

11/14/06-02679



## United States Department of the Interior



### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Boqueron Field Office  
P.O. Box 491  
Boqueron, Puerto Rico 00622

NOV 14 2006

Mr. Kevin Cloe  
Remedial Project Manager  
Installation Restoration Section  
Environmental Programs Branch  
Atlantic Division (LANTDIV) Code EV24KC  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
6506 Hampton Blvd  
Norfolk, VA 23508

Re: Environmental Remedial Investigation  
Work Plan, Solid Waste Management Unit  
4, (SWMU 4), Vieques

Dear Mr. Cloe:

This is to follow up the discussion during the recent CTC meeting regarding the proposed sampling activities as part of an Environmental Remedial Investigation (RI) at the former open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) site identified as SWMU 4. Our comments are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. as amended).

This site is located in the western part of Vieques and is already part of a munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) investigation. The investigation is proposing soil samples, groundwater samples, surface water samples and sediment samples to be collected and analyzed. As discussed in previous meetings, these samples will be taken by hand with minimal vegetation clearance. In addition, sample sites along the quebrada areas will be selected in the field with FWS participation.

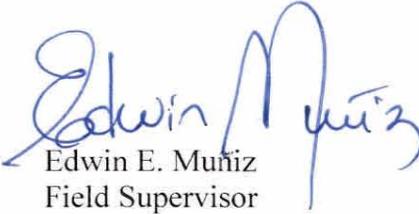
Service and Navy personnel initially surveyed the site for endangered plant species during the previous study in 2000. At that time no federally listed threatened or endangered species were detected in the study area. Based on the information provided, we do not anticipate any adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further consultation for the proposed activity is required. Nevertheless, if the project is modified or if information on impacts to listed species becomes available this office should be contacted concerning the need for the initiation of consultation under section 7 of the Act.

Mr. Cloe

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project, if you have any questions please contact Felix Lopez of my staff at 787 851-7297 x 226.

Sincerely yours,



Edwin E. Muñiz  
Field Supervisor

fhl  
cc:  
EPA, Vieques  
NMFS, Lajas  
EQB, Yarissa Martinez, San Juan  
DNER, Vieques  
Oscar Diaz, CINWR, Vieques