

Naval Facilities Engineering Command – Atlantic

RAB Status Report: December 2004

Former Navy Property, Western Vieques, Puerto Rico

This report provides the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) with a status of on-going 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 and an overview of activities on eastern Vieques. For details on the environmental investigations under RCRA, please contact EPA. The following is a summary of the activities completed in the latter part of 2004, and the activities planned for completion for the next few months.

CURRENT AND COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

SWMU 4 (Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Area)

The draft report from the 2002-2003 Munitions/Explosives Remedial Investigation is being reviewed by the regulatory agencies, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB). The work plan for environmental Remedial Investigation is currently under regulatory review. The environmental investigation is the second phase, since the investigation of munitions and explosives of concern has been completed. The cleanup plan will be based on the findings of both studies.

Remedial Investigation (RI) for SWMU 6 (Mangrove Disposal Site at Kiani Lagoon), SWMU 7 (Quebrada Disposal Site), AOC H (Abandoned Power Plant), and AOC J (Former Operations/Staging Area Disposal Site)

Responses to comments from EPA and EQB, on the draft RI report for SWMU 7 were submitted in November. The draft RI reports for SWMU 6, AOC H and AOC J are currently under regulatory review.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for AOC E (Former Waste Oil Tank)

A supplemental sampling plan is awaiting regulatory review and approval. After sampling and analysis are complete and there is consensus from regulators on the response to comments and the approach to incorporate the data into the report, the RI/FS report for AOC E will be reviewed.

Remedial Investigation (RI) for AOC R (Former Staging and Operations Area)

Agency comments on the environmental investigations have been addressed in a work plan that was submitted to the regulators in August 2004. Approval by the Navy Ordnance Safety and Security Administration (NOSSA) and Department Of Defense Explosive Safety Board of the Explosive Safety Submission (ESS) for AOC R is expected by the end of March 2005 which will allow sampling for the RI to start again.

Remedial Investigation (RI) for AOC I

The RI field investigation was completed in September 2004 and data validation reports were received in November. An Interim Remedial Investigation Report and work plan for additional investigations were submitted to regulators in January 2005. The RI report will be postponed until consensus about additional investigations is obtained with regulators.

Site Management Plan

The Draft Site Management Plan is currently being revised to incorporate the activities for both east and west Vieques. The revised site Management Plan should be available to the RAB in the near future.

East Vieques

The Draft Remedial Feasibility Investigation (RFI) was submitted to EPA in June 2004 and comments were received in August 2004. A response to comments was submitted in December 2004.

Public Information

- The second RAB meeting was held in Vieques on November 17, 2004 in Vieques. The minutes from this meeting have been sent to the RAB membership. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2005 from 5:00 to 9:00 at the Lighthouse in Isabel Segunda.
- On December 15, 2004, RAB members attended a site visit of the environmental investigation sites in western Vieques (except for SWMU 4, which was not accessible). RAB members had the opportunity to raise concerns and ask questions to Navy, EPA, EQB and USFWS personnel.
- On December 16, 2004, the Navy hosted a public information session to present information on the Munitions Response Program activities planned for Eastern Vieques. People who were interested in receiving training as UXO Technician Level 1 had detailed discussions with Navy and CH2M HILL personnel and filled out screening forms to be considered for the training..
- The first 2005 issue of the Environmental Newsletter for Vieques will be widely distributed among the community of Vieques in February 2005. Suggestions from RAB members for articles in the second quarterly newsletter would be appreciated.

CERCLA Technical Committee (CTC)

A CTC meeting was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 20-21, 2004. Representatives from Navy, EPA, EQB, DOI, MOV, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, Management Edge, and CH2M HILL participated in the meeting.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- The next RAB meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2005 at the Lighthouse in Vieques.
- On west Vieques, field investigations (taking samples) for the Remedial Investigation of AOC R and additional investigations at AOC I will be conducted following the approval of the work plans by the regulators. During the field investigation at AOC R, a

munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) avoidance survey will be completed at all sampling locations.

- Eastern Vieques: Field investigations for the Munitions Response Program of the former VNTR began mid-January 2005 and continue into the third quarter of 2005. The purpose of the Phase I ERA/SI is to gather more information about the quantity and types of munitions at known munitions sites, to help set priorities for further investigation and cleanup. There will be a protocol to protect sea turtle nesting sites during beach investigations.

The Navy is planning to conduct interim remedial actions in the Life Impact Area (LIA) in the near future. More information will be provided as it becomes available. For your own and other safety, please remain out of the restricted areas.