

Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Status Report: January and February 2004

Former Navy Property, Western Vieques, Puerto Rico

This report provides the Technical Review Committee (TRC) 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. The following is a summary of the activities completed from mid-December 2003 through February 2004, and the activities planned for completion for the next few months.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

SWMU 4

Field investigations of ordnance/explosives at the old OB/OD site ended in 2003. The data are now being analyzed and a report should be available in the 3rd quarter of 2004. Approximately 1,800 munitions items were excavated from the soils, treated to be free from explosives and removed from the site. Over 95% of these items were either 20 mm. projectiles or small arms. A work plan for the environmental (chemical) investigation will be prepared in May 2004, and the field work is tentatively expected to begin in the fall of 2004.

Remedial Investigation (RI) for SWMU 6, SWMU 7, AOC H, and AOC J

RI reports are being prepared for SWMU 6, SWMU 7, AOC H, and AOC J. The draft RI reports are planned to be submitted for regulatory review by May 2004. After EPA, DOI, and EQB have reviewed the reports, Draft Final RI reports will be released for TRC and public review later in the year.

Remedial Investigation for AOC E

The draft RI report was sent to EPA, EQB, and DOI in February. After EPA, DOI, and EQB have reviewed the report, the Draft Final RI report will be released for TRC and public review.

Site Management Plan

The updated Site Management Plan will be completed by May 2004, and a copy will be distributed to CTC and TRC members.

East Vieques

The field investigation for eight sites on East Vieques was completed in early February. Split samples were collected by EPA and EQB, which will allow analysis of samples from the same sites in different laboratories. Laboratory analysis is ongoing and a draft Phase I RFI report will be prepared upon receipt of validated laboratory data. The draft report will be submitted to the regulators during June 2004.

Public Information

- A TRC meeting was held in Vieques on January 21, 2004, at the Municipality Assembly Hall in Vieques. The draft minutes from this meeting have been mailed to the TRC Co-chairs for review and comment. The main topic of discussion was planning for transition to a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), to allow more interested people to be involved in the process. The process and estimated timeframe for establishing the RAB was explained. The TRC will continue until the RAB is established. Suggested names for RAB Selection Panel members were solicited. A comparison of TRC and RAB procedures was distributed among attendees.
- The first quarter edition of the new Environmental Newsletter for western Vieques has been mailed out. Suggestions from TRC members for articles in the second quarter newsletter would be appreciated.
- A public workshop on the CERCLA/RAB processes was held in March 12, 2004 at the Multiple Use Center in Isabel Segunda. This workshop was prepared in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez. The workshop was presented primarily in Spanish. The workshop was publicized by sending notices to the mailing list, local newspapers, and megaphone car announcements.