



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

ATLANTIC DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
1510 GILBERT ST
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2699

8/12/03-02341

TELEPHONE NO

757-322-4815

IN REPLY REFER TO
5090
EV24CP:EVA

AUG 12 2003

Commonwealth Of Puerto Rico
Office Of the Governor
Environmental Quality Board
Attn: Estaban Mujica Cotto, President
Edificio Nacional Plaza
Ave Ponce De Leon
Hato Rey
Puerto Rico

Re: Navy Investigation for SWMU 4, Former Naval Ammunition Storage
Detachment, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

Dear Sr. Estaban Mujica Cotto:

This letter is in response to your letter dated 30 March 2003 regarding the recent field investigations conducted by the Navy at the Ordnance Burn/Ordnance Detonation site (OB/OD SWMU 4) located on Department of Interior Property within the former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment, Vieques, Puerto Rico. The Navy would like to take this opportunity to provide you with the most current information related to the progress of investigative activities recently conducted at the OB/OD (SWMU 4) site. Discussions concerning the overall schedule, geophysical mapping, collection of field data, and community relations efforts are provided below for your information.

Overall SWMU 4 Schedule

The field investigation for OB/OD (SWMU 4) including; brush clearing, geophysical surveying, and anomaly investigation activities were completed for the Phase III work during the week of June 27, 2003. Approximately 60 acres were investigated during Phase III from February through June 2003. All scrap metal and ordnance related scrap (ORS) generated from the investigation has been certified as explosives free and accepted by the Defense Resource Management Office (DRMO) at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads for further processing and reutilization. Transportation of the scrap metal and ORS to DRMO will be completed during the month of August. It is anticipated that a data package from the field investigation will be completed and presented to EQB and the remainder of the Cercla Technical Committee (CTC) Team at the next

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scheduled CTC on August 28th and 29th, 2003. The Navy looks would like to discuss the preliminary results of the investigation data at the upcoming meeting among representatives of EQB, EPA, and DOI. This is the first step in interpreting the data and reviewing the results of the investigation in a collaborative effort among the stakeholders. The Navy looks forward in discussing the investigation data, DOI planned land use, cleanup objectives, and structuring the road map ahead for addressing unexploded ordnance clearance activities and environmental remediation needs at this particular site. Based on the results of these and any other further discussions, a Craft Ordnance Explosive Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Report for will be prepared and submitted to all CTC stakeholders. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, it is anticipated that this document will be presented before the end of the calendar year.

Geophysical Maps

The Navy previously provide2 EQB with the Geophysical mapping for the Phase I and II of the investigation at SWMU 4 as part of the Interim Report for SWMU 4. The additional geophysical data for Phase III is currently being compiled and an updated geophysical anomaly map will be provided to EQB at the August 28th CTC meeting. As you requested in your letter, the map will show the'locations of the geophysical data by sector and the locations of the anomalies that were selected for re-acquisition.

Field Logs:

At the upcoming August 28th CTC meeting, the Navy will provide EQB with copies of the UXO contractor's After Action Report that includes a summary table of the field data that will include the following information: description of metallic item re-acquired, the depth that it was identified, the locations where no items were identified at the geophysical anomaly (indicating that the item was a false positive data point or deeper than a depth of one foot), and the horizontal location coordinates of the item that was re-acquired.

Conceptual Site Model

The archive record search for the west end of Vieques did not identify any areas at the facility were used for the intentional burial of explosives. In addition, a preliminary review of the investigations completed to date have not identified any burial pits containing unexploded ordnance. Should additional evaluation of the data collected during the three phases of UXO investigation

suggest or indicate that the probability of burial pits or other release mechanisms are found to occur at the site, the Conceptual Site Model will be modified accordingly in the RI/FS Report.

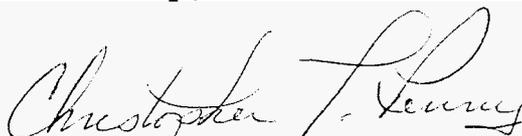
Community Relations

The Navy, along with the EPA, DOI, EQB, and the Commissioner of Vieques, meet regularly with TRC community members on a quarterly basis to discuss work progress and other technical issues related to the status of the work being performed at the former NASD facility. Minutes of the TRC meetings and monthly progress over the past eighteen months reflect the information presented and discussions between the stakeholders in regards to SWMU 4 and other activities.

The Navy appreciates EQB's active participation as a stakeholder in the environmental restoration process for the former NASD and the continued collaborative effort among your staff and consultants in regards to the clean up process.

Should you have any questions concerning this issue please do not hesitate to contact me at 757-322-4815.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Penny, REM
Project Coordinator
Caribbean and Other IR Section
Environmental Programs Branch
Environmental Division
By direction of the Commander

copy to:

Helen Shannon, Bob Wing, Carlos Ramos (EPA Region 11)
Ms. Yarrisa Martinez (PREQB)
John Tomik (CH2Mhill Va Beach)
Marty Clasen (Ch2Mhill, Tampa)
Daniel Rodriguez (EPA Caribbean Office)
Felix Lopez, James Oland, Susan Silander (FWS Field Office, Boqueron, PR)
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