

MEETING MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) For the Environmental Restoration of Western Vieques

Meeting Number 2 - November 17, 2004

I CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING REMARKS

The meeting began at 5:30 PM at the Lighthouse (El Faro) in Isabel Segunda. Susana Struve (CH2M HILL) welcomed everyone and thanked Pablo Connelly of the Municipality of Vieques (MOV) for arranging for the meeting room.

Navy contractors present at this meeting were introduced: CSA Group and Shaw Environmental. CSA Group will be supporting CH2M HILL with fieldwork and logistics. Shaw Environmental will work on installing septic tanks and future remedial action construction. See Attachment 1 for attendees list. A Spanish translation of these minutes can be found as Attachment 2.

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous RAB meeting (August 2004) were accepted without changes.

III ONGOING BUSINESS

III.a ACTION ITEMS REVIEW

Refer to the table below for a list of the "open" action items carried forward from previous meeting(s) plus the action items added during this meeting. Action items closed after the November RAB meeting are included. Closed action items from previous meetings have been moved to Attachment 3.

Description	Responsible Party	Status
Meet with Alquimia to (new TAPP consultant) go over their questions and define the community priorities.	RAB members	New Open - Ongoing
Submit monthly reports describing the ongoing field and proposed activities	Navy-CH2MHILL	New Open - Ongoing on a monthly basis
Provide simultaneous translation equipment for RAB meetings	Jeff Harlow-Navy	Open- It is expected that the equipment will be available for the February 2005 meeting
Provide explanation of the rationale used for the selection of media sampling for the different sites. Some sites include the sampling of groundwater and others do not.	Jeff Harlow-Navy	Open - To be discussed at a technical workshop
Explain the rationale used to perform risk assessment and the role this assessment will have on selecting the final remedial action.	Jeff Harlow-Navy	Open - To be discussed at a technical workshop

Description	Responsible Party	Status
Look for additional public information repositories in Vieques	Jeff Harlow-Navy	Open
Provide comments in writing about the error with well location and sampling at AOC E.	Navy	Closed- Location was discussed and agreed upon during the December 2004 site visit
Distribute a list of all RAB members with telephone numbers.	Susana Struve - CH2MHILL	Closed - RAB list is included to these minutes as Attachment 4
Send a copy of the TAPP regulations to RAB members	Susana Struve - CH2M HILL	Closed - TAPP regulations are included with these minutes as Attachment 5
Present Navy's public website to the community, including access to draft final and final documents for public review.	Jeff Harlow-Navy	Closed - website link was provided at the December 2004 public information session and the website will be presented at the February 2005 RAB meeting

III.b INTRODUCTION OF THE TAPP CONSULTANT: ALQUIMIA ENVIRONMENTAL - MR. ARNALDO MARTINEZ

- Members asked Arnaldo Martinez to explain his professional experience with military sites/explosives. He answered that he doesn't have previous experience with military sites but has ample experience with toxic/hazardous waste sites.
- A community member expressed some concern about the way the TAPP contract was awarded to Alquimia. Arnaldo Martinez explained the process that he followed to bid for this project. He asked the community for an opportunity to get to know him and evaluate his work within the three months specified in the contract. Jeff Harlow added that Alquimia met the qualifications listed in the scope of work reviewed by RAB members.
- A RAB member (Jorge Fernandez) expressed his support of the TAPP contractor. He professionally knows Arnaldo and believes that Alquimia is capable of performing the job.
- Nilda Medina asked Mr. Martinez if he understood that he works for the community and not the Navy. Mr. Martinez said that he is fully aware of that.
- Jeff Harlow explained that TAPP funds are to be used for the TAPP contractor to review technical documents based on the community needs/wants. Funds cannot be used to attend meetings outside Vieques.

III.c ELECTION OF COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR

- The Community Co-Chair was elected by a vote among the community members present. Ms. Colleen McNamara is now the official RAB Community Co-Chair, for a term of two years.
- Colleen McNamara expressed that even though she is the Community Co-Chair, she expects the Navy to maintain communication with the rest of the community.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

IV.a RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) CONCERNS

- Nilda Medina officially submitted written concerns from a sector of the community about the RAB meetings (Attachment 6). These concerns were briefly discussed at the meeting.
- A community concern about the frequency of the RAB meetings was brought to the table. The community would like to have meetings every two months. The Navy proposed meetings every three months, starting with February 16, 2005 for the next RAB meeting. Jeff Harlow proposed establishing conference calls to discuss any issues between the meetings. He said that he is available and has flexibility in his schedule to participate in conference calls. If additional meetings are needed to discuss complex issues, he is willing to discuss the need.
- EPA and EQB clarified that the reason this meeting was delayed was because they were not available to meet earlier.
- Nilda Medina presented comments about the draft RAB charter. It is expected that these new charter issues will be discussed among RAB members in preparation for the meeting, so the charter can be finalized and signed at the February 2005 meeting.
- The community asked to resume the distribution of the Monthly Status Reports.
 1. A community member (Roberta Britton) volunteered to receive them electronically and e-mail them to members with an email address. For those without e-mail access she can print hard copies and distribute them.
 2. The following is what the community would like to see on the monthly reports:
 - Information on what happened in the field on that previous month
 - Summary of ongoing site investigations
 - Summary of meetings/conference calls with other groups (CTC, EPA, etc.)
 - List of documents distributed for review or under revision, and to whom the documents were submitted.
 - Schedule of on-going and future activities
- The Navy announced a Public Information Session on December 16, 2004, to update the community on the Military Munitions Response program at the former Vieques Navy Training Range (VNTR), East Vieques.
- A community member expressed that the RAB community members have a responsibility to educate the community, but the RAB doesn't have the funds or resources to do so. The Navy explained that general guidance does not allow providing funds directly to the community except through the TAPP contract.
- Site Visit - An official site visit with RAB members is scheduled for December 15, 2004. Pablo Connelly (MOV) and USFWS will provide transportation for community members.

IV.b DOCUMENTS

The community asked for copies of all documents. Navy stated that five copies of the draft final and final documents are submitted to RAB community members; additional copies are available at the Information Repository. It was suggested by a RAB member that more places be used as Information Repositories because the library and the offices of FWS and EPA in Vieques are not open at night.

IV.c NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

Daniel Rodríguez (EPA) explained the status of the proposed NPL listing for Vieques. EPA received over 2400 letters with comments. Over 2000 of these letters were mass mailing type with the same comments. Fifty-four letters have unique comments. All comments can be found in the EPA docket for the Vieques NPL listing, under the ID number SFUND-2004-0011, on the EPA Superfund website at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>. EPA expects to have answered all comments by the end of 2004.

- EQB explained that Culebra is not part of the proposed NPL listing, because EPA is trying to reach an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers on how to address Culebra. If EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have not signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by February 2005, then Culebra will be part of the NPL listing.
- The Navy presented a preliminary schedule for document review and field activities. The schedule is subject to change due to availability of EPA and EQB reviewers. EPA needs to approve the work plans before the Navy mobilizes its contractor. EPA and EQB believe that they will not be able to complete the document revision by the dates the Navy is proposing. Some sites discussed were:
 - a. AOC R - the draft RI/FS Work Plan is available for review as a draft, not a final. For AOC R, the Defense Explosive Safety Board must approve the work plan for the removal of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) found on site prior to continuing the environmental investigation.
 - b. SWMU 7 - The Navy proposed to remove the visible solid waste/scrap metal if the cost analysis indicates that the removal is more cost effective than long term monitoring.

V. CLOSING

V.a SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2005. More information will be distributed closer to that date.

Suggested topics:

- Discuss the suggestion of additional Co-Chairs representing the landowners (MOV, FWS)

V.b COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

For future meetings, if the public has questions or suggestions, these will be captured under this heading.

VI ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.