



**Vieques Investigation and Cleanup
Navy Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Number 28

6:00 PM. - 9:00 PM., February 23, 2011- Lighthouse, Vieques

Attendees:

Mike Barandiaran/FWS
Mitsuka Bermudez/TICATOVE –Community Member
Edgardo Belardo/DNER
Wanda Bermudez/ RAB member
Kenji Butler/CH2M HILL
Kevin Cloe/Navy
Tim Garretson/ CH2M HILL
Jorge Fernandez Porto / RAB member
Colleen MacNamara/ RAB member
Lirio Márquez/ RAB member
Stacie Notine/RAB member
Madeline Rivera/Navy
Wilmarie Rivera/EQB
Daniel Rodríguez/EPA
Pedro Ruiz/Navy
Lionel Sanchez /RAB member
Susan Silander/FWS
Susana Struve/ CH2M HILL

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 6:20 PM. Kevin Cloe (Navy Co-chair) welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda. He said information would be presented on the recent fire on the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge and the findings from the current investigation of munitions discovered on Cayo La Chiva.

2. Current Field Investigations - West Vieques Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 6 Post-removal Supplemental Confirmatory Sampling. Kevin Cloe. See presentation for more details.

Kevin presented a summary of the site history of SWMU6 and details on the removal action conducted on the site in June 2009. The removal action changed the site from a land setting to a lagoon. Additional surface water and sediment samples were collected to evaluate new site conditions. During an Ecological Survey, fiddler crabs were observed.

Discussion Point:

What is the depth of the expanded lagoon? 3 to 4 ft at the deepest point.

**3. East Vieques Eastern Conservation Area (ECA) Remedial Investigation.
Kevin Cloe. Please refer to the presentation for more details**

Kevin provided a summary of the site history. The area was designated a Wilderness Area (133 acres). It is located adjacent to the LIA, where naval gunfire and air-to-ground bombing took place. Munitions-related items are present at ECA likely due to misfires and overshoots from the LIA. The Navy conducted a removal action to dispose of munitions-related items on the ground surface between 2005 and 2009. The removal of munitions-related items from the subsurface of beaches and roads is underway.

To evaluate the site conditions, the Navy is collecting soil, surface water, and sediment samples. The surface soil sampling is being conducted using a multi-incremental sampler. Shallow subsurface soil samples were collected with a hand auger; deeper subsurface soil samples used a slide hammer.

Discussion Points:

- What is the size of the sampler? Approximately 2" by 3/4"
- Is groundwater being sampled? Depending on the results of the surface water and sediments samples, we will sample groundwater.
- Is the lagoon filled with water all year around? No, it is filled with water for 6 to 7 months and dry the rest of the year.
- Did you reach groundwater during the sampling? Yes, at some locations, at other locations auger refusal was reached first.
- Do you think the depth of 2" covers all the contamination? Yes, most of the contamination is likely to be found on the surface.
- Are you going to install wells in the area? No groundwater wells are planned for this site; however, pending review of the analytical results of the sample data collected, it is possible that groundwater samples may be considered to ensure that sufficient characterization has been satisfied. ,

4. **Upcoming Documents for RAB Review. Kevin Cloe.**

During the 2nd Calendar Quarter (April – June) 2011, RAB member will receive the following draft final reports and will have 30 days to comment:

- Draft Final Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report for East Vieques Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1
- Draft Final Expanded Site Inspection Sampling and Analysis Plan for East Vieques UXO-15

5. **Cayo la Chiva Investigations. Kevin Cloe (Navy). See presentation for more details.**

Kevin led the discussion of the recent findings in Cayo la Chiva. During an inspection in early January, 2011, the Navy found five munitions items. These munitions are dangerous, and residents and visitors are urged to avoid the island until the area has been fully evaluated and deemed safe. During another investigation in February, the Navy found munitions items in the water near the island.

The Navy has posted signs on Cayo La Chiva Beach to warn people to stay away. The Coast Guard issued an Advisory Notice for this area. Currently the Navy is working with a Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit for emergency response. The Navy has distributed flyers around Vieques to warn residents and visitors about the dangers found on Cayo la Chiva, and printed an article on *The Vieques Events*. The flyer was also posted to NAVFAC-Vieques Public website.

Kevin asked RAB members and meeting attendees to help the Navy inform the public of the dangers at Cayo La Chiva.

Discussion Points:

- Can we get copies of the flyers so we can help with the distribution? Yes, thanks. We will send Lirio Márquez several copies of the flyer to be distributed to the Vieques Conservation Trust' visitors.
- Do you know who owns the island? We are reviewing information to establish ownership. The land was not transferred over as part of the land received by the DOI.

- Have you come across any depleted uranium bullets/bombs? None have been found during the cleanup. Some non-depleted uranium parts were found during the initial investigation.
- Were the rockets found on Cayo La Chiva live. They appear to be live.
- We suggest you place warning flyers in the Marinas in Humacao and Fajardo. *Note: The Navy is working with DNER and the Coast Guard to alert the marinas in the east coast of Puerto Rico.*

6. Recent Fire on the Refuge Restricted Area – Madeline Rivera. See presentation for more details.

Madeline gave a brief summary of what the Navy knows about the recent fire on the Refuge. The fire was reported to the agencies (FWS, EPA and EQB) on February 12, 2011 (Saturday). We are still investigating, but it could be that the fire started around 3 PM based on the calls received with sighting information.

The Navy contractors do not work on weekends. Currently the munitions removal work is being done on the north beaches (Campaña Beach, Puerto Negro Beach), on Matías Beach, and on grids in the center of the Eastern Maneuver Area/Surface Impact Area (EMA/SIA).

The Navy contractor did not access the area until Monday when the fire investigation started. A joint investigation (FWS, EPA and Navy) took place on Tuesday after the burned area was located and determined that it was safe to enter. The burned area covers approximately 160 acres.

Discussion Points:

- Are you collecting air monitoring data? The air monitoring units have been vandalized three times (the batteries and the copper have been stolen). We have been unable to continue getting equipment replacements. These units cost thousands of dollars to fix each time they are vandalized. We are in the process of moving one station to Camp Garcia, so the data from the units has been limited due to the vandalism.
- Was the area the same one which was burned a few years ago? No, it was in a different area. It was close but not in the same location. The areas we are currently working on are not in the vicinity of the area where the fire occurred.

7. Environmental Quality Board Update. Wilmarie Rivera (EQB). See presentation for more details.

- Wilmarie summarized EQB's oversight activities from November 2010 through February 2010:
 - On December 10 2010 – EQB participated in EPA 40 year Anniversary Celebration held in the Universidad Interamericana.
 - On December 14 and 15, 2010 – EQB and its contractors participated in the Environmental Technical Subcommittee held in EPA's office in New York.
 - On January 27, 2011– EQB, EPA and Navy inspected Cayo la Chiva.
 - On February 1, 2011 – EQB participated in a site visit on the ECA and provided oversight of the sampling areas and sampling techniques.
 - On February 8, 2011 – EQB participated in a conference call to discuss the regulatory agencies comments for the Draft Expanded Site Inspection, Sampling and Analysis Plan UXO 15, Former Vieques Training Range (VNTR), and the Draft Streamlined RI/FS Report SWMU 1, VNTR.
 - On February 7, 2011 – EQB attended a meeting held by EPA in the Multiple Use Center in Vieques.
- EQB learned about the recent fire on Saturday, February 12, 2011 through Endi.com (El Nuevo Dia's website). The next day, EQB contacted FWS to obtain more information. On February 15, EQB received a phone call requesting that the fire be investigated. Responding to this request, EQB inspected the burned area on February 17, 2011.

The initial findings tell us that the fire took place near Puerto Negro. Approximately 160 acres were burned. During the inspection, EQB and its experts did not observe any material or waste related to Navy's activities. EQB did observe parts of a railroad tracks, a motorized vehicle, and beer cans.

EQB recommends following up with the Fire Marshal to determine where the fire started and what caused it. EQB will be requesting from FWS a protocol to address a fire within refuge lands. And will request to the Navy the air monitoring data collected during the fire from the air monitoring station located in Camp Garcia.

- Recent reports reviewed by EQB
 - Draft Final Sampling and Analysis Plan, Eastern Conservation Area, VNTR
 - Draft Technical Memorandum PA/SI Work Plan for PAOC EE, VNTR
 - Draft AOC R Remedial Investigation Report, NASD
 - Draft Expanded Site Inspection, Sampling and Analysis Plan UXO 15, FVNTR

- Draft Streamlined RI/FS Report SWMU 1, VNTR

Discussion Points:

- Do you have any information on how the fire started? A Fire Marshal was asked to investigate. To date, he has not been able to enter the site due to another fire that occurred in Esperanza around the same date the fire in the refuge occurred. The Marshal thought that the inspection requested was for Esperanza. He did not realize there were two different fires.

8. Environmental Protection Agency Update (EPA). Daniel Rodriguez. See presentation for more details.

Daniel Rodriguez provided a summary of EPA's oversight activities including document review, field activities oversight and provided an update to the EPA OSV BOLD event.

- Document review:
 - Environmental Restoration Program:
 - Final Post Removal Supplemental Confirmatory SAP SWMU 6 - December 2010
 - Final Remedial Investigation ECA – January 2011 Final Site Management Plan FY 2011 – January 2011
 - Final AOC J and SWMU 7 Risk Assessments Reports - February 2011
 - Final AOC R Remedial Investigation Report – February 2011
 - Draft Remedial Investigation Report Solid Waste Management Unit 4, August 2009 – Revisions to Risk Assessments, May 28, Comments Submitted June 2010, Comments Resolution
 - Draft SWMU 1 RI/FS Report – Comments Submitted Dec. 2010, Draft Final March 11, 2011
 - Munitions Response Program:
 - Final No Action Decision Document PI 14 and PAOC FF – December 2010
 - Draft Bahia Icos Waterway Barrier Installation Work Plan, July 2009 – Comments provided September 2009
 - Final No Action Decision Document PI 14 and PAOC FF – December 2010
 - Draft Bahia Icos Waterway Barrier Installation Work Plan, July 2009 – Comments provided September 2009
 - Draft TCRA/Interim Measure – After Action Report, Surface MEC at MRA – LIA and ECA – Comments Submitted June 2010
 - Draft Expanded Site Inspection/SAP UXO 15 – October 2010, Comments Submitted January 2011, Comments Resolution

- Field Oversight Activities
 - AOC I Field Sampling – November 4-5, 2010
 - EPA Site Visit – November 16, 2010
 - Cayo La Chiva – January 27, 2011
 - SWMU 6 Removal – February 2, 2011
 - ECA Field Sampling – February 7-11, 2011
 - EMA Fire – February 15, 2011

- OSV BOLD event update:
 - On November 10-12, 2010 – The boat was sampling at Mosquito Bay
 - On November 22, 2010 – Open Ship, Mosquito Pier. Unfortunately due to the weather, the children invited to visit the ship were not allowed on board.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.