

**Technical Review Committee (TRC) Meeting
for Environmental Restoration Activities
at the Former U.S. Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD),
Vieques Island, PR**

Meeting Minutes No. 9- June 6, 2004

Attendees:

Gisella Burgos Soto - Vieques Wildlife Refuge
Lisa Calderón - Invited Guest
Pablo Connelly Pagán - Municipality of Vieques
Rafael Cruz Pérez - Office of the Commissioner for Vieques and Culebra
Michael Díaz - Community member
Oscar A. Díaz - Vieques Wildlife Refuge
Jorge Fernández Porto - Community member
Jeff Harlow - Navy
Ricardo Jordán - Community member
Féliz López Arroyo - Vieques Wildlife Refuge
Judy Leach - invited guest
Colleen MacNamara - Community member
Lirio Márquez D'Acunti - Community Member
Yarissa Martínez - Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
Stacie Notine - Community member
Daniel Rodríguez - Environmental Protection Agency
Susana Struve - CH2M HILL

Opening and Introductions:

The meeting started at 5:30 PM at Casa Alianza House in Isabel Segunda-Vieques. After the review of the proposed agenda, short introductions of the participants followed.

1. Status of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

CH2M HILL presented a brief summary of the status of the RAB applications and shared with the participants the list of new applicants.

RAB applications were distributed at the RAB/CERCLA workshop held in Vieques on March 11th and mailed to the mailing list (approximately 100 addresses). Deadline reminders were announced in the *Vieques Events*. The deadline for submitting applications was May 12th; a total of 19 applications were received, all but one of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) members applied.

Although, the current RAB seems to be formed by a diverse group, a few specific sectors of the community, such as fishermen and religious leaders are not fully represented. As the RAB membership and activities move forward, and a RAB charter is developed, new members could be added in place of those who stop participating.

Key points discussed:

- The Community was informed that this would be the last TRC meeting; the next meeting will be as a RAB.
- Jeff Harlow will be in charge of the NASD (West Vieques) project, whereas Chris Penny will be in charge of East Vieques. Chris Penny remains as the overall Vieques Program Coordinator.
- After the NPL is made official, the Navy foresees one RAB for both sides of the island. This will be assessed after the NPL is defined.
- It was discussed that a structured mechanism should be followed to make these rather large group meetings efficient (19 RAB members, plus officials and ex officio members are to attend these meetings). RAB meetings are open to the public.
- The next meeting (First RAB meeting) will be held on August 18th at 5pm. Pablo Connelly is in charge of arranging the venue, which will potentially be at the Lighthouse in Vieques.
- It was also agreed that Navy would try to provide simultaneous translation for the meeting, since it would probably be in Spanish (depending on the number of people attending that are not bilingual).
- The community enquired about resources to produce a community newsletter. Navy said that there is already a quarterly newsletter being distributed, articles provided by the community could be placed in the Navy's newsletter. Navy stated that the RAB could develop additional ways to effectively share the information with the rest of the community. Suggestions of possible alternatives can be evaluated.

2. Status of Technical Assistance for Public Participation Contract (TAPP)

Jeff Harlow gave a brief summary of the status of the TAPP contract stating that there were 3 applicants, and opened the discussion on the topic:

- The community reiterated that the scope of work Jorge Fernández Porto (TRC member) found on the internet was unacceptable for the community. The community stated that trust is essential to their relationship with the TAPP and commented on Sections 2 and 3 of the Scope of Work do not help

establish this trust. The Commissioner's office stated that Section 3, as stated, eliminates any possibility of local engineers being hired for this position, as the position would violate local engineer's code of ethics.

- The Navy indicated that these sections are included as a contractor's performance evaluation tool, which needs to be part of the contract. If the Navy's contractor's office accepts the elimination of these sections, there must be an alternative way to evaluate the contractor's performance and give Navy language for contract termination, if necessary.
- The community indicated that its performance evaluation input could be added into the scope of work as an evaluation tool. The community also enquired about the possibility of participation in the contract award-decision-making process.
- The Navy mentioned that the community could not participate in the contract-awarding process, but gave the community the opportunity to look at the scope of work and make recommendations. The community agreed to submit comments to Jeff Harlow by next week (July 11-17).

3. Areas of Concern (AOC) I and R Work Plan Review.

- Regarding AOCs I and R, the community thanked the Navy and CH2M HILL for allowing the community to review a draft plan, so community comments can be incorporated before the field activities start. Although several technical comments were made at the meeting on this subject, the community members agreed to submit their comments to Jorge Fernández Porto by Wednesday July 14. He would then submit consolidated comments to Navy and CH2M HILL (Jeff Harlow and Marty Clasen) before the end of the week.
- The community reiterated their on-going concern about the need to know more about Vieques' hydrology before continuing with sampling to avoid using a hit-or-miss strategy. Again, the community requested a complete groundwater study for the entire Island before cleaning decisions are made for specific sites.

Action Items of Meeting No. 9- June 6, 2004

Description	Responsible	To whom	Due Date	Comments
Procure meeting place for the first RAB meeting scheduled for August 18 th , 2004	Pablo Connelly/RAB member	Navy, RAB members	July 19 th , 2004 contact TRC and Navy Co-chairs with the information	The Lighthouse in Vieques was mentioned as the best alternative
Check on the availability of the "simultaneous translation equipment" either for purchase or rental	Jeff Harlow/Navy	RAB members	July 26 th , 2004	
Check on the mechanism to use RAB members input to assess and evaluate TAPP contract	Jeff Harlow/Navy	RAB members	July 26 th , 2004	
Complete TAPP application	Colleen MacNamara/RAB member	Chief Naval Operations (via Jeff Harlow)	Week of July 12 th , 2004	
Submit RAB comments to the TAPP contract scope of work	Jorge Porto/RAB member	Navy	Week of July 12 th , 2004	
Submit updated schedule of the investigation activities in western Vieques	Jeff Harlow/Navy	RAB members	July 26 th , 2004	
Gather information on the approach for the TPH fingerprinting proposed sampling for AOC I	Jeff Harlow/CH2M HILL	RAB members	July 26 th , 2004	Jeff to check on the proposed approach with CH2M HILL technical team

Description	Responsible	To whom	Due Date	Comments
Submit comments on AOC I and R proposed work plan	Marty Clasen/CH2M HILL	RAB members	Week of July 12 th , 2004	
Check on an alternative "phone meeting" mechanism to expedite review of technical documents by the RAB members	Jeff Harlow/Navy	RAB members	July 26 th , 2004	
Check on the possibility of providing RAB members with a technical workshop to explain the risk assessment as the only tool driving the decision making process. Also, a workshop to explain the hydrogeology of Vieques and how it is assess in the technical approach.	Jeff Harlow and CH2M HILL	RAB members	July 26 th , 2004	Hold until RAB is formed and active.