



# Vieques Investigation and Cleanup

Navy Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic

## RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

Meeting Number 36

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – February 20, 2013 – Ice House, Vieques

### MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees:**

Mike Barandiarán (USFWS)	Rich Henry (USFWS)
Anita Braddock (community member)	Daniel Rodríguez (EPA)
Jorge Fernández Porto (RAB member)	Fabián Martínez (MOV)
Brett Doerr (CH2M HILL)	Wilmarie Rivera (EQB)
Craig Lilyestrom (DRNA)	Lionel Sanchez (RAB member)
Laura Arroyo Lugo (DRNA)	Donald Shaw (USA Environmental)
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	Andrew Willner (Sustainability Solutions)
Félix López (USFWS)	Lirio Márquez (RAB member)
Colleen McNamara (RAB member)	Susana Struve (CH2M HILL)

**1. Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Cloe/Navy**

The meeting began at 6:10 PM. Kevin Cloe welcomed participants and described the agenda for the meeting.

**2. Environmental Upcoming Work**

Brett Doerr/CH2M HILL presented a tentative schedule of the upcoming deliverables for RAB document review. Documents include:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Calendar Quarter (April –June) 2013
  - Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 20 Remedial Investigation Sampling and Analysis Plan
  - Laguna La Chiva Site Inspection/Expanded Site Inspection Sampling and Analysis Plan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Calendar Quarter (July –September) 2013
  - SWMU 1 Pre-design Work Plan
  - Fiscal Year 2014 Site Management Plan Update
- 4<sup>th</sup> Calendar Quarter (October –December) 2013
  - Proposed Remedial Action Plans (PRAPs) for Area of Concern (AOC) E, AOC I, and UXO 1

The tentative schedule for Environmental Restoration Program fieldwork in 2013 includes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Calendar Quarter (January –March) 2013
  - Remedial Investigations at UXOs 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 18
  - UXO 13 Interim Removal Action (through 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Calendar Quarter (April –June) 2013
  - Remedial Investigations at UXOs 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 18
  - SWMU 20 Remedial Investigation
  - PI 21 Site Inspection
  - Laguna La Chiva Site Inspection
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Calendar Quarter (July –September) 2013
  - Remedial Investigations at UXOs 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 18
  - UXO 16 Bathymetry Survey
- 4<sup>th</sup> Calendar Quarter (October –December) 2013
  - Remedial Investigations at UXOs 4, 9,10,12,14,and 18
  - UXO 16 Bathymetry Survey

#### Discussion Points

- **Lirio Márquez (RAB member)** – What is the source of the soil cover for the landfill? Brett responded that additional pre-design characterization will take place first to better define the extent of the landfill followed by an evaluation of the quantity of soil cover required. The source of the soil cover will be evaluated as part of the remedial design that will be discussed at a future date with the RAB.
- **Jorge Porto Fernández (RAB member)** – Are surface water and sediment samples being collected from lagoons? Brett responded that as of today most of the lagoons are dry and they will be sampled after they have been established with water for a few weeks. However, the tidal lagoons are currently being sampled.
- **Jorge Porto Fernández** – What area would be covered by the bathymetry survey? Brett responded that UXO-16 will initially be evaluated. If data suggests that munitions extend beyond the boundary, the area of investigation will be updated in the future.
- **Lirio Márquez** – Will the beach dynamics investigation/bathymetry survey be available for the general public? Brett responded that specialized engineers in near shore beach dynamics and the ocean floor have been brought on to the team to evaluate the data; the beach and bathymetry data will be available to the public in the future.
- **Lionel Sanchez (RAB member)** – How is this data beneficial to the cleanup and is there a plan in place for an underwater remedy? Fishermen have indentified underwater munitions and are concerned that the future remedy will involve underwater detonations. Brett responded that interim actions have taken care of some beaches in the past, but a long-term remedy is needed each site. It is important to understand the beach processes and dynamic nature as it is impacts the evaluation of munitions occurrence and transport. He added that there are a number of options for remedies, but underwater detonations are considered as part of the remedy. Each remedy is evaluated, such as impacts to underwater ecology. Data is needed to be collected first to define what the future remedy will be. As for underwater munitions being identified by

fishermen, this information can be provided by public for consideration, but it is also recommended that trespassing does not occur in these areas.

- **Andrew Willner (visitor)** – Stated that in NJ around Sandy Hook major storms exposed munitions many years later. He added that Orvin Pilke from Duke University should be considered in evaluating the beach dynamics as he is an expert in beach erosion and accretion. Brett responded that we evaluate site conditions after major storms to ensure proper remedies are implemented after these conditions as well.
- **Fabián Martínez (Vieques Municipality)** – He thinks that PREQB should be leading the investigations and cleanup of Vieques.
- **Visitor** – When will the bathymetry study end? Brett responded that the schedule may change, but currently it would likely end in the New Year.

### **3. UXO Awareness Kiosks Installation Update**

Kevin Cloe/NAVFAC presented the information that would be posted at information kiosks for the public, as they access beach areas on the range. He also showed on a map the locations for the kiosks.

- **Lionel Sanchez (RAB member)** – Will be starting a snorkeling operation soon, and there is a lot of traffic that blocks the road in the area near the boat ramp. Will a parking structure be developed in this area? Kevin responded that he would need USFWS to answer that as they are the owners of the land.

### **4. Regulatory Agencies Update – Wilmarie Rivera/Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB)**

Wilmarie Rivera (PREQB) provided an update on what PREQB's regulatory role is on Vieques, PREQB has a new president who conducted her first site tour yesterday. Wilmarie oversaw the process of the environmental sampling being conducted for the terrestrial UXO sites kicked off on Tuesday.

### **5. Regulatory Agencies Update – Danny Rodriguez/U.S. Environmental Protections Agency (EPA)**

Danny Rodriguez (EPA) provided an update on what EPA's regulatory role is on Vieques, and that EPA is hosting a meeting on March 3 related to community concerns on SWMU 4. EPA recently met with the municipality, who indicated that they are interested in being more involved and attending the public meetings.

### **6. Regulatory Agencies Update – Rich Henry/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

Rich Henry (USFWS) mentioned several current refuge activities, including an update of the greenhouse.

- **Jorge Porto Fernández** – How is the plant production going at the greenhouse? Mike Barandiarán responded that it is going on slowly but USFWS is still not at full capacity. He added that we still need to see what the proposed remedy at UXO 1 is on a second greenhouse.

## 7. Other questions from the Participants

- **Jorge Porto Fernández** – Commented that he provided Susana an email that the Municipality Vieques had concerns that there is only one company left that with local workers and that more people are being brought from the US and not using the locals. Kevin responded that the folks brought in from the US are UXO Tech III levels and these qualifications are not available on Vieques.
- **Fabián Martínez** – Asked if there are recruitment procedures for locals and is it communicated with the municipality? What can the municipality do to help hire local staff? Kevin responded that the Navy has provided training for UXO technicians and vegetation clearance and the contractors use this information to fill up data gaps, but he cannot comment on behalf of the contractors.
- **Laura Arroyo (DNER - Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs)** – Will be attending the formal public meetings in the future and people can contact them with concerns related to Vieques.

## 8. Closing – Kevin Cloe/Navy

Kevin stated that the Navy needs to hear more information about the budget restrictions and will provide information to the RAB as it becomes available.

Susana Struve thanked the attendees.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.