

Naval Facilities Engineering Command – Atlantic

RAB Status Report: January 2007

Former Navy Property, 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 the Environmental Restoration and Munitions Response activities on eastern Vieques. The following is a summary of the activities completed through January 2007, and the activities planned for completion for the next few months.

PROGRESS

Progress through January 2006

Environmental Restoration Program

- Completed PA/SI at 17 west Vieques sites and RI fieldwork at 8 west Vieques sites
- Completed EE/CA for removal action at 4 west Vieques sites (removal planned for 2007)
- Completed Phase I RFI (PA/SI) fieldwork at 22 east Vieques sites

Munitions Response Program

- 267 acres in the LIA have been surface cleared
- All beaches (65 acres) have been surface cleared
- Over 2,500 live munitions removed
- Over 100,000 munitions-related items removed
- More than 750 tons of metal processed
- Provided UXO Tech I training to 13 residents (10 currently employed)
- Provided 40-hour OSHA training and UXO awareness training for 48 residents
- 63 residents employed onsite
- Over \$700,000 paid in salaries to employees
- Over \$1,000,000 paid to Puerto Rican contractors and support personnel
- Average \$100,000 per month in local services (food, housing, fuel, transportation)

CURRENT AND COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

- **AOC E (Former Waste Oil Tank)**

The Supplemental Remedial Investigation (RI) field work, comprising soil and groundwater sampling, began in November 2005 and was completed in December 2005.

Updated human health and ecological risk assessment protocols are being developed (via an interactive process with the stakeholder agencies). The human health risk assessment and the ecological risk assessment for AOC E will be conducted once the protocols have been finalized. The risk assessment protocols are currently being reviewed by the stakeholder agencies.

- **AOC H (Abandoned Power Plant)**

Regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted for review in April 2004 were received in October 2005. Comment responses were prepared and submitted to the agencies for consideration in January 2006. A meeting was held among the agencies in May and September 2006 to discuss the comment responses and reach concurrence on an acceptable set of responses and associated report revisions. The final set of comment responses were concurred upon in December 2006. It is anticipated that the Draft Final RI Report, which incorporates the mutually agreed upon comment responses, will be submitted in February 2007.

- **AOC I (Former Asphalt Mixing Plant)**

The Supplemental RI field work, comprising monitoring well installation and sampling, began in late November 2005 and completed in January 2006. Updated human health and ecological risk assessment protocols are being developed (via an interactive process with the stakeholder agencies). The human health risk assessment and the ecological risk assessment for AOC I will be conducted once the protocols have been finalized. The risk assessment protocols are currently being reviewed by the stakeholder agencies.

- **AOC J (Former Operations/Staging Area Disposal Site)**

The Draft Final EE/CA for AOC J, AOC R, SWMU 6, and SWMU 7 was submitted in December 2005. The public comment period on the EE/CA was scheduled from about mid-December 2005 to mid-January 2006, but a request from a RAB member extended the public comment period for an additional 2 weeks. No public comments on the EE/CA were received. A draft removal action work plan was submitted to the regulatory agencies in November 2005. Regulatory comments were submitted to the Navy in March 2006. Based on regulatory comments, a revised draft removal action work plan is being prepared, which is anticipated to be submitted to the regulatory agencies in February 2007. Once regulatory concurrence on the revised draft work plan is reached, the draft final removal action work plan will be prepared. The removal action is anticipated to take place in 2007, pending finalization of the removal action work plan.

Regulatory comments on the Draft RI report submitted for review in April 2004 were received in January 2006. Comment responses were prepared, taking into consideration the removal action to be conducted at the site, and were submitted to the regulatory agencies for consideration in May 2006. A meeting was held among the agencies in September and December 2006 to discuss the comment responses and concur upon a path forward for revising the report. Because a removal action is to be performed at the site, which will include new risk assessments, the RI Report will be finalized as is because its purpose has been met. Following the removal action, a removal action report will be prepared that documents the removal action activities and the new risk assessment performed using the removal confirmatory data.

- **AOC R (Former Staging and Operations Area)**

The RI field work, comprising monitoring well installation and surface water, sediment, soil, and groundwater sampling, began in December 2005 and was completed in March 2006. Preliminary evaluation of the analytical data suggests additional data are needed to adequately delineate the nature and extent of contamination and assess potential risks. This additional data collection will take place concurrently and/or subsequently to the planned removal action. See the discussion above under AOC J regarding the EE/CA and removal action work plan for this site.
- **SWMU 4 (Former OB/OD Unit)**

Regulatory comments on the draft RI work plan submitted for review in June 2004 were received in January 2006. Comment responses were prepared and submitted to the regulatory agencies for consideration in April 2006. A meeting was held among the agencies in May and September 2006 to discuss the comment responses and reach concurrence on an acceptable set of responses and associated work plan revisions. The Draft Final Work Plan was submitted to the RAB in November 2006 and discussed at the RAB meeting held in January 2007. The Final Work Plan was submitted and the RI fieldwork initiated in January 2007.
- **SWMU 6 (Mangrove Disposal Site at Kiani Lagoon)**

Regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted for regulatory review in April 2004 were received in June 2006. Comment responses were prepared and submitted to the agencies for consideration in August 2006. A path forward for revising the RI report was discussed among the stakeholder agencies in September and December 2006. See the discussion above under AOC J regarding the Final RI Report, EE/CA, and removal action work plan for this site.
- **SWMU 7 (Quebrada Disposal Site)**

Responses to regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted to the regulatory agencies in November 2004. A path forward for revising the RI report was discussed among the stakeholder agencies in September and December 2006. See the discussion above under AOC J regarding the Final RI Report, EE/CA, and removal action work plan for this site.
- **Site Management Plan**

A Site Management Plan will be prepared in accordance with requirements defined in the Federal Facility Agreement, which is under development.

EASTERN VIEQUES

- **Original 12 SWMUs/AOCs Contained in the RCRA Consent Order**

A data summary report summarizing the data collected during the Phase I RFI was submitted to the regulatory agencies in May 2005. The draft Phase I RFI report will be completed once the soil inorganics background investigation has been completed and its report finalized.
- **PI/PAOC sites**

The final PA/SI work plan for 8 PI/PAOC site was submitted in January 2006, based on regulatory agency approval. The field work began in January 2006 and was completed in April 2006. The draft PA/SI Report will be prepared once the soil inorganics background investigation has been completed and its report finalized.

- **Background Soil Inorganics**

The public comment period on the Work Plan ended on June 11, 2005. Based on the public comments, several revisions were made to the technical approach to the Background Investigation (i.e., several sampling locations relocated, explosives analysis added for each sample collected, etc.). The Final Work Plan, with these revisions incorporated, was submitted in May 2006. Agency responses to the public comments were finalized, and they were discussed with the RAB at the June 2006 RAB meeting. The field work commenced in June 2006 and was completed in early July 2006. The draft report was submitted to the regulatory agencies on January 29, 2007 for their review.

MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

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

The Draft Munitions/Explosives Remedial Investigation Report dated April 2004 is currently on hold and will be revised to include data collected during future interim removal action.

- A draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to remove munitions at selected areas in the vicinity of SWMU 4 was submitted to the regulatory agencies in December 2005. Regulator comments received March 13, 2006. Navy and Regulatory agencies are determining appropriate approach for areas.

EASTERN VIEQUES - Munitions Response Actions

The Time Critical Removal Action in the LIA continues to reduce risk to human health for 1,100 acres in the LIA and ECA. Two hundred sixty seven acres have been surface cleared within the LIA, significantly reducing explosive risk in these areas. During these removal efforts over 2,500 live munitions items have been removed, including extremely sensitive submunitions. Additionally, 65 acres of beaches have been surface cleared of munitions.

Air monitoring is being conducted along the LIA-SIA border to determine if there are metals or explosives releases above human health screening criteria from the BIP activities. To date no metals have exceeded the criteria and no explosives have been detected at these "near source" locations.

The Final Expanded Range Assessment/Phase II Site Inspection report was submitted December 2006 and further investigation efforts to determine the munitions extent across the east side have been initiated including the subsurface geophysical surveys for the beach areas. The Phase II Site Inspection will also address munitions response sites not yet investigated, by conducting surface evaluations to determine if munitions items are present.

Draft EE/CA being developed for removal action at beach areas and selected roadways, see EE/CA discussion above for West Vieques.

Public Involvement Activities

- The first RAB meeting of 2007 took place on January 17, 2007

VIEQUES DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL UPDATE (as of January 2007)

Site	Document	Submitted By Navy To Regulators for Review	Regulator Comments Submitted To Navy
West Vieques			
AOC H	Draft RI Report	April 2004	October 2005
	Preliminary responses to regulatory comments	January 2006	Discussed in May, September, and December 2006
AOC R	Final RI Work Plan submitted in November 2005	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Draft EE/CA	August 2005	October 2005
	Draft Final EE/CA	Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	Not Applicable
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	November 2005	March 2006
SWMU 4	Draft RI Work Plan	June 2004	January 2006
	Preliminary responses to regulatory comments	April 2006	Discussed in May and September 2006 N/A
	Draft Final Work Plan	Submitted to RAB in November 2006	
SWMU 6	Draft RI Report	April 2004	June 2006
	Preliminary responses to regulatory comments	August 2006	Discussed in December 2006
	Draft EE/CA	August 2005	October 2005
	Draft Final EE/CA	Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	Not Applicable

Site	Document	Submitted By Navy To Regulators for Review	Regulator Comments Submitted To Navy
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	November 2005	March 2006
SWMU 7	Response to comments on Draft RI Report	November 2004	Discussed in September 2006 October 2005
	Draft EE/CA	August 2005	Not Applicable
	Draft Final EE/CA	Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	March 2006
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	November 2005	
AOC J	Draft RI Report	April 2004	?
	Preliminary responses to regulatory comments	May 2006	Discussed in December 2006
	Draft EE/CA	August 2005	October 2005
	Draft Final EE/CA	Submitted to RAB/Public in December 2005	Not Applicable
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	November 2005	March 2006
NFA Sites	PREQB Response to Public Comments on No Further Action Report	Not Applicable	
Eastern Vieques			
East Vieques Munitions Sites	Final MEC Master Work Plan	Final Submission - November 2006	
Various Munitions Response Sites and Beaches on East Vieques	Final Expanded Range Assessment/Phase II Site Inspection Work Plan	Final submission - December 2006. Editorial comments addressed and submitted - January 2007	
Background Soil	Revised Draft Final Soil Inorganics Background Investigation Work Plan	Public Comments Submitted to EPA in June 2005	November 2005
	Final Soil Inorganic Background Investigation Work Plan	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Draft Soil Inorganic Background Investigation Report	January 29, 2007	
Original RFI Sites	Data Summary Report	May 2005	Not Applicable

Site	Document	Submitted By Navy To Regulators for Review	Regulator Comments Submitted To Navy
8 PI/PAOC Sites	Final PA/SI Work Plan submitted in January 2006	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Baseline Groundwater	Draft Final Groundwater Baseline Investigation	May 2005	