

MEETING MINUTES

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

For the Environmental Restoration and Munitions Response Program in

Vieques, Puerto Rico

Meeting Number 13

November 8, 2007

Note: These minutes are a summary based on informal notes taken at the meeting. They are not intended as a verbatim transcript and everything that was discussed may not have captured. 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 6:05pm with welcoming and introduction of those present by Kevin Cloe/Navy). He discussed the agenda for the meeting.

II. AGENCIES UPDATE

- EQB - Wilmarie Rivera gave a presentation about the meetings and activities from April 2007 to September 2007. She talked about the visit to the LIA to evaluate the burned areas. Also gave a brief about the documents that are being evaluated and commented. See presentation for more details. EPA -Daniel Rodriguez gave the status of the East and West Environmental Sites. And gave a brief of the ERP documents for RAB review. See presentation for more details.
- USFWS - Susan Silander gave a brief of their activities and future project. There are two projects for the restoration of the road of the East and the West facilities. USFWS are going to build an office on the entrance of Camp Garcia beside the gate. She summarized other projects that are waiting for the approval of funds.

III. FFA Agreement

- Daniel Rodriguez (EPA) discussed the Agreement of the Federal Installations currently under public review. See presentation for more details.

Questions:

- Lirio Marquez D' Acunti (RAB Member): Who and how the agreement is signed?
Daniel: Every Agency has to sign it, this include the Navy, EPA, USFWS and EQB
- Lirio: Is this agreement for the Municipality or the Navy area?
Daniel: It is for the Navy area and not for the Municipality area.

- Hector Julian Camacho (RAB Member): Is the sea area included?
Underwater areas will be assessed for UXO following the reduction of explosive risk on the land areas. The Navy is willing to investigate these areas and take the appropriate action to work with this.
- Pablo Connelly (RAB Member): What is going to be done with the Lighthouse located in the East (Camp Garcia)? This has been a concern for quite some time. And the land given to the Municipality of Vieques, are they included in the Navy's Work Plan?
Daniel: The Lighthouse is included in the Navy's Work Plan. The land given to the Municipality of Vieques is not part of the Navy's Work Plan.
- Lirio: I'm worried for the munitions at the shore of the beaches.
Daniel: These areas have not been designated yet, but they will be worked in the future.
- Pablo: What has happened with the funds for the cartography of the munitions in the water?
Susana Struve (CH2M HILL): This is an issue that could be better discussed by NOAA. We will invite them to the next RAB meeting so we can get more information on this subject.

IV. Munitions Response Program Update

Tim Garretson (CH2M HILL) gave a summary of the Munitions Response Program. He presented a map of the areas of Vieques being cleaned and showed photos of the munitions that have been taken out of the East area. He explained even though they are working very hard to minimize the trespassing in to the range this is still a major concern. He talked about the visit of the RAB Members (6 members) on October 18, 2007 to the Range to see the demolition operations. See presentation for more details.

Comments from the RAB on the BIP site visit

Lirio: It was an educational visit. The detonations are not what we thought it was. It answered many questions we had.

Air Monitoring Sampling

Tim also explained the process of the Air Monitoring Sampling. He said that it takes time to perform the Air Monitoring process and to obtain the results.

Questions:

- Daniel Rodriguez: Is the factor of the wind's direction included in the Air Monitoring process?
Susana: This is a question for Mitch, we will get more details on this issue for the next RAB meeting.
- Stacie Notine (RAB member): Are you still collecting Air Monitoring data?
Tim: Yes

- Stacie: Do you know what the contents of the explosives are?
Tim: We keep records of all the items to be detonated and the content of the munitions. Some munitions however can contain different types of explosives for the same ordnance item. For example, we know how many 5-inch projectiles we have destroyed and we know what different explosives were used in the 5-inch projectiles, but we can't specifically say that a certain one had explosive D and another one contained Composition A5.

Non Critical Removal Action Update

Tim continued his presentation with an update of the Non-Time Critical Removal action. He also explained a map of the roads and beaches of the East of Vieques.

Questions:

- Lirio: On what date does the Non-Time Critical Removal begin?
Tim: Late next year maybe. It is expensive to do this, but first we will have to get the funds.
- Pablo: Will we receive an answer of the amount of money you are receiving from the recycled material?
Tim: We are not making any money off it. The savings are being used to off-set some of the transportation of the material.

IV. Environmental Program Update

Kevin Cloe (Navy) gave a brief of the actualization of the Environmental Restoration Program. He gave the status of the environmental sites of the East and West of Vieques. And for last he discussed the "ERP" documents for RAB revision. See presentation for more details.

CLOSURE

Susana Struve gave the thanks to everyone in the meeting and to all that help in it.