



Vieques Investigation and Cleanup Navy Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Number 39

7:25 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., November 14, 2013, Ice House, Vieques, PR

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Mike Barandiaran – USFWS	Héctor Olivieri – Vieques Municipality
Angela Carpenter – EPA	Daniel Rodriguez – EPA
Kevin Cloe – NAVFAC Atlantic	Madeline Rivera – NAVFAC Atlantic
Brett Doerr – CH2M Hill	Wilmarie Rivera – EQB
Colleen McNamara – Community RAB member	Susana Struve – CH2MHILL
Fabian Martinez – Vieques Municipality	Ramon Torres – EPA
Lirio Márquez – Community RAB member	Julio Vázquez – EPA
Stacie Notine – Community RAB member	

Topics Discussed:

Susana Struve (Facilitator)	Meeting began at 7:25 PM. Welcome to Vieques Investigation and Cleanup NAVFAC Atlantic Restoration Advisory Board
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	Kevin Cloe discussed the agenda and introduced Madeline Rivera.
Madeline Rivera (Navy)	<p><i>Community Involvement Plan Update (community interviews)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madeline reported that the CIP interview questionnaire have been reviewed and agreed upon by the agencies and has been finalized. Madeline thanked Jorge Fernández Porto (RAB Member) for providing comments on the questionnaire. • Madeline stated that the public interviews originally planned for October have been delayed due to the federal government shutdown. After discussing with EPA and EQB availability, the interviews have been rescheduled for the week of January 27, 2014. • During the interview week, the teams will conduct interviews with random members of the public in the towns of Isabel Segunda and Esperanza. • Teams of Agencies’ representatives (EPA, Navy and EQB) also will be available at the Multiple Use Center and the Vieques Conservation and Historic Trust (VCHT) to conduct interviews with the community. • Madeline thanked Lirio Marquez (VCHT Executive Director) for allowing the use of the Trust facilities for this activity. <p><i>Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) membership</i> Due to their busy schedules, Wanda Bermúdez and Lionel Sánchez will no longer be participating as RAB members; currently the Vieques RAB has four active community members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Navy welcomes new RAB members and in the next few months will implement

	<p>some strategies to encourage community members to join the Vieques RAB.</p>
Lirio Márquez (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The VCHT facility is available for the interviews, but I think there will not be many people from the community who will schedule an interview there. You may need to find an alternative, more accessible facility.
Colleen MacNamara (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you going to announce the interviews dates/locations? Have you considered announcing this activity through Radio Vieques?
Madeline Rivera (Navy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are also using the Multiple Use Center in Isabel II to conduct interviews. The Navy is in the process of mailing the entire CIP questionnaire to all Vieques residents including a self-addressed, stamped envelope. In this mailing, the Navy is also giving the option to schedule a person-to-person interview during the week of January 27 at their prefer location (Multiple Use Center or VCHT). • The Navy will announce the beginning of the interview process with a flyer which will be distributed via e-mail and placed at key community locations (i.e. Post Office, Bakery etc.) • <u>ACTION ITEM: The Navy will consider the idea of announcing the interview process through Radio Vieques.</u>
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<p>Central Processing Center – Scrap Metal Certification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Cloe explained the process the Navy follows to inspect and certify the scrap metal as free of explosive before it can be transported to a recycling facility. Kevin showed photos of the different steps: metal segregation, soil sifting to remove metal pieces, materials inspection, drum packing, drum sealing, drum weighing, and drum storage in connex boxes for later transportation. Kevin explained that two UXO technicians-level-3 inspect each piece of metal to certify that the scrap is free of explosives, and summarized the forms the technicians use to document the certification process.
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<p>Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin showed a map of the site indicating the location and extent of the erosion control fence to prevent erosion runoff. He explained, using photographs, of how the vegetation was cut, and how the mulch produced was spread on top of the cleared areas.
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding SWMU 1, the former Camp Garcia landfill and the 2012 ROD: Initially, we were in the process of cutting transects to identify the small amounts of debris on the landfill surface. • The plan was to add a 2-foot soil cover to the small debris areas, while working on developing transects, we found much more exposed trash than we anticipated. So, we changed our approach. Instead of cutting transects, we are in the process of cutting vegetation over the entire landfill so that all surface debris can be removed and we can do a geophysical survey of the area so that we can refine the area of the landfill that will receive the 2-foot soil cover. • Will update at next RAB meeting.
Stacie Notine (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Where is the runoff going to? To Laguna La Chiva? Will this water be monitored/sampled?
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No runoff has been observed and the silt fencing is in place to prevent eroded soil from leaving the site. The Navy has sampled both the ephemeral streams and Laguna La Chiva in the past and the data showed that there are no concerns about the runoff water (surface water). The Navy will monitor groundwater of SWMU 1 during the long-term monitoring phase for this site, including the monitoring wells downgradient of the site.
Daniel Rodriguez (EPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reviewing the information and the results from the investigations of this site, the Navy concluded and the agencies concurred that the surface water was not a concern; therefore, runoff should not present a risk for this site.

Hector Olivieri (Municipality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is the contamination on this landfill similar to the contamination of other landfills with no related military practices? The SWMU 1 area has been proposed as a location of solar panels for renewable energy, we have not received any feedback on that proposal.
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process for investigating landfills is the same and the investigation is not different just because the site is located within a former military installation. The waste the Navy found on SWMU 1 was mostly domestic waste, similar to other landfills not associated with military presence, with some munitions debris but nothing that merits a different consideration for its closure.
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<p><i>Update on Munitions Site (UXO) 16 (off shore waters)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin presented a tentative schedule for the underwater investigations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compiled all bathymetry data - Side-scan sonar all of UXO 16 (ongoing) - Work plan for Expanded Site Inspection adjacent to SWMU 4 - Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for offshore area around Cayo La Chiva 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Side-scan sonar data evaluation and wide area assessment work plan for all of UXO 16 - Expanded Site Inspection field work adjacent to SWMU 4 - Work plan for Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) for offshore area around Cayo La Chiva 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide area assessment field work - NTCRA field work • Kevin showed a map of UXO 16 and explained that a side-scan sonar survey started this week to map the bottom of the ocean. He showed photos of the equipment, boat, scanner, and the computer used to collect the data. • After the side-scan sonar data are analyzed, the Navy will develop a work plan for the wide-area assessment (geophysical survey) for the areas within the boundaries of the Vieques National Priorities List designation. The side-scan sonar data are used to help avoid impacting bottom structures, like reefs, during the geophysical survey. If the wide-area assessment data suggest munitions are present beyond these boundaries, the Navy will expand the area of the investigation.
Daniel Rodriguez (EPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scanner will only provide a map of the bottom of the sea. This technology was recommended by NOAA and allows detecting and avoiding coral species, but it may also help detect other type of anomalies.
Lirio Márquez (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You are doing the sonar now, but after major storm events the contours may change. How reliable is this information to conduct further studies?
Brett Doerr (CH2MHILL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The storms should not affect the data obtained from the side-scan sonar, which are primarily the large bottom structures, such as reefs. However, with respect to the potential for munitions to move, the Navy will be conducting a beach dynamics study to determine how the beaches and near-shore (just off-shore) changes over time, including after storm events. This information will help determine how munitions may move due to the effects of waves, currents, and storms.
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<p><i>Laguna Anones sampling</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin showed a map of the lagoon and the sampling locations. Kevin stated that in order to be able to collect sediment samples, the Navy needed to wait until the areas planned for sampling contained water. The sampling was done the week of October 21th; the samples are currently being analyzed by the laboratory.

<p>Daniel Rodriguez/ Angela Carpenter (EPA)</p>	<p>Agencies Update – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danny showed photos of EPA’s oversight of the SWMU 20 (formerly PI-4) groundwater sampling (23 monitoring wells have been installed on this site) • EPA observed the Laguna Anones sampling activities, stating that during the discussions with the agencies, there was concern that due to the drought in Vieques, there was a possibility to not have enough water to be able to implement the work plan. During the sampling activity, samples were appropriately obtained. • SWMU 1- There was a change to the erosion control plan. Due to the potential of encountering munitions under the surface on this site, the agencies agreed that instead of entrenching the bottom of the fence into the ground, the bottom of the fence was to be covered with gravel to keep it in place, which serves the same function of entrenching it in the ground. • Task Force meeting – Danny discussed the recent meeting of the Vieques Sustainability Task Force and shared with the attendees some printed information. • There is information about the Task Force progress on the table in the back. Angela Carpenter (EPA) stated that there was a large group of people representing different agencies (state and federal). We will be posting on our website the list of participants.
<p>Wilmarie Rivera (PREQB)</p>	<p>Agencies Update – Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilmarie stated the Government of Puerto Rico participated in the Vieques Sustainable Task Force with the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accelerate the investigation and cleanup process in those areas of public interest so that the community of Vieques will have access to these areas for recreational and other uses as soon as possible. - Accelerate access to additional land areas will contribute to the sustainable development of the island. • Priority sites were selected so that Vieques residents will have access to a greater number of acres in areas of public interest for recreation or social benefit as soon as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PREQB prefers that the site investigation/cleanup of these sites is concluded without institutional controls limiting public access and use. - PREQB acknowledges that this will not be possible in some areas. - PREQB wants the largest number of acres to be made available for the sustainable development of the island as quickly as possible. • PRQB has identified the following areas on both the west side and east side of the island as sites that should be prioritized. This would show immediate progress in releasing sites for unrestricted public use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accelerate the work to be done at SWMUs 4 and 6 with the objective of closing all sites still under investigation on the west side of the island. - Prioritize the investigation and removal of munitions in the water around SWMU 4. • In addition to the waters surrounding SWMU 4, investigation priorities underwater include the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Puerto Ferro – UXO 15 - Playa La Chiva (Blue Beach) – UXO 16 (underwater) - Playa Caracas (Red Beach) – UXO 16 (underwater) - Cayo La Chiva – UXO 18 - Punta Conejo – UXO 8 (land) UXO 16 (underwater) - Ensenada Honda –UXO 8 (land) UXO 16 (underwater) - Punta Campanilla – UXO 7 (land) UXO 16 (underwater) • A priority action is to establish co-management agreements between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Government of Puerto Rico to facilitate public access and to encourage recreational and commercial activities at Puerto Ferro and the priority beach areas. • Other Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The strategy for the community outreach needs to be revised in order to increase their participation in the decision-making process and get their acceptance of the final decision.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and transfer to the Government of Puerto Rico those areas that can be used for renewable energy and benefit the Municipality of Vieques (i.e., SWMU 1). - Consider funding and development of RCRA Subtitle D Compliant Landfill in the municipal sanitary landfill system. This alternative should include the transfer of the land adjacent to the existing municipal landfill owned by USFWS.
Héctor Olivieri (Municipality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Those projects seem fine and they should be a priority, but they do not represent the interests of the Vieques community. The community wants to develop agricultural projects, sustainable projects for tourism, etc. The Government of Puerto Rico needs to look for ways to learn and gather information on what the Vieques community really wants.
Lirio Márquez (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Task Force was established by the White House. During the last Task Force meeting we asked the EPA Administrator to hold the next meeting in Vieques.
Ramón Torres (EPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We need to keep in mind that the Vieques Sustainable Task Force was created to address the status of Puerto Rico. The EPA Region 2 Administrator was appointed to deal with the priorities related to Vieques.
Susana Struve (CH2M HILL)	<p>Closing Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy - Consider the idea of announcing the CIP interview process through Radio Vieques. • Navy - Send copies of the presentations along with the minutes to all meeting attendees.