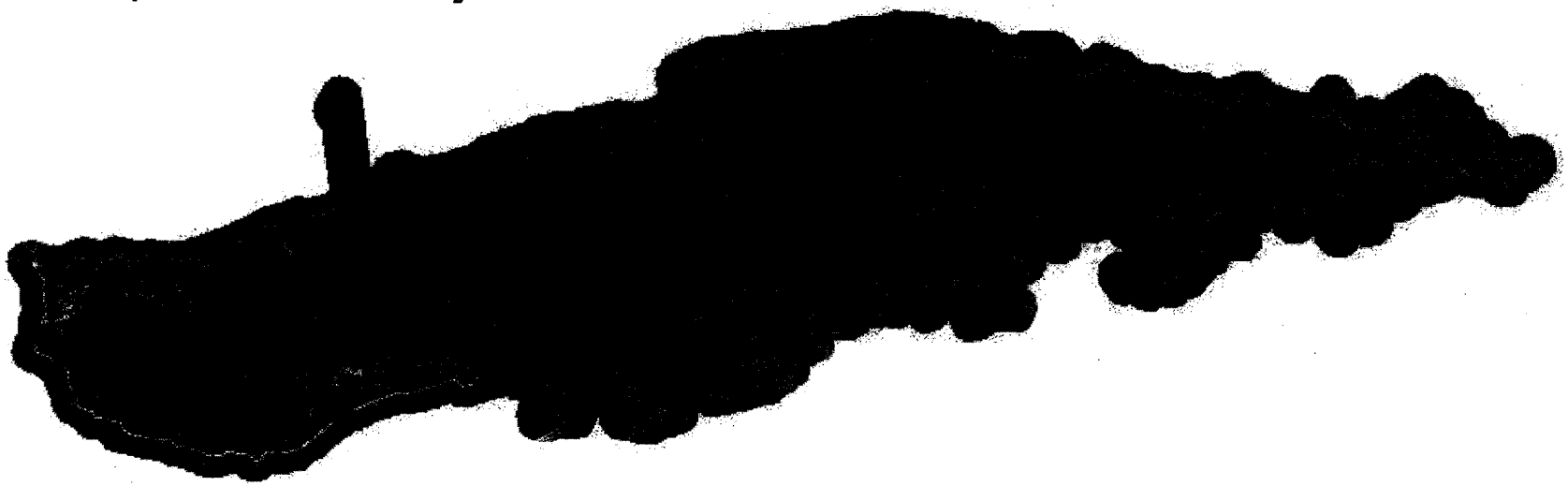
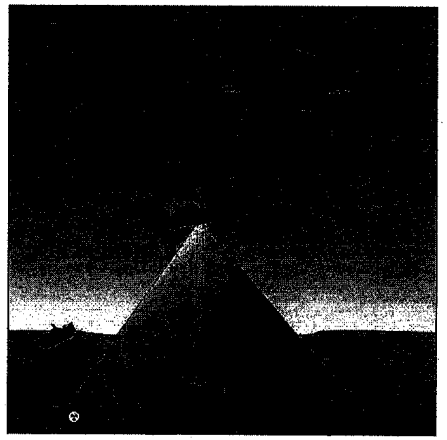
Vieques Watershed Database & Mapping Project
Current Projects

- June 2005 - Land/Fiddler Crab sampling
  - 14 Vieques Island and mainland PR sites (2 reference)
  - 6 Land crab and 3 Fiddler crab co-located samples
  - Whole body analysis for both
  - Metals, pesticides, PCBs and ordnance related compounds
  - Report available early 2006



Vieques Watershed Database & Mapping Project
Current Projects

- Underwater Ordnance Identification Pilot Project



  - Assess potential impact to trust resources from ordnance and debris around Vieques
  - Conduct a limited underwater survey to demonstrate effectiveness (side scan, multibeam, video)
  - Help guide planning and technology choices for future underwater surveys

Vieques Watershed Database & Mapping Project
Current Projects

- Vieques Conservation & Historic Trust Outreach
  - Enhance the Marine life exhibit
  - Design/implement bilingual interactive exhibit on Vieques' Bioluminescent Bays
  - Develop educational materials on Vieques' coastal resources (component to watershed webguide)

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CPRD Watershed Database-Mapping Project Summary

- Proven framework for data integration and management
- Easy-to-use and accessible tools for looking at data in a watershed context
- Specifically designed to enhance the use of data in spatial analysis
- Helps users ask better questions to support better decisions

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Air Monitoring Results

Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA)
Surface Munitions and Explosives of Concern
VNTR
November 2005

Objectives of Time-Critical Removal Action

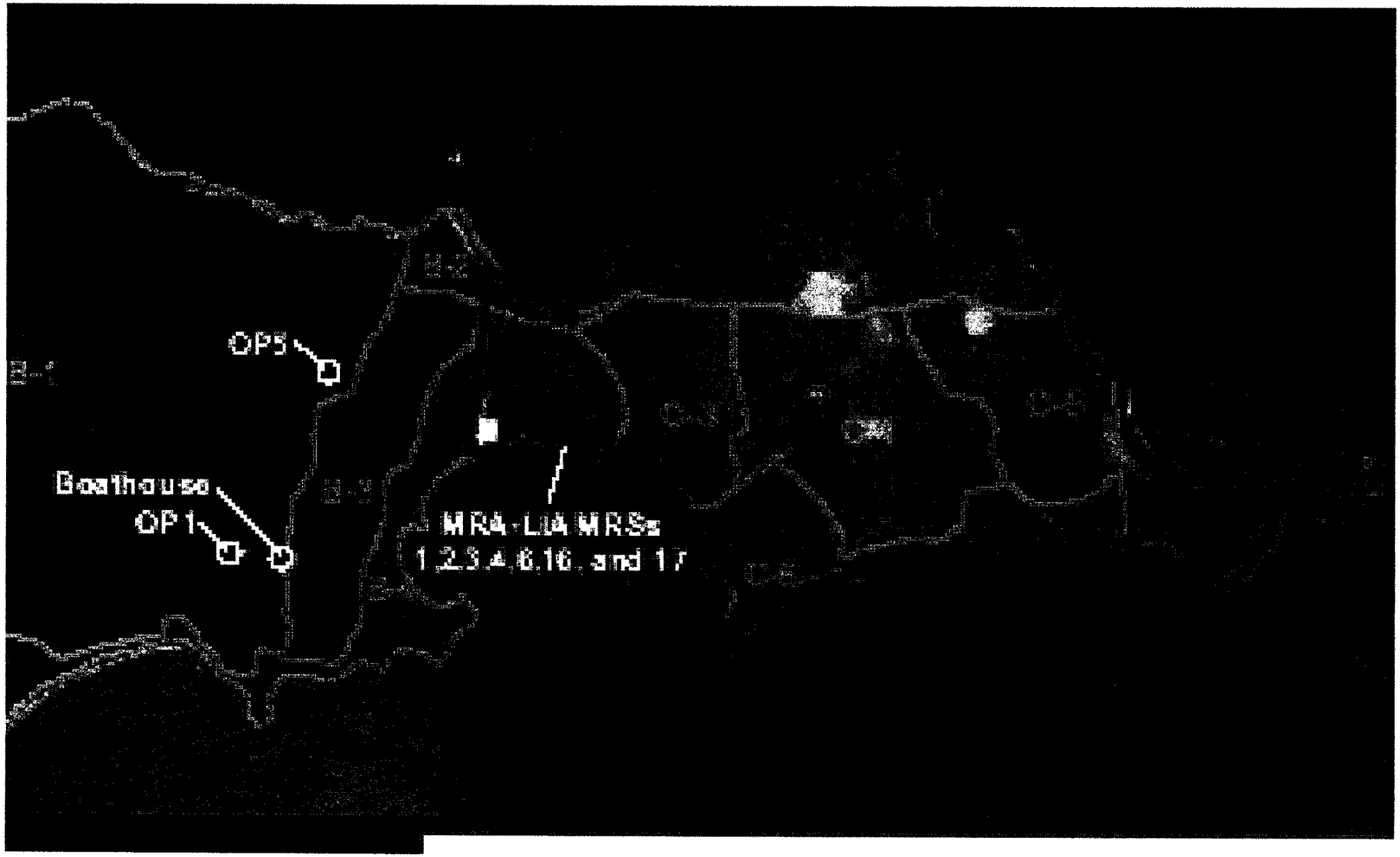
- Address areas that pose an imminent risk to human health and the environment
- Remove surface munitions for approximately 400 acres
- Identify, remove and dispose of surface munitions equal to and greater in size to a 20 mm projectile

Air Monitoring Objectives

- Document the concentrations in air offsite of constituents emitted during open detonation of munitions
  - Were they higher than National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?
  - Could they pose a threat to human health or the environment?

Monitoring Stations

- Three monitoring stations:
  - On a ridge line near the western side of Live Impact Area
  - Located where plumes from detonations would have to pass to reach populated areas
- Located within 1 mile of detonations
  - Balanced safety with a conservative assessment of air quality
  - Public is located over 4.5 miles west of the monitoring sites



A-5 Parcel Boundary and Designation

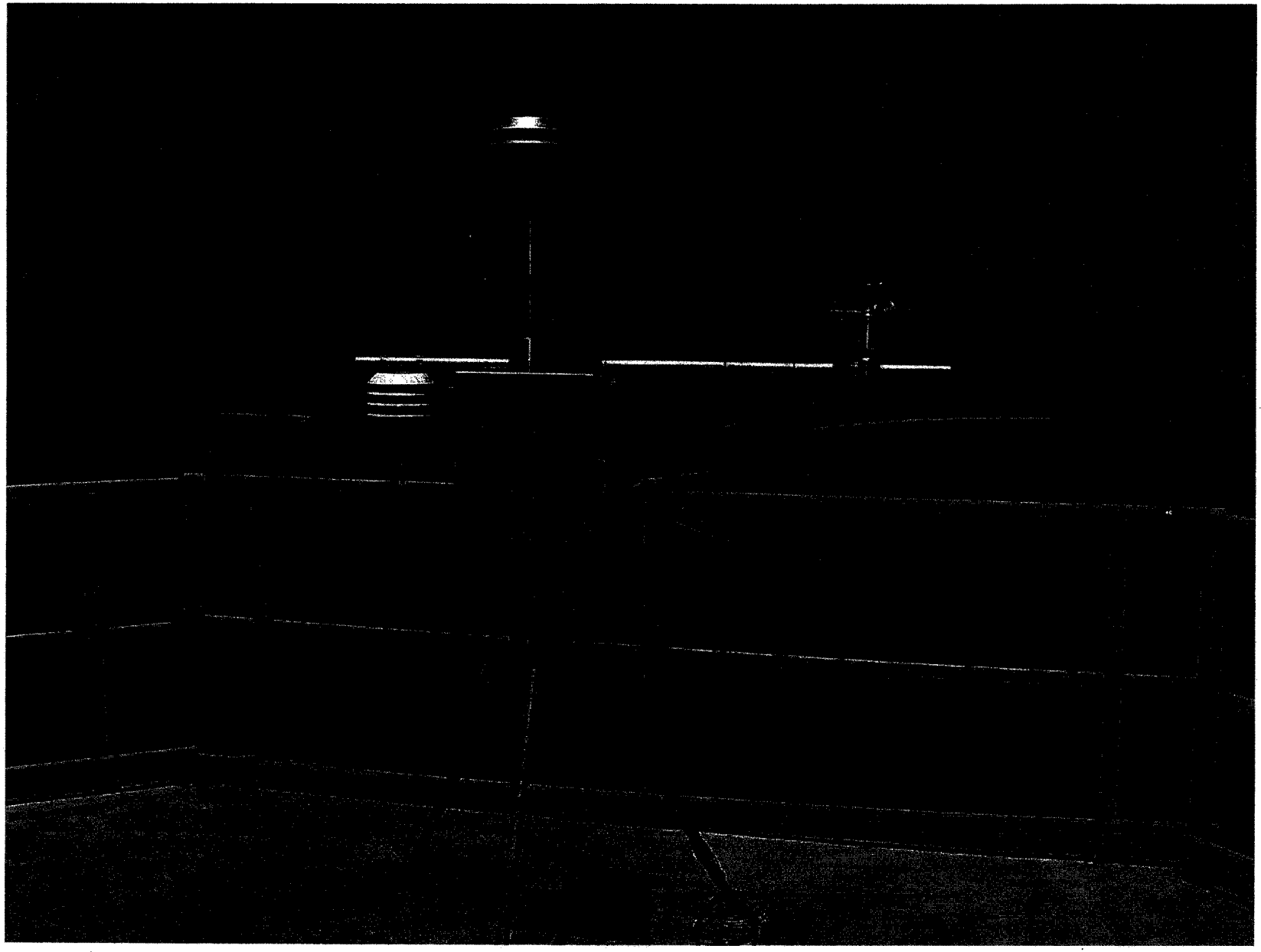
Air Monitoring Station

Monitoring Stations (continued)

- OP-1 – selected to capture potentially elevated plumes
- Boathouse and OP-5 – located on existing small structures with sampling inlets designed to capture ground-level plumes

Constituents Monitored in Air

- Metals
- Explosives constituents (organic compounds)
- Fine particulate matter (PM10)



Results

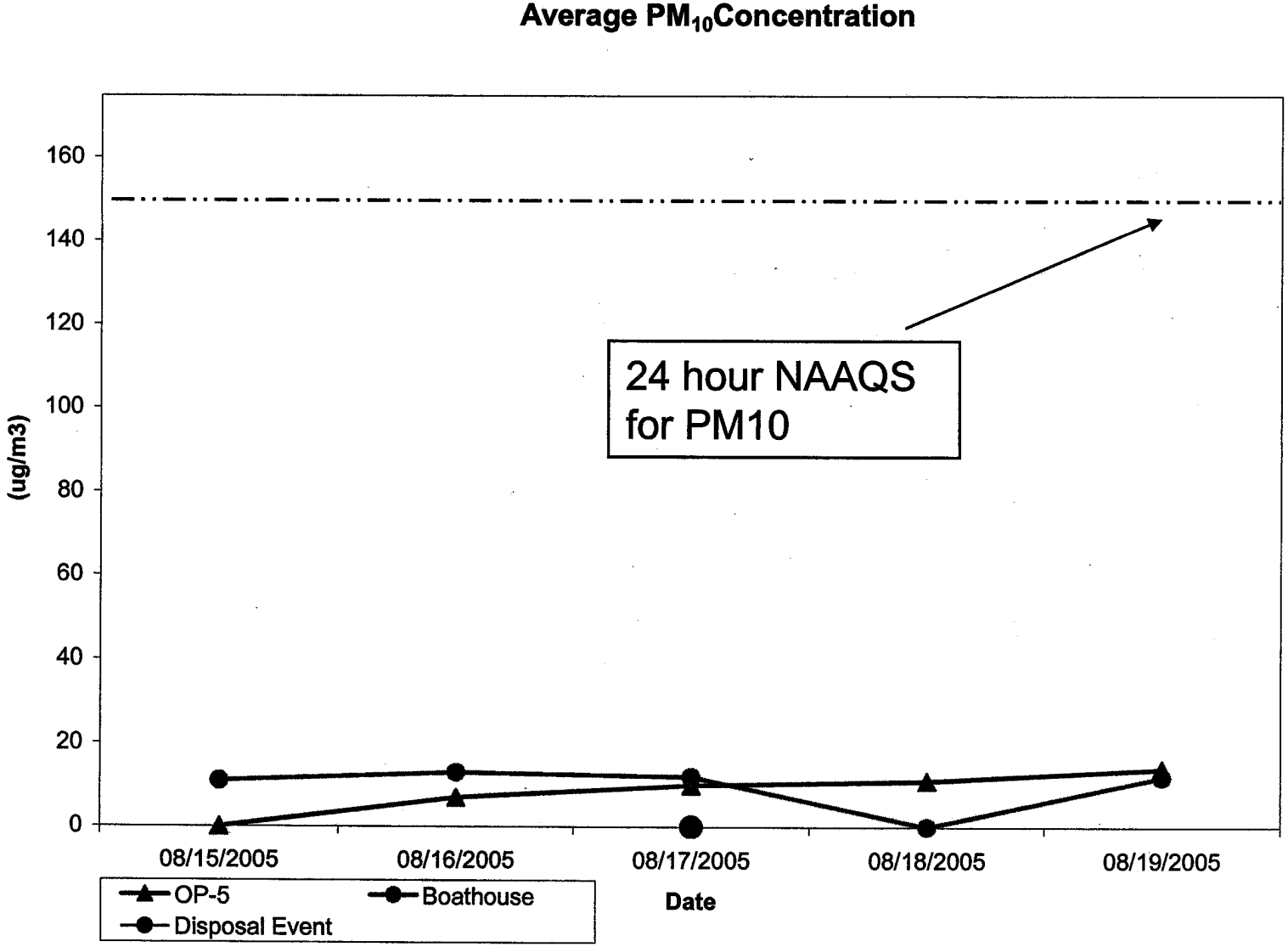
NAAQS

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- Used to evaluate particulate matter (PM10) data
- NAAQS are intended to protect the general public with a wide margin of safety

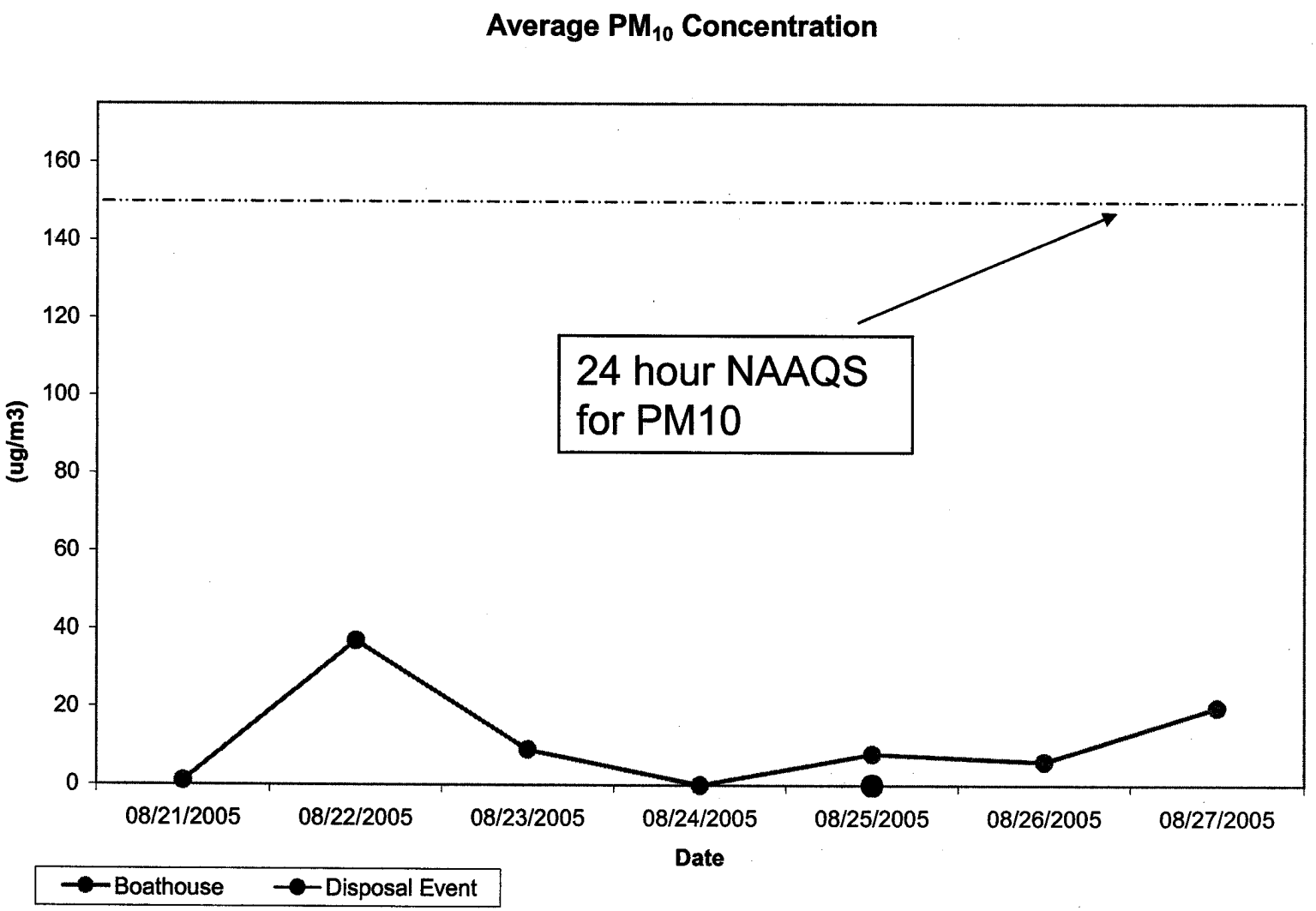
Health-Based Guidance Levels

- Calculated for the metals and explosive constituents
- Levels represent concentrations in air intended to protect human health.
  - Based on protective levels developed by federal agencies – EPA, ATSDR, DOE
- Values based on 8-hour average concentrations in air were used to evaluate monitoring results

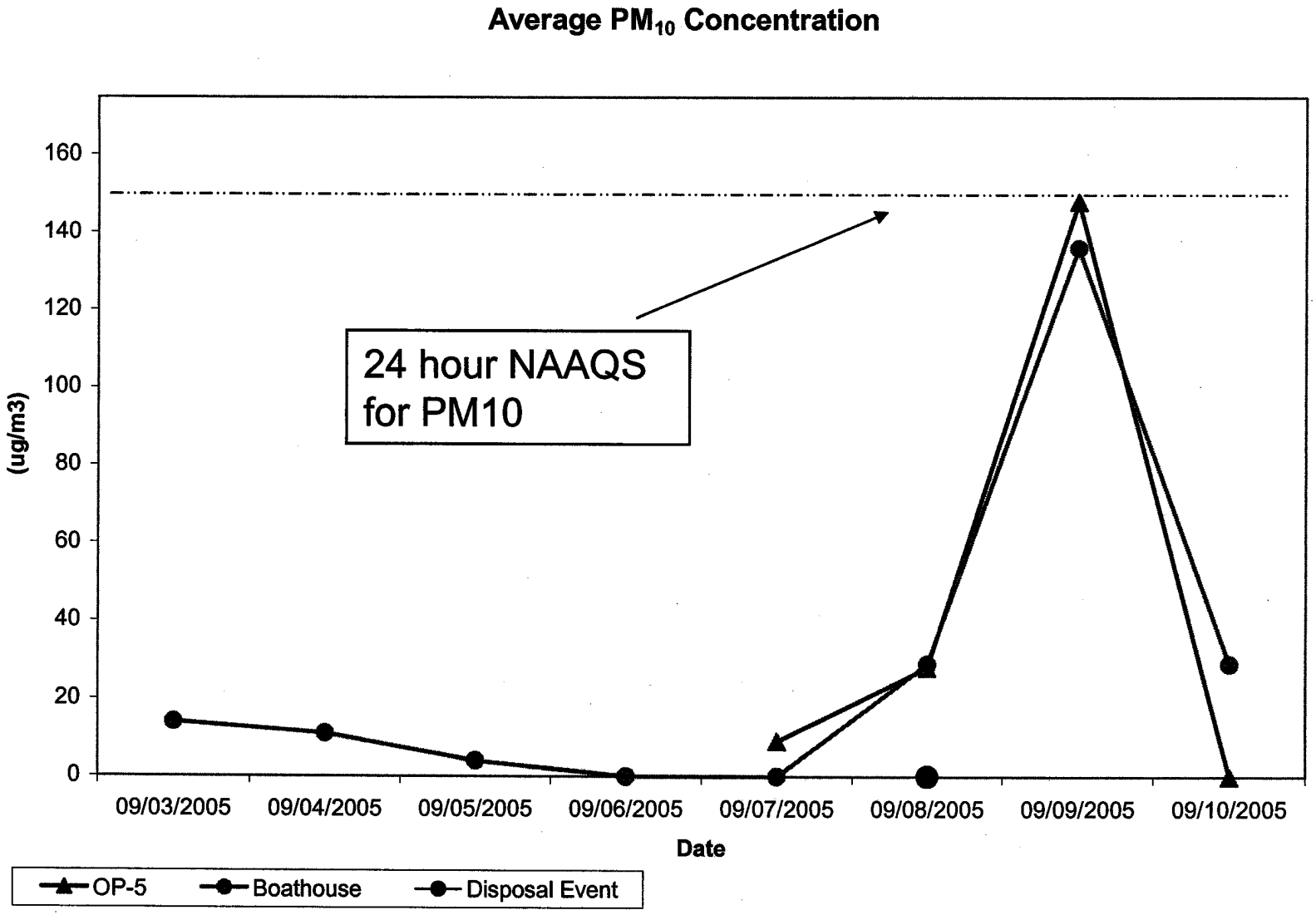
24-hour PM10 Averages for August 15, 2005 through August 19, 2005



24-hour PM10 Averages for August 21, 2005 through August 27, 2005



24-hour PM10 Averages for September 3, 2005 through September 10, 2005



Chemical Constituent Results

- Explosive constituents were not detected in any air samples
  - Detection limits were below health-based guidance levels
- Metals detected in air – iron and copper
  - Concentrations were below guidance levels
  - Detection limits for non-detected metals were below guidance levels
  - Metals detected in air may have originated from soil dispersed in the air during detonations

Elevated PM10 Values During September 9-10?

- Metals concentrations were not correspondingly elevated
- Possible cause other than detonations:
  - Volcanic activity reported at Soufrière Hills Volcano on Montserrat during the week prior to and week of the disposal event http://www.mvo.ms/

RAB Meeting

Update

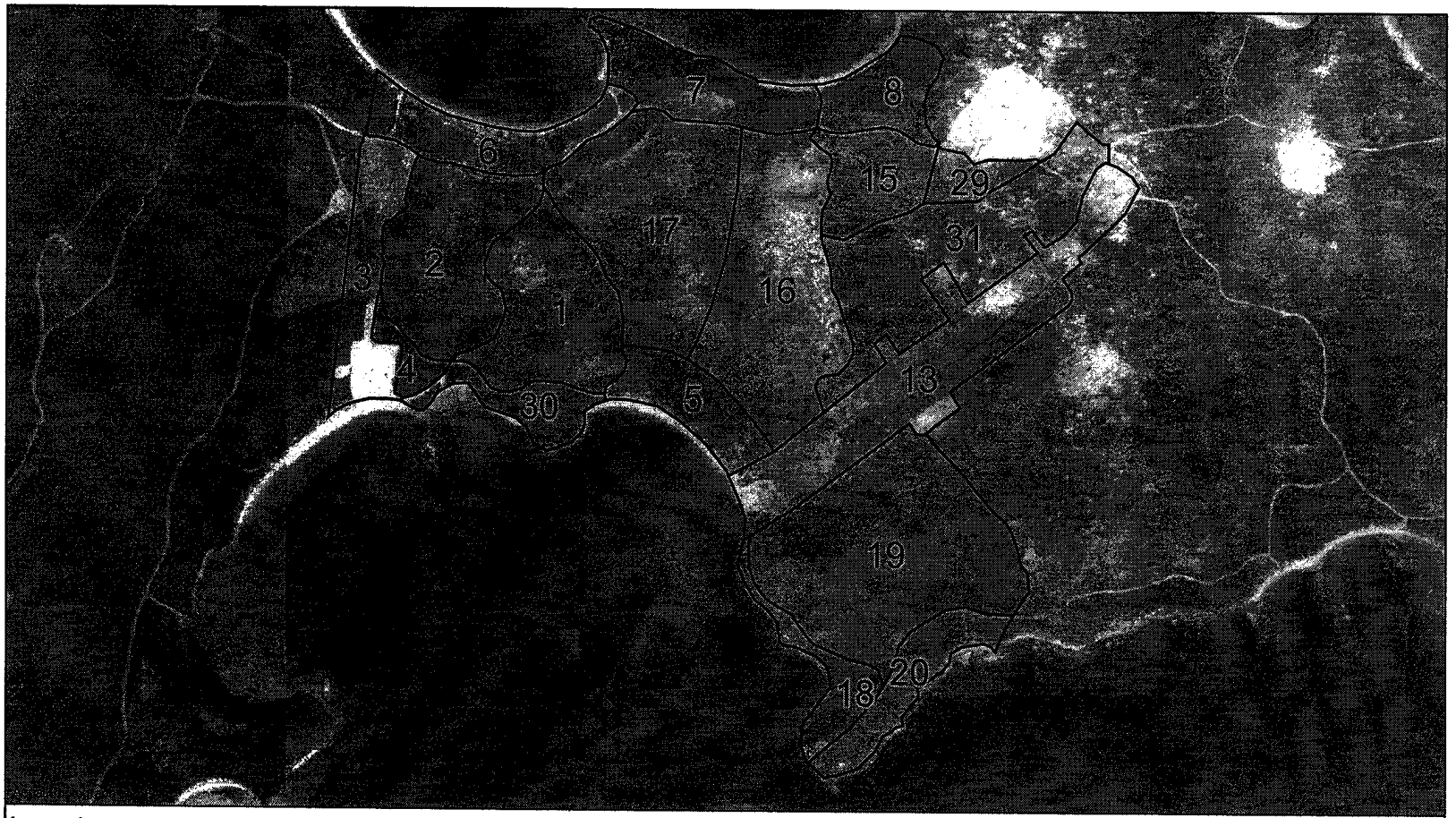
Munitions Response Program
Vieques, Puerto Rico

November 17, 2005

TCRA Objectives

- Remove all MEC equivalent to or larger than a 20mm projectile present or partially exposed at the ground surface from 400 acres within the MRA-LIA.
- Reduce risks at MRSs identified as posing an explosive hazard due to MEC present or partially exposed at the ground surface.

TCRA Area



Legend

MRS Boundaries

Note: See Figure 1-2 for reference

N
W E
S

0 150 300
Meters

Figure 1-3
TCRA Areas
Former VNTR
Vieques, Puerto Rico

CH2MHILL

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Project Through October 2005

- 51 ac mechanical vegetation clearance
- 30 ac surface clearance
- 6 demolition events conducted
- Air monitoring program is in place, results from first event show no detections of explosives compounds and no metals exceeding screening levels

Project Through October 2005

- Unintentional fire caused during first demolition event on August 15
  - Approx. 95 acres were effected
  - Fire was contained by roads
  - Fire prevention plan is being developed
  - Prescribed burn plan is being developed for eastern most LIA
- Second contractor mobilized November 2005
- Projected completion date for first phase (400 ac) of TCRA is early 2007

Area of Unintentional Fire

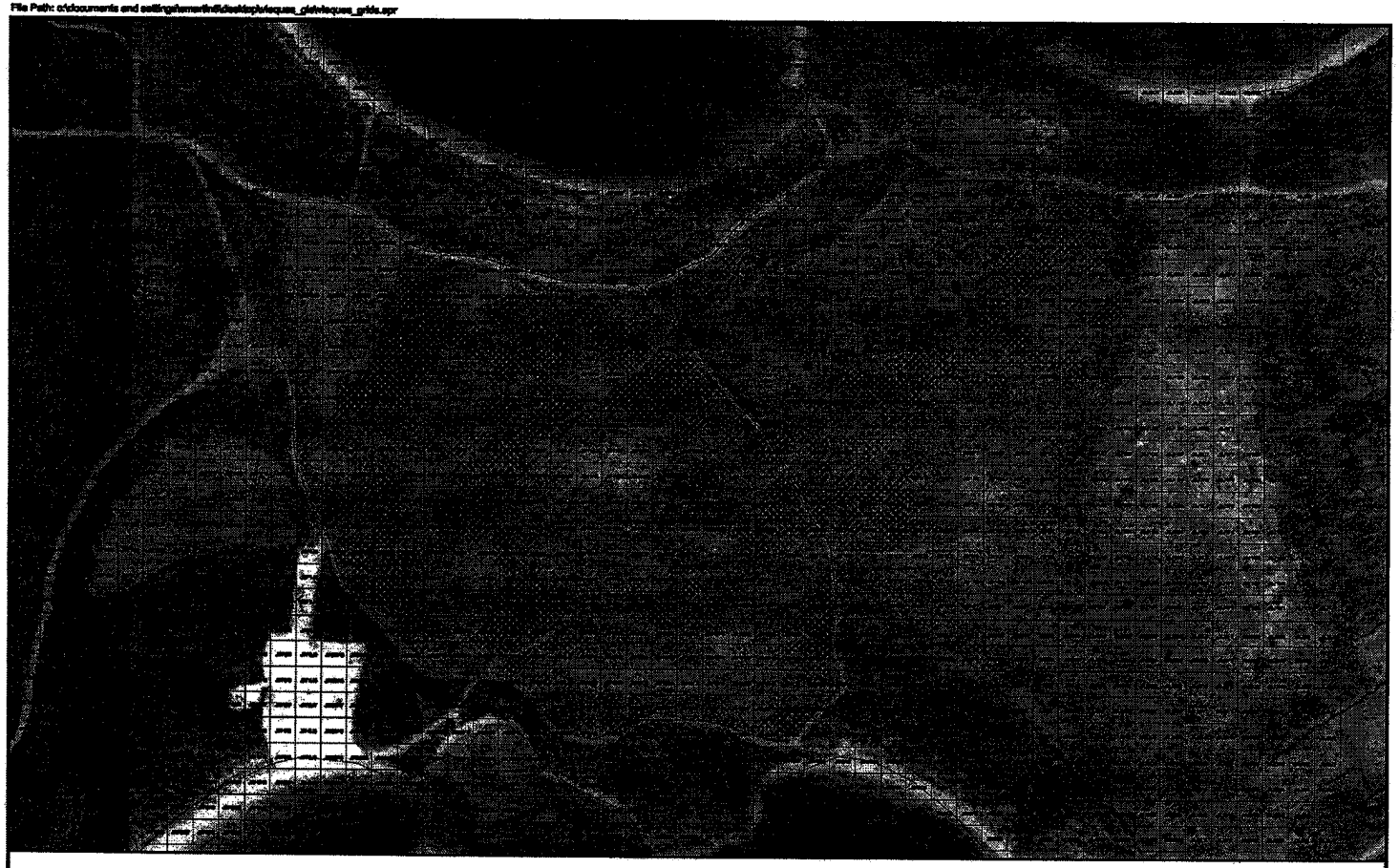


Figure 1
Area Impacted By Fire
August 18, 2005
Former VNTR
Vieques, PR

CH2MHILL

Second TCRA Phase

- TCRA of MEC from remaining LIA (approximately 400 acres) planned initiation of activities late 2006
- Work plan will be developed and sent out late 2005

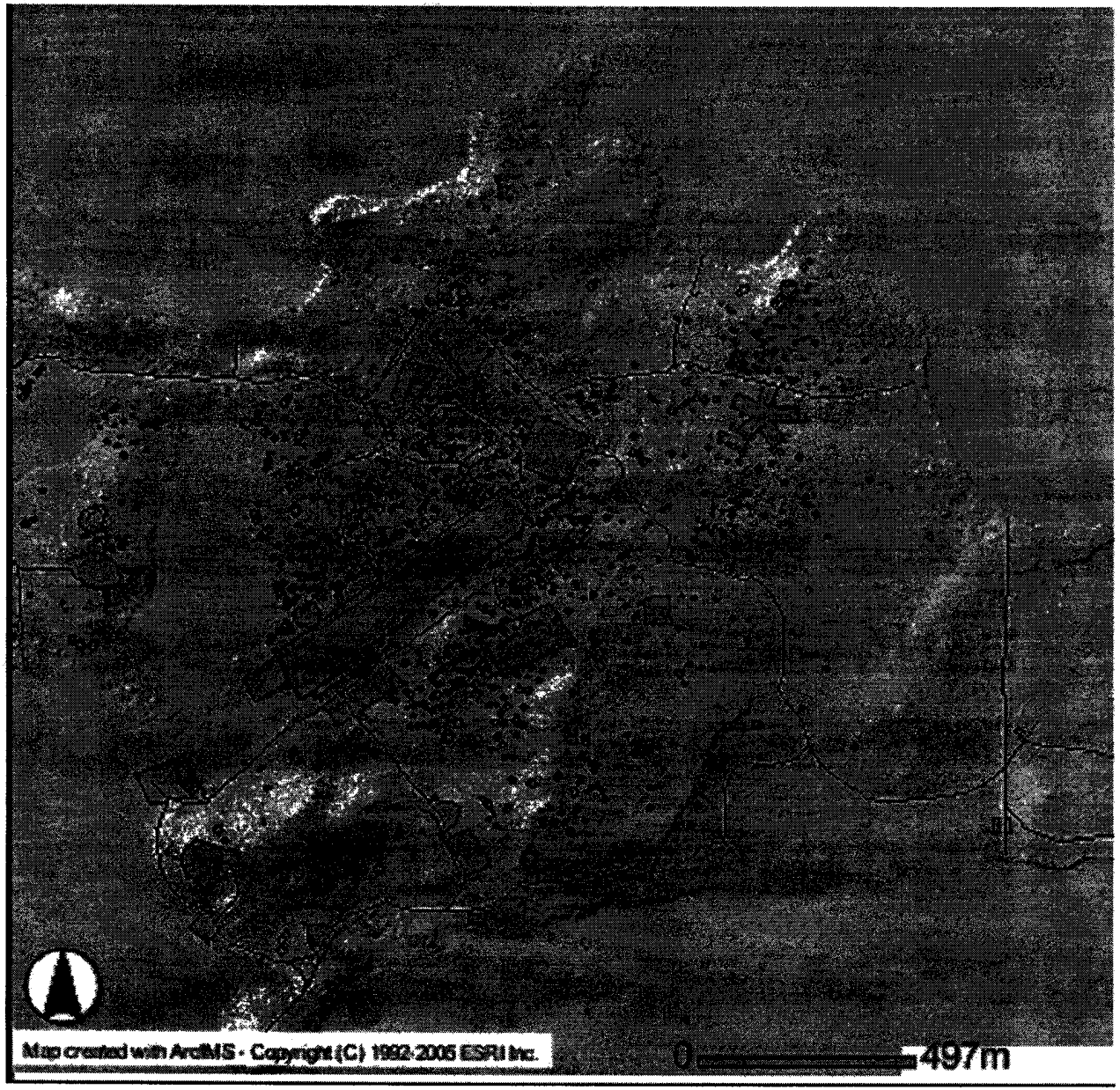
Regulator Site Visits

- PREQB, USEPA, and USFWS site visit conducted August 30, 2005
- PR EQB Audit
  - Jim Pastorick conducted an audit of the TCRA procedures on August 31, 2005
  - Report of findings is pending
- Air Monitoring Assessment
  - USEPA and PREQB personnel conducted a site visit September 21 to evaluate air monitoring
  - Report of findings is pending

LiDAR Aerial Survey and Orthophotography

- LiDAR (light detection and ranging) survey was conducted for the entire Former VNTR
  - Produces bare earth maps, which show landscape features including man made and range related
  - Produces digital elevation models for terrain analysis
  - Provides vegetation canopy information (e.g., height)
- Orthophotography was conducted for the entire Former VNTR
  - 15 cm resolution
  - Current site conditions

LiDar Bare Earth Map



Expanded Range Assessment/Phase II Site Inspection

- Draft work plan scheduled for late November 2005
- Implementation of field effort scheduled for February 2005

SWMU 4 Removal Action Schedule

- Draft EE/CA to regulators – November 28, 2005
- Receive regulator comments on Draft EE/CA – January 6, 2005
- Incorporate comments and deliver Draft-Final EE/CA – January 20, 2005
- Public review of Draft-Final completed – February 20, 2005
- Final EE/CA – February 28, 2005
- Mobilization for initial efforts – March 1, 2005
- Start of clearance activities – March 8, 2005

Vieques RAB Meeting

SWMU 4

Munitions Response Program
Vieques, Puerto Rico

November 17, 2005

SWMU 4 MEC Removal Objectives

- Mitigate risk posed by MEC according to proposed land use
- Mitigate risk posed by MEC to prior to implementation of environmental investigations as event schedules allow
- Conduct clearance of MEC in a manner consistent with the objectives for the Vieques Munitions Response Program

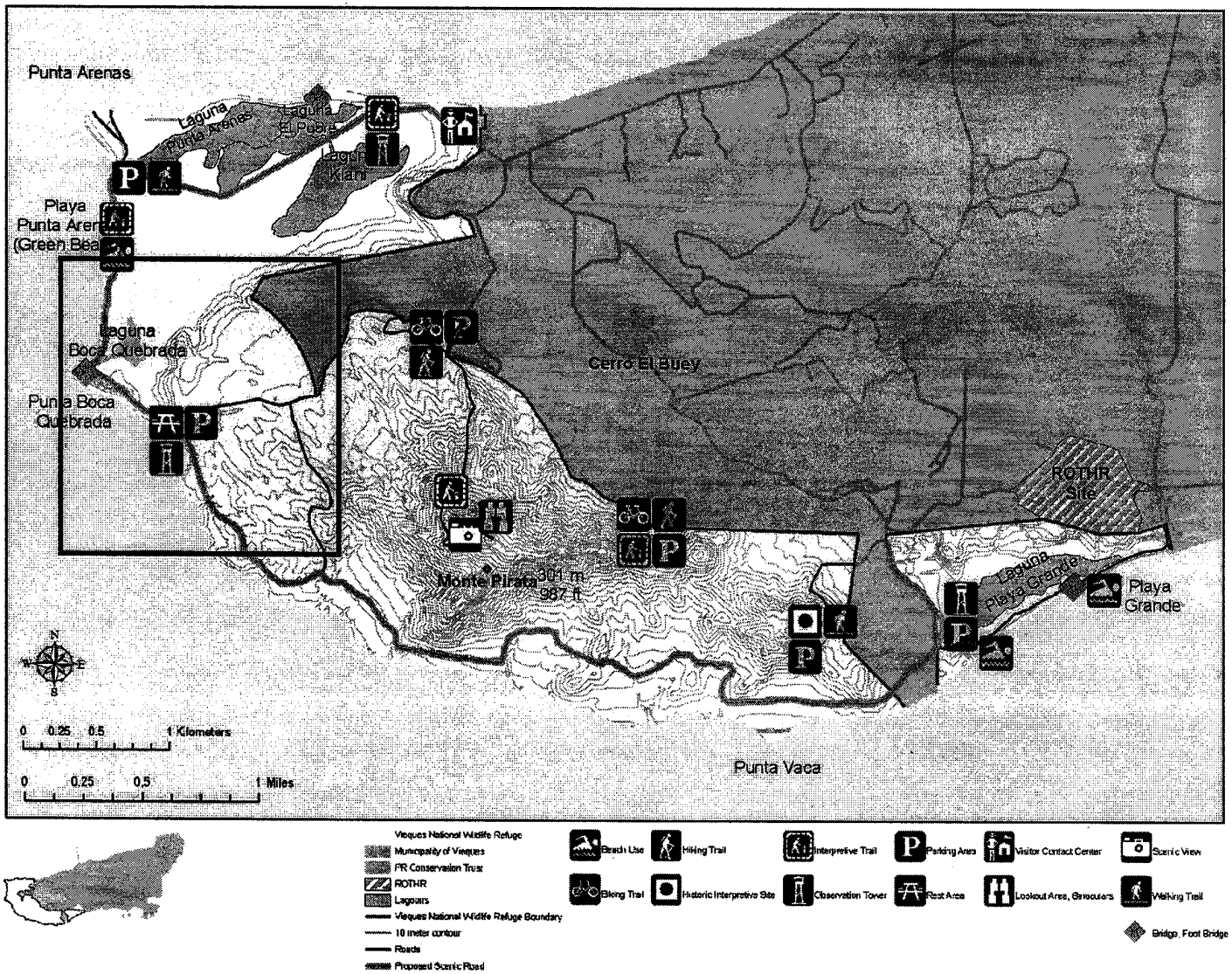
SWMU 4 MEC Removal Action Approach

- Clear MEC from the surface across the site
- Clear MEC from proposed roadways and trails, including buffer area, to a depth of 2 feet
- Clear MEC from the beach areas to a depth of 2 feet
- Clear MEC from the beach area using a statistical sampling approach from a depth of 2 to 4 feet

SWMU 4 Activities Required to Conduct MEC Removal

- Improve access road
- Digital geophysical mapping of areas not previously mapped
- Removal of surface and subsurface anomalies
- Mechanical and hand vegetation clearance as necessary to conduct all tasks
  - Vegetation for portions of area was previously evaluated
- Develop EE/CA supporting removal

Proposed Land Use Plan



Schedule

- Draft EE/CA to regulators – November 23, 2005
- Receive regulator comments on Draft EE/CA – December 28, 2005
- Incorporate comments and deliver Draft-Final EE/CA – January 11, 2005
- Public review of Draft-Final completed – February 8, 2005
- Final EE/CA – February 15, 2005
- Mobilization for initial efforts – February 15, 2005
- Start of clearance activities – February 27, 2005

Vieques RAB Meeting
Environmental Restoration Program

Vieques, Puerto Rico

November 17, 2005

Projected Schedules

Vieques RAB Meeting

November 17, 2005

Areas Of Concern (AOCs) E and I

- Initial field activities have been conducted
- Supplemental Remedial Investigation Work Plan Addenda approved by EPA in August 2005
- Draft Final Work Plan Addenda submitted RAB in September 2005
- Final Work Plan Addenda to be issued in November 2005
- Field mobilization in November 2005 (subcontractor availability and weather dependant)

Western Vieques

AOC R

- In advance of vegetation removal and investigation, a threatened and endangered species survey was conducted in September 2005 (none identified at AOC R; letter submitted to DOI in November 2005)
- Draft Final RI Work Plan submitted to RAB in September 2005
- Final RI Work Plan anticipated to be submitted in November 2005
- Vegetation clearance currently taking place
- Field mobilization for sampling in November 2005 (subcontractor availability and weather dependant)

AOCs J and R, SWMUs 6 and 7

- Draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to remove debris submitted for regulatory review in August 2005
- Agencies comments received in October 2005
- Response to comments submitted to agencies for consideration in November 2005
- Public comment period for EE/CA anticipated for late 2005
- Debris removal anticipated for early 2006

Background Soil

- Site visit with RAB members to various background locations performed in May 2005
  - Based on feedback during site visit, 11 existing background locations relocated in accordance with location selection criteria
- Public comments on Draft Final Background Investigation Work Plan submitted to EPA
- Comments under regulatory and Navy consideration
- Responses to public comments and Final Work Plan anticipated for December 2005
- Background investigation anticipated to be conducted in December 2005 or January 2006

Eastern Vieques

8 PI/PAOC Sites

- In advance of vegetation removal and investigation, a threatened and endangered species survey was conducted in September 2005 (none identified at the PI/PAOC sites)
  - A letter summarizing the survey findings will be submitted to DOI in December 2005
- Draft Final RI Work Plan submitted to RAB in September 2005
- Final RI Work Plan anticipated to be submitted in December 2005
- Field mobilization in December 2005 or January 2006 (subcontractor availability and weather dependant)

FINAL

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Charter for Environmental Restoration Activities on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

Note: ***This document is presented in English and Spanish for the convenience of the reader. Every effort has been made for the translations to be as accurate as reasonably possible. However, readers should be aware that the English version of the text is the official version."***

I. Mission Statement:

The mission of the RAB is to promote the environmental restoration and stewardship of the lands formerly administered by the U.S. Navy on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, through collaborative efforts between government agencies that are interested parties such as the Municipality of Vieques, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regulatory agencies, U.S. Navy and the Vieques community in general.

II. General Functions and Responsibilities of the RAB:

A. The RAB's purpose is to establish and maintain a forum among the Navy, the regulatory agencies, and the community for exchanging information in an open and interactive dialogue about the environmental restoration of areas affected by Navy activities.

B. The Navy will consider all advice provided by the RAB, whether offered as a consensus or by individual members, including minority views of individual RAB members.

C. The RAB represents stakeholder groups, including:

- Local residents, broadly representing the different community sectors.
- Government administrators of the public lands of the formerly administered by the Navy NASD property –the Municipality of Vieques, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – as well as the non-government Puerto Rico Conservation Trust, which also administers a portion of those lands.
- The government agencies with a supervising role in the cleanup process – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 and Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB).
- The Special Commissioner for Vieques and Culebra, as representative of the Governor; and
- The Navy as the responsible party and the party accountable for the environmental restoration of the areas affected by military activities.

D. In addition to RAB membership, which is voluntary, the government agencies have specific roles that are defined by applicable laws and regulations. These regulations

allow for technical support staff from Commonwealth, federal and local agencies that have involvement with the Vieques restoration program, to attend RAB meetings and provide explanations to RAB members and technical information in their areas of expertise.

E. The RAB will have approximately twenty local community members, primarily *Viequenses*, but also seasonal Vieques residents and residents of the main island of Puerto Rico with long-standing ties to Vieques, who are committed to facilitating progress in the cleanup process.

1. The exact number of community members may vary as needed for effective RAB operations.

    - For example, this RAB's scope has recently increased to include the eastern part of the island, as well as the western part, after now that the NPL listing was finalized. Therefore, the RAB will collectively consider increasing the number of community members and other restructuring necessary to effectively address both the environmental restoration and munitions response programs.

2. Community RAB membership terms are for two years and are renewable based on a majority vote of the community RAB members.

3. To ensure fairness in participation opportunities for *Viequense* residents, there should never be more than 15% of the RAB community members who are residents of the main island of Puerto Rico or who have a seasonal residence on Vieques.

4. RAB community members serve without compensation.

    a. RAB members who are residents of the main island of Puerto Rico or seasonal Vieques residents will not be reimbursed for the expense of traveling to Vieques to attend RAB meetings.

    b. Expenses resulting from travel to meetings outside of Vieques are not an allowable RAB administrative cost. However, certain travel and training expenses which are not eligible for funding as RAB administrative expenses may qualify and be eligible for funding as a technical assistance project.

    c. [See *Department of Defense Restoration Advisory Boards Rule* – Attachment 1; *Management Guidance for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program*, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (DUSD), September 2001]; and *Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Handbook*, DUSD, February 2000].

5. All RAB members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled RAB meetings or to send an alternate if they are not able to attend a meeting.

    a. To designate an alternate, the RAB member will notify the Community Co-Chair in advance.

b. In the case that an alternate attends, the alternate has the same rights of participation as the member.

6. In the case of a community member who does not attend and does not send an alternate in his or her place to two consecutive meetings, the other RAB community members may require the member to resign.

7. When a member resigns or the RAB decides to expand membership, the vacancies will be filled by requesting applications that will be made available to all interested Viequenses. The candidate(s) will be nominated by the community RAB members, based on community representation (diversity) criteria, and accepted by the Navy Co-Chair.

    a. If the list of nominees lacks diversity, the Navy Co-Chair will ask the community RAB members to provide a revised list. A lack of diversity is the only reason the community's nominees can be rejected by the Navy Co-Chair.

8. Regardless of attendance, a RAB community member can be asked to resign for actions detrimental to the working process. This requires a motion to be made during a RAB meeting by one RAB member, seconding by another RAB member, and a confirming vote by at least 75% of the community RAB members. Detrimental actions could include, for example:

    - Consistently unwilling or unable to participate constructively in RAB meetings.
    - Conflict of interest (for example, stands to gain monetarily from remediation decisions).

9. The RAB will be Co-Chaired by a representative appointed by the Navy and a community member elected by the RAB community members.

    a. The Community Co-Chair will be elected by a majority of the RAB community members. The Community Co-Chair will serve a two-year term, and may serve more than one term if re-elected by a majority of the community RAB members.

    b. The Community Co-Chair may be removed as Co-Chair if it is determined that the Co-Chair is unable to perform required duties for the RAB. Community Co-Chair removal is initiated by a majority vote of the community RAB members.

III. Detailed responsibilities of the Co-Chairs and other RAB members:

A. Responsibilities of the Community Co-Chair include:

1. Ensuring membership participation in an open and constructive manner

2. Ensuring that community issues and concerns related to cleanup are fully addressed

3. Coordinating, preparing and distributing the meeting agenda with the Navy Co-Chair after consultation with the RAB community members
4. Sharing the chairing of the meeting with the Navy Co-Chair
5. Providing review and comment on Draft RAB meeting minutes along with the other RAB community members.
6. Reporting communications with Navy Co-Chair that occur outside of RAB meetings back to the other RAB community members as soon as possible
7. Assisting in the dissemination of information to the general public

B. Responsibilities of the RAB Navy Co-Chair include (but are not limited to) the same duties as the Community Co-Chair, as well as:

1. Ensuring adequate administrative and logistics support to the RAB, in accordance with the *Department of Defense Restoration Advisory Boards Proposed Rule* (40 *Federal Register* 4061, January 28, 2005– Attachment 1), *Management Guidance for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program* (Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, September 2001) and the *Navy/Marine Corps Installation Restoration Manual* (2001).
2. Providing routine allowable administrative support necessary to establish and operate the RAB, such as:
    - Provision and preparation of meeting facilities
    - Simultaneous interpretation from English to Spanish and vice versa at RAB meetings
    - Preparation and translation of meeting minutes and other routine word processing tasks
    - Copying/printing/translating of RAB minutes, public notices, status reports, etc.
    - Distribution of public notices in a local newspaper and in public places, such as libraries, schools, government offices, businesses, etc, as well as the use of public announcement trucks
    - Translation and distribution of outreach and other RAB materials
    - Meeting facilitation
3. Developing and maintaining attendance records and a mailing list of RAB and other interested parties.
4. Ensuring that the Navy considers and responds in writing to comments related to environmental restoration activities that are provided in writing at RAB meetings. In most cases, RAB meeting minutes will serve as responses to specific comments provided verbally during RAB meetings, but some comments or questions may require additional written responses, which will be determined by the RAB members.

5. Providing relevant policies and guidance documents to enhance operations of the RAB.

6. Maintain and update the information repository (or repositories). The official public repositories are the Vieques Public Library in Isabel II and one other publicly-accessible location. Reports are also available to the public in the US EPA Vieques offices and USFWS Vieques offices.

7. Maintaining and updating the public information website.

C. Responsibilities of RAB Navy Members (and support staff) include:

1. Ensure that the RAB has the opportunity to participate in the environmental restoration process in Vieques.

2. Consider community concerns.

3. Provide copies of Final work plans and Draft Final and Final technical reports related to environmental restoration and munitions response activities on Vieques to the RAB and (upon request by the RAB) to their TAPP consultant. At least five copies of the full reports, in English (hardcopy) of these documents will be made available to be shared among RAB community members. Additional electronic copies will provided upon request.

4. Provide, in English and Spanish, Executive Summaries of all Draft Final and Final reports prepared by the Navy as deliverables to regulators, as well as fully translated Proposed Remedial Action Plans (PRAP), No Further Action Proposed Plans, and Records of Decision (ROD), newsletters, annual schedules, and RAB status reports.

    a) Provide copies of these Executive Summaries and above-listed public materials to all RAB members in English or Spanish, and in hard copy or electronic copy, depending on each member's preference.

    b) If new community persons become members, copies of these Executive Summaries and public materials will be available for them.

5. Place copies of all newsletters, fact sheets, public notices, RAB minutes, and executive summaries of Draft Final and Final documents in Spanish and English in the public information repositories.

6. Provide orientation and training to RAB members as needed and when the proposed training is relevant to the environmental restoration activities and mutually beneficial to the operation of the RAB.

7. Refer non-restoration issues to the appropriate official.

8. Report RAB meeting results to responsible DOD component and stakeholders.

D. Responsibilities of RAB Community Members are:

1. Come to RAB meetings informed and participate openly and constructively

2. Review all documents related to environmental restoration activities in Vieques that have been provided to the RAB for review and provide timely comments to all RAB members

3. Provide advice and feedback about community concerns at RAB meetings

4. Identify any projects that need technical assistance funding (TAPP), in accordance with the TAPP Handbook and the TAPP regulations found at 32 CFR Part 203

5. Communicate in Spanish and English with the local community about clean-up issues

E. Responsibilities of RAB Regulatory Agency Members are:

1. Provide orientation and training to RAB members when such a request is made

2. Serve as information and referral resource for the community

3. Review documents and provide comments, as timely as possible, upon specific request or questions from RAB members in English and in Spanish to all RAB members

4. Address Federal and Commonwealth environmental standards and regulations

5. Provide comments to the community as soon as possible

F. Responsibilities of the RAB representatives of the administrators of public lands in Vieques (Municipality of Vieques, USFWS, PR Conservation Trust):

1. Keep RAB members informed of property-related issues (access, problems, planning, etc.)

2. Communicate with the local community about clean-up issues

3. Review documents and provide timely comments to all RAB members

IV. RAB Operating Procedures:

A. The RAB will meet at least tri-monthly, unless it is agreed by all parties that more frequent meetings are needed.

1. Additional meetings or special focus meetings may be scheduled as the need arises. Certain documents or decisions may require additional RAB meetings, if the timing does not coincide with scheduled RAB meetings. Maximum efforts will be made to hold RAB meetings before public comment periods.

2. Conference calls in between RAB meetings may be used to provide information or conduct RAB business as needed, but will not substitute for regular RAB meetings or required public meetings.

B. All RAB meetings are open to the general public. RAB members are encouraged to invite interested non-members to visit and ask questions.

C. The dates and times of RAB meetings will be scheduled by the Co-Chairs and advance notice will be communicated to the remaining RAB members and the community. A reminder will be sent at least 1 week prior to the meeting, to all RAB members and interested public that have attended any of the previous meetings.

D. Each meeting will follow an agenda that will be distributed at least 1 week prior to the meeting, to the RAB members and interested public that have attended any of the previous meetings.

E. Meetings should be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order or an agreed-upon similar format. Non-members at the meetings may ask questions related to the agenda item under discussion, but other questions and comments will be held until the Open Discussion part of the meeting that will be included on each agenda.

F. A quorum will consist of 51% of the RAB members; inclusive of the 51% will be a minimum of 50% of the community members being present at a meeting. Any membership issues discussed during the meeting that requires voting will be determined by a simple majority vote (51%) of the RAB members present.

G. Because requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) do not apply to a RAB, consensus is not a prerequisite for the advice that the RAB provides to the Navy and regulatory agencies. RAB members should provide advice as individuals, not as a group. All topics discussed and opinions expressed will be noted in the meeting minutes.

H. RAB members will be asked to review and comment on various environmental documents. RAB members should submit their comments in writing to the Navy on the documents, within the timeframe specified when documents are provided for comment. For Proposed Remedial Action Plans (PRAP), No Further Action Proposed Plans, and other documents that are subject under CERCLA to required public review, comment periods will be no less than 30 days and may be extended upon request, up to no more than 60 days. The Navy will prepare formal written responses to substantive written comments regarding the documents received from the RAB, no later than 60 days.

I. The above-mentioned procedures for providing advice, submitting comments and responding to comments do not apply to the official comments of regulatory agencies (i.e., EQB and EPA) that have specific legal responsibilities under Federal and Commonwealth laws and regulations. Nonetheless, this exemption in no way precludes the community RAB members from commenting on EQB/EPA positions or comments.

V. Dissolution of the RAB:

The provisions of the Charter will be satisfied and complete when all required remedial actions have been implemented, or whenever 75% of the members agree in writing to terminate the RAB, or otherwise as provided by § 202.10 (RAB

adjournment and dissolution) of the *Department of Defense Restoration Advisory Boards Rule.*

Effective Date and Modification:

The effective date of this charter is the date on which it is approved by a simple majority (51%) of the RAB membership and signed by the RAB members present at that meeting.

This charter may be amended by a quorum of the voting members present at the meeting when the amendment is presented for vote. All amendments must be in writing and placed on the meeting agenda for one meeting prior to voting on the amendment.

Signatures:

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