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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND, ATLANTIC
8506 HAMPTON BLVD
NORFOLK VA 23508-1278

5090 IN REPLY REFER TO:
Ser EV31KRC/223
June 21, 2011

Ms. Wilmarie Rivera
Puerto Rico EQB
Urbanización San José Industrial Park
Avenida Ponce de León 1375
San Juan, PR 00929-2604

Dear Ms. Rivera:

Two Vieques background reports have been produced for the purpose of helping to determine whether measured site-specific constituent concentrations are attributable to releases due to past Navy activities or are attributable to background. These reports are:

Final Soil, Groundwater, Surface Water, and Sediment Background Investigation Report, U.S. Naval Ammunition Support Detachment, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico CH2M HILL, October 16, 2002) [hereafter referred to as the West Vieques Background Report]

Final East Vieques Background Soil Inorganics Investigation Report, Former Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto Rico CH2M HILL, October 2007) [hereafter referred to as the East Vieques Background Report]

Both of the aforementioned reports were finalized through a review process including EPA, PREQB, and FWS. Final comment responses, concurred upon by representatives of the stakeholder agencies, are included as appendices in each report. Further, a formal letter approving the East Vieques Background Soil Inorganics Investigation Report was submitted by EPA on September 28, 2007.

The West Vieques Background Report was used for background comparisons performed in the Remedial Investigation (RI) Reports produced for Areas of Concern (AOCs) E, H, I, J, and R and Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 6 and 7, all of which have been finalized through regulatory agency review. The RI Report for AOC H was used to prepare the No Action Record of Decision for the site, which was signed by EPA and PREQB in 2008.

The East Vieques Background Report was used for background comparisons performed in Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) and Site Inspection/Expanded Site Inspection (SI/ESI) Reports produced for 36 sites and a Streamlined Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report for 1 site, all of which have been finalized through regulatory agency review. The PA/SI and SI/ESI reports were then used to prepare No Action/No Further Action Decision Documents for 31 sites, both of which were signed by EPA, PREQB, and FWS in 2009 and 2010.

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As discussed above, the two background investigations were finalized through the agency review process and the information presented in the two background reports was contained in investigation reports that were finalized via the regulatory review process and in decision documents that were signed by the regulatory agencies.

To document approval of these two background reports by all Vieques FFA agencies, please submit an approval letter with the attached signature page.

Sincerely,



R. D. CUREFMAN
Environmental Business Line Manager
By direction of the Commander

Copy to:

USEPA (Mr. Daniel Rodriguez, Mr. Julio Vazquez)

USFWS (Mr. Richard Henry)

CH2M HILL (Mr. Brett Doerr)

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Statement of Approval

The signature below provides formal approval of the two below documents:

Final Soil, Groundwater, Surface Water, and Sediment Background Investigation Report, U.S. Naval Ammunition Support Detachment, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico CH2M HILL, October 16, 2002) [hereafter referred to as the West Vieques Background Report]

Final East Vieques Background Soil Inorganics Investigation Report, Former Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto Rico CH2M HILL, October 2007) [hereafter referred to as the East Vieques Background Report]

Wilmarie Rivera, PREQB Remedial Project Manager

Date

