

MEETING MINUTES

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

For the Environmental Restoration and Munitions Response Program in

Vieques, Puerto Rico

Meeting Number 8 - June 8, 2006

Note: These minutes are a summary based on informal notes taken at the meeting. They are not intended as a verbatim transcript and may not have captured everything that was discussed.

If comments or additional notes are provided by others who were present at the meeting, within 30 days of distribution of these minutes, those will be added as an attachment to these minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING REMARKS

The meeting began at 5:30pm with welcoming and introductions of those present by Susana Struve (CH2M HILL). Susana also stated that the Navy Co-Chair role will now be filled by Kevin Cloe who could not attend this meeting. Instructions on how to use the simultaneous translation equipment were also given.

II. TOPICS DISCUSSED AND PRESENTATIONS

Iia. New RAB Member Applications - Susana Struve explained that the RAB membership is seeking new members. The applications period ended on May 10, applications were available at the last RAB meeting, USFWS offices, and La Luz de la Esperanza Library. The public was informed by mail, announcements posted in the Vieques Events, monthly flyers, and RAB meetings. Only three applications were received. Susana recommended accepting those three applicants. RAB members asked to review the applications. This will be a topic for discussion in the next RAB conference call.

Iib. TAPP Consultant - The new consultant will cover the environmental and munitions programs. The existing scope of work needs to be revised to include the munitions program. This will also be discussed during the RAB conference call.

Iic. Community Involvement Plan - The draft CIP was submitted to the regulatory agencies for review. Once review is completed, the CIP will be submitted to the RAB members for review and then to the general public for a comment period.

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Discussion Points

- Stacie Notine (RAB member) - Now that the program is Superfund, can we receive TAPP and TAG funds?
- Chris Penny (Navy) - The TAPP is already in effect since the work is under CERCLA. Funds are limited to \$100,000 of which the RAB has already spent some.
- Danny Rodriguez (EPA)- TAG is an EPA fund. Three community groups received the grant and they contracted a consultant (Dr. Jorge Colon) for technical support.
- Robert Rabin (representing Nilda Medina- RAB community member). Robert doesn't agree that we have improved on communication with the community. The Navy is still detonating bombs and only few community members are involved.
- Susana Struve (CH2M HILL)- We are distributing flyers every month to reach more people, but need the help of the RAB members to pass information. Today we distributed 300 flyers and spoke to every person who received a flyer.

IId. Background Sampling - Presentation by Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) (see presentation slides)

This presentation was about agency responses to public comments received by EPA on the draft final Work Plan for background sampling for soil inorganics. The presentation covered the consensus reached by EPA, EQB and the Navy. Brett briefly summarized the steps involved in document preparation, review, and submittal. This included how new locations were selected based on comments received by RAB community members, and the discussions with EPA and EQB to agree on comments responses. He addressed each comment received.

Discussion Points

- Stacie Notine (RAB community member)- Are we getting copy of this document?
- Susana Struve (CH2M HILL)- Each RAB members received a copy, directly mailed to each member. Copy of this document is also at the library in Esperanza, and can also be found in the Vieques project web site.
- Lirio Marquez D'Acunti (RAB community member)- Is this the background study that will be used for all the investigations, including the LIA?
- Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) - For any study where we are going to investigate soil for inorganics, the data can be used if determined that the background database is appropriate. If future work in the LIA includes sampling soil for inorganics, the background dataset will be evaluated to determine if it is suitable for use.
- Stacie Notine (RAB community member) - What is the area where this data will be used on?
- Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) - In the near-term, the background data will be used on the environmental sites on east Vieques under study.

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- Deborah Santana (RAB community member) - How can you select for sure a sample location that is not impacted by Navy activities?
- Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) - As we stated in the comment responses, we carefully selected areas away from any known potential impact from Navy activities. However, because of the large number of samples to be collected, if we happen to collect any sample in an area impacted by an isolated release, from the Navy or other source, the data will show it to be an outlier and it will be eliminated from the background dataset.
- Deborah Santana (RAB community member) - If all areas were affected then you will never find the original inorganic concentrations.
- Jorge Fernandez Porto (RAB community member) - If the background sampling data will be used for the LIA then I have a concern. The three elements that satisfy the validity of this sampling are: number of samples to be collected, depth of samples, and sampling for explosives. At the LIA, the subsurface should be very shallow but because of the bombing that occurred there, depths may be greater, so sampling data set may not be applicable.
- Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) - If there is future sampling in the LIA for inorganics, the background dataset will be evaluated for suitability.
- Jorge Colon (TAG consultant) - He presented comments on why he cannot accept the sample locations. He showed a map showing bombing activities at Camp Garcia. The Navy is not paying attention to historical data that shows impacted areas; therefore, the locations cannot be considered background.
- Jorge Colon (TAG consultant) - Will this background data be used for the OB/OD?
- Yarissa Martinez (PREQB)- The groundwater of Vieques is considered potable; therefore, a study may need to be done on each site to determine if there is any impact.
- Stacie Notine (RAB community member) - Are you changing any of the methodologies or are you using the same one used at Vieques West?
- Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) - We are following EPA's guidance and regulations, which are generally the same ones used for the west side background study.
- Roberta Britton (RAB community member) - If unknown chemical substances are found, how can you differentiate from chemicals on site?
- Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) - The only background dataset we are establishing is for inorganics. If we find any other chemical substance at a site, we are going to attribute it to the site and address it accordingly.
- Jorge Colon (TAG consultant)- I am pleased to see that a community comment about sampling for explosives was addressed, but we all know that that explosives used years ago degrade to other components including heavy metals that will impact the inorganic concentrations.

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- Michael Diaz (RAB community member) - Can the sampling reflects uranium?
- Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL) - We are sampling for the metals that are on EPA's Target Analyte List, and uranium is not on the list.
- Jorge Fernandez Porto (RAB community member) - We should not be looking for uranium in background. If found, then all the samples should be discarded.
- Roberto Rabin (representing Nilda Medina - RAB community member) - We believe that the Navy used depleted uranium bullets in Iraq and Vieques. We believe they were used in Vieques intensively, and not only in one occasion as the Navy has stated.
- Roberto Rabin (representing Nilda Medina community member) - There is not representation at this meeting from the Vieques municipality government or DNER.

Iie. Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) Update - Stacin Martin (see slides)

Stacin began by stating that Mr. Ismael Guadalupe, a community member, has recently asked some specific questions about the TCRA. This presentation will address some of those questions. Copies of the presentation are available.

Discussion Points

- Michael Diaz (RAB community member) - Have you considered adding a tracer element to the BIP to see if you can capture it with the air monitoring equipment to increase confidence in the equipment?
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - Yes, we have considered it, but there is not way to detect it because the tracer will be destroyed during the BIP.
- Sixto Perez (RAB community member) - We are asking that you locate the monitors closer to the community.
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - Yes, we are also looking into this.
- Deborah Santana (RAB community member) - You are not posting any notices prior to the BIPs for people to take precautions and stay indoors if needed.
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - We inform at least 3 days in advance all the agencies listed in the presentation, including DNER who I forgot to include.
- Jorge Fernandez Porto (RAB community member) - Have you corrected the monitor that was down, and which one was the monitor that registered the exceedance to the NQSAA?
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - The monitor that down is OP-1 and it has been fixed. The one that registered the exceedance was OP-5.

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- Danny Rodriguez (EPA)- Mr. Guadalupe asked for a map that shows where the BIPs took place, will you provide this map?
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - Yes, we will provide the map.
- Danny Rodriguez (EPA)- How many of these items can be detonated in the chamber? This was also a question of Mr. Guadalupe.
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - We cannot move any of these items because of the hazard that present moving them. Also because of its size these items do not fit in the chamber.
- Roberto Rabin (representing Nilda Medina community member) - Vieques is a community at risk. The PR Secretary of Health just declared Vieques as having a high cancer rate. I want to ask the RAB members here to reach consensus and ask the Navy to cease and desist of the BIPs because it is contaminating more the island of Vieques.
- Susana Struve (CH2M HILL) - The RAB is not an organization of consensus. Each member expresses its own opinion. Your comment will be recorded in the minutes.
- Stacie Notine (RAB community member) - Do you have a limit in net explosive weight (NEW)? Explain what the procedure is when there is a fire.
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - The maximum NEW is 1000 lbs per shot. There is not a limit on how many shots. When we have a range fire, we don't fight it. This applies to any range anywhere. The larger fire has been 90 acres. We survey the area that has been burned.
- A community member asked: What is in place to protect the workers and the community if a fire gets out of control?
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - We maintain a fire watch and if needed notify the FWS and the fire station.
- Jorge Colon (TAG Consultant) - Request that the last RAB meeting minutes be corrected to indicate that the photo shown of the BIP cloud is for the event of February 17, 2006. During the last RAB meeting I asked for the following information: net weight for BIPs, type of bombs, wind direction, wind speed, time of BIPs, how many monitoring stations are working during each BIP event, how many fires and when. The FAA reported a demolition event for 20 April, but you are reporting now that a demolition event took place on 21 April. Which is the correct date or were these two separate events?
- Stacin Martin (CH2M HILL) - The correct date is April 20; however, the PM10 exceedance was for the sample collected the following day, April 21.

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Iif. Dr. Jorge Colon Presentation on Comments to TRCA

Dr. Colon presented which comments were not addressed by the Navy and those he is not satisfied by the answers provided. He stated that the Navy discarded others alternatives to the BIPs without a strong argument. He insists that the chamber can be used and we are not considering other chambers. Some others companies are introducing larger chambers and robotics. The Navy is not presenting a whole plan for the cleanup for the community to know where this is going.

Discussion Points

- Christopher Penny (Navy) - We are not prepared to answer your presentation right now because it covers so many topics. We are doing TCRA to decrease the risk for the people who trespass in the area. We have seen numerous people in the area including many children. We have gone beyond the minimum requirements to provide also for the safety of the workers.

III. NEXT RAB MEETING

The next RAB is scheduled for 14 Sept 2006. The next RAB conference call is scheduled for 6 July 2006. The following will be discussed during this call: RAB applications and TAPP consultant.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

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