

Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Monthly Status Report-January, 2003

Former Navy Property, Western Vieques, Puerto Rico

This report provides the Technical Review Committee (TRC) with a status of ongoing 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. The following is a summary of the activities completed during January 2003 and anticipated activities during the next few months.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

SWMU 4

The Phase III field work is scheduled to begin on February 3, 2003. CH2M HILL personnel on site will be Freddie Ferreira and Gary Webb. Brush cutting equipment was mobilized to San Juan the week of January 27th. Field crews plan to have a project kick-off meeting on Monday February 3, 2003 in Vieques.

AOC E

The funding for the modification to the contract has not been received. Upon receiving the new funding, the Remedial Investigation report will be prepared.

Draft No Further Action (NFA) Report for Nine Sites

The Draft NFA Report for Nine Sites at NASD was completed on November 20, 2002. The draft report is currently being reviewed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB). After review comments are received from the agencies, comments will be incorporated and the Draft Final report will be sent to the TRC.

Initial comments from EPA's risk assessment group were discussed in a conference call in January. EPA indicated they would provide Final EPA comments after the January CTC and TRC meetings.

RI/FS Work Plan for SWMU 6, SWMU 7, AOC H, and AOC J

Senior review comments were incorporated into the draft Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan for SWMU 6, SWMU 7, AOC H and AOC J. A draft of this work plan will be submitted for review to EPA and EQB in February.

CERCLA Technical Committee (CTC) Meeting Summary

A 2-day CTC meeting was held in San Juan, PR, on January 16th and 17th. TRC representatives attended the CTC meeting for half-a-day on the morning of January 17th.

During the first day (16th), and later part of second day (17th), a presentation was given on the upcoming NFA report for the 9 sites and the status of the RI/FS work plan for the four

sites SWMUs 6 & 7 and AOCs H & J. The presentation included a discussion of the objectives of the report, a review of the data results from the Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI), the approach for performing the risk assessment, a discussion on how background is taken into consideration following the risk assessment, and the risk assessment results.

Representatives from the US Department of Interior (DOI) indicated that the Municipality of Vieques was excavating a trench for a water line along the access road to the former Public Works Area. The excavation may have extended into the restricted access area, identified in the Deed, for AOC C (the drainage ditch in the vicinity of the former Transportation Shop).

On the morning of January 17th, the TRC's Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) consultant made a presentation of comments on different PA/SI sites.

CH2MHILL presented an update of the unexploded ordnance (UXO) site investigation at SWMU 4, which included a conceptual site model, the results of the Phase II investigation and the proposed Phase III investigation.

The EQB's consultant, Jim Pastorick, discussed his comments on the UXO work approach for SWMU 4 based on his experience at other sites. He indicated that the investigation approach by the Navy is much more extensive than what he is familiar with. The Navy is providing 100% coverage of the some of the areas of the site, whereas his recommended approach uses transects that only cover part of the area of investigation. Therefore, he has no objection to the approach that the Navy is using. The possibility of holding workshops to distribute information to the community of Vieques was discussed during the CTC.

DOI expressed an interest in holding community information distribution sessions and requested for assistance and suggestions. A team charter concepts and outline was also discussed with the CTC team.

CH2MHILL presented the key elements of a CTC Charter that will be developed for the next CTC meeting.

TRC Business

Minutes for the August 2002 TRC meeting were finalized (with no comments received from the TRC Co-Chairs) and mailed to TRC members on January 2, 2003, along with the invitation letter for the January 18th TRC meeting.

Comments on the Draft TRC Charter (distributed to all TRC members on November 26, 2002) were received from EPA in early January. No other written comments have been received.

TRC Meeting

A TRC meeting was held at the Vieques Conservation Trust pavilion on Saturday, January 18th, 2003. Draft minutes are being prepared. Status updates on activities were presented, including upcoming SWMU 4 field work; the Draft NFA Report; the Pilot Test and ongoing RI/FS for AOC E ; and the RI/FS Work Plan for four sites that are recommended for further investigation (SWMU 6, SWMU 7, AOC H, and AOC J) from the PA/SI.

A new procedure intended to better capture TRC comments and questions was suggested: breaking into smaller groups to discuss and ask TRC members themselves to actively record comments and questions on the technical report updates, but this suggestion did not meet with TRC approval.

The group opted to stay as a whole for the comments/questions process. The following TRC questions and requests were captured on a flip chart for follow-up.

Process and on-going issues requests –

- List of all documents to date [related to NASD]
- Opportunity for review of draft documents prior to a meeting
 - Status update of working documents
 - Meeting during the document review period
 - Copy of documents to all TRC members
- TRC meeting to precede CTC meeting
- Schedule the meetings; publish the schedule and commit to the schedule
- Translate the documents
- Potential to tape the meetings
- TRC members to develop a calendar with meetings/workshops that include learning opportunities; focused discussions, etc.

Specific one-time requests/clarifications/follow-up –

- Attempt to provide description of building east of AOC J
- Provide full page printouts of photos/visuals in slides
- SMWU 5 boundary marking
- EQB Certification of 1995 sampling – EQB oversight (no such certification)
- AOC E – Was transferred from UST program to the CERCLA process
- SWMU 4 visual – What do the blue colored grids represent?

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Complete TRC minutes and other follow-up from January TRC meeting
- Develop approach for TRC for 2003