

Notes from Informal RAB meeting
April 25, 2012
VCHT

Attendees:

Lirio Márquez (RAB member)
Jorge Fernández Porto (RAB member)
Michael Díaz (RAB member)
Coleen McNamara (RAB member)
Wilmarie Rivera (EQB)
Daniel Rodríguez (EPA)
Rich Henry (FWS)
Pedro Ruiz (Navy)
Dan Waddill (Navy)
Kevin Cloe (Navy)
Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL)
Madeline Rivera (Navy)

Topics Discussed:

1) Terrestrial UXO CSM- Brett explained how the CMS shown in the draft Master Sampling and Analysis Plan was developed. Sources, release mechanisms, transport mechanisms, receptors and exposure routes are shown in order to develop an appropriate sampling approach.

Q- Why don't you consider the mangroves that are along some of the sites?

A- We cannot represent all the plants that are on these sites, partly because there are so many types of plants and partly because toxicity information is not available for all plants. Plants that have toxicity information and are best representative of plant species at a site are selected for evaluation. This same process is done for animal species at a site. Additionally we will check into adding a list of site species and a cross-walk sheet with surrogate species used for risk assessment purposes. Blue crabs will also be added to any lagoon as a receptor where they may be present.

Q- Why are you only considering humans as a receptor for the north area only?

A- We consider exposure based on actual and planned site use based on the FWS land use plan. This plan shows specific areas that are proposed for human activities such as FWS conservation activities and public recreation.

Q- Do you consider archeological and cultural sites while you investigate the sites?

A- Yes, we do. Archeological/cultural evaluations and/or surveys are performed prior to investigation at any site. We work with SHPO to ensure all archeological/cultural sites are identified, and that they concur the work as stated in the work plans will be protective of any archeological/cultural sites.

Q- Is there funding for all this sampling?

A- Not in one year, but the work is to be done over several years.

Q- We need to consider trespassers as human receptors and may need to add iguanas for human consumption.

A- On Figure 20 trespassers are listed. Trespassers are considered for all sites. We will evaluate whether iguanas should be added for the human consumption exposure pathway.

2. SWMU 4 VW Feasibility Study

A brief explanation of the site history and studies done was presented. Remedial alternatives were discussed.

Q- The beaches on the west erode more than the ones on the east. Is 4 ft for subsurface MEC removal enough? Will this depth ensure removal of everything?

A- The 4 ft was chosen based on turtle nest depth. However, it is recognized that beaches are dynamic and change over the years and we may find things not previously identified. That is why a long-term monitoring plan will be implemented to periodically check the beaches.

Navy Comment:

The lagoon will not be opened for fishing. There will be signs stating this, but we will still sample for fish and crabs because trespassing and non permitted activities may still occur.

All sites where there is MEC will have Institutional Controls and Long Term Monitoring as part of the selected remedy.

Q- For those areas/paths where we know there are trespassing activities, have you done anything to secure them?

A- We are evaluating those accessible areas and will include a surface evaluation and clearance, as necessary, as part of the proposed remedy to minimize potential exposure to MEC by trespassers in these “accessible areas. Signs, educational programs, monitoring, fence, informational kiosk may be used to help discourage trespassing.

3 Air Monitoring Associated with Munitions Detonations-

Navy asked if we should modify or discontinue the air monitoring since all data collected shows that no exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQs) have occurred.

RAB members expressed their desire that the monitoring continue. The numbers showing that no contamination is reaching the community from the open detonations gives them confidence, but not having those numbers takes away that confidence. Another concern is that the clean up is getting closer to the community.