



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

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Number 40

6:25 p.m. - 8:10 p.m., February 12, 2014, Multiple Use Center, Vieques, PR

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Mike Barandiaran – USFWS	Nilda Medina – Community member
Kevin Cloe – NAVFAC Atlantic	Stacie Notine – Community RAB member
Jennie Chayon – Visitor	Martha Quiñones – Community member
Kathy Gannett – Community member	Madeline Rivera – NAVFAC Atlantic
Daniel Hood – NAVFAC Atlantic	Wilmarie Rivera – PR Environmental Quality Board
June and Luther Landrum – Community members	Donald Shaw – USAE
Isabel López – Community member	Daniel Rodriguez – USEPA
Colleen McNamara – Community RAB member	Susana Struve – CH2M Hill
Lirio Márquez – Community RAB member	John Tomik – CH2M Hill
Jorge Fernández Porto – Community RAB member	

Topics Discussed:

Susana Struve (Facilitator)	Meeting began at 6:25 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 stated that the Navy mailed 3,005 questionnaires to Vieques registered mail addresses the week of Jan 6, 2014. The Navy also e-mailed the questionnaire to about 169 addresses from the Vieques mailing list. A link to the questionnaire was also published in the Vieques Blog. • The interviews dates were announced in the cover letters sent with the questionnaires and in the Navy’s informational flyer from the month of December. They also were announced for 5 consecutive days on Radio Vieques and by the megaphone truck for 2 days. • Interviews were conducted in Isabel Segunda and Esperanza on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 2014 by two teams each composed of a representative from the US Navy, one from EPA and one from EQB. The interviewers obtained feedback from community members walking in the area and from community members at the Multiple Use Center and the

	<p>Vieques Conservation and Historic Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interview teams conducted a total of 88 face-to-face interviews. • To date, about 150 completed questionnaires have been received by mail. 14 completed questionnaires have been returned by email. • We found out that interviews were an effective way to reach a large number of community members. People felt comfortable talking to the teams and having representatives from the 3 agencies helped facilitate the communication exchange.
Jorge Fernández Porto (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I am surprised that there were so many folks responding to the mailed questionnaire. I am happy to hear that you had a good response (over 3%).
Madeline Rivera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes, excluding the number of children on the island, the return percentage is more than 5%. We believe that the questionnaires received represent a well balanced mix between native Viequenses and folks who live on Vieques but come from the USA or other countries. ➤ Looking at random return addresses on the envelopes received, we were encouraged to see that a large number of native Viequenses filled out the questionnaires.
Stacie Notine (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What was the purpose of the survey; how would you report the responses?
Madeline Rivera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The questionnaire’s objective was to community feedback to update the Community Involvement Plan (CIP), with emphasis on getting information on what the community perceives and is interested in learning about the environmental restoration, as well as their preferred methods to reach the community with this information.
Colleen McNamara (RAB member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the future of the RAB and how is it related to the new CIP?
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The information we received from the community will help us review our strategies to reach the public and keep the community informed about the environmental activities and re-enforce our safety message related to the munitions response actions being conducted. ➤ The RAB has been the backbone of the CIP and will continue as long there is interest from the members/community to serve as RAB members and participate in RAB meetings.
Susana Struve (CH2MHILL)	<p><i>New Navy’s Public Website Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Navy is happy to announce that its new public website is now available to the public, facilitating access to cleanup information and the Vieques Administrative Record (AR) using the search engine. ➤ The new website follows the format for all Navy installations in order to standardize how the information is accessed. ➤ The new Vieques website is in English, but the Navy has loaded Spanish and English versions of RAB meeting minutes, informational flyers, newsletters, workshops and all RAB related documents starting in 2001. ➤ The website is divided into West Vieques and East Vieques to facilitate the information search on sites located within each side of the island. ➤ One new feature is that the viewer can share with others website pages using multimedia tools (Facebook, Twitter).
Stacie Notine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How far back are the documents in the AR?
Madeline Rivera/Daniel Hood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The official AR for Vieques contains official documents related to the cleanup generated from the beginning of the Installation Restoration Program (1984) to the

(Navy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ present, and new documents are continually added. ➤ Reports that were referenced in the Environmental Baseline Study (EBS), documents related to the past RCRA Consent Order, up to current documents produced under CERCLA.
Jorge Fernández Porto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ So, to see what documents are included in the AR, one must go to the website and start searching the site. To locate a document one must know either the name of the document, the date range or some other basic information to facilitate the search?
Susana Struve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes, and all decision documents have been loaded to the AR and are available to the public from the Navy's website.
Stacie Notine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the protocol to include/ not include documents in the AR?
Susana Struve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is an established method to classify documents for the AR.
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	<p><i>Update on Munitions Site (UXO) 16 (off shore waters)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kevin showed a map of UXO 16 and photos of the equipment used during the side scan sonar survey. ➤ The objective of the survey was to map the sea floor to identify physical conditions such as topography, obstructions, reefs, etc. ➤ The survey was completed in January 2014. The data are currently being evaluated and will help to protect bottom features, such as coral reefs, during the Wide Area Assessment. ➤ The Navy will be developing during April through July 2014 the Work Plan for the Wide Area Assessment. The Plan will present the approach to identify munitions and potential munitions present beneath the sea floor. ➤ The Navy expects to conduct the wide area assessment in the spring of 2015, which will help focus the underwater areas to be investigated presented in the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA).
Jorge Fernández Porto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How does the scanner work, considering that there are fragile coral reefs?
Daniel Hood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Once we identified the areas with high munitions density, the Navy will develop specific plans for each site depending on specific site characteristics. ➤ Depending on the survey findings related to access to the area, munitions density and depth, the Navy will select and classify the areas in consultation with USFWS, NOAA and Marine Fisheries. ➤ The instruments used to study the ocean bottom can be controlled electronically and manually to keep them from damaging the coral reefs.
Nilda Medina (Community member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are sure that not all the munitions can be removed; some items I assume may need to be detonated. What are the underwater munitions disposal techniques you will be using?
Kevin Cloe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Each underwater munitions situation will be addressed based on its individual site conditions. ➤ We are in the process of evaluating different techniques other than in-situ detonation, including lifting the items up and moving them to shore, as well as encapsulating – sealing items in place with concrete that can eliminate the danger posed by the munitions while protecting the reef from the damage caused by detonation.
Jorge Fernández Porto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The map shows the area scanned within the survey area. How will you determine how to expand the area?
Kevin Cloe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Whether or not the study area needs to be expanded will depend on what is found within the planned study area.

Stacie Notine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The majority of these munitions items have been there for decades. Will you consider developing a fish study and conducting a Biological Assessment for the entire area; will you be sampling sediment/coral?
Kevin Cloe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NOAA is developing a fish study project. Dianne Wehner from NOAA will be coming to the next meeting to talk about this project. ➤ Additionally, the beach dynamic study we discussed during the last meeting will help determine how the munitions items may have moved near the shore based on sand mobility. ➤ If Biological Assessments are required as part of the investigative or cleanup activities, they will be performed
Wilmarie Rivera (EQB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes, NOAA received funds to conduct a fish study; they will be working closely with DNER. ➤ In total the Navy is looking into investigating about 15,000 acres of underwater areas.
Wilmarie Rivera	<p>Agencies Update – Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EQB participated in the community interviews; it was a good experience to listen to the different opinions from the community. ➤ The agency participated in the technical team meeting in NY in January 2014. ➤ EQB reviewed 4-5 technical documents, provided comments and after discussion with the Navy, reached agreement on the approach for each document. The review process has been expedited, allowing for a more efficient document review/approval process. ➤ DNER now will be part of the Department of Defense-State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA). The Navy is providing additional funds to DNER to participate in the technical review process and attend meetings.
Jorge Fernández Porto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why is DNER participating now? They have not been involved before. Do they have different consultants?
Wilmarie Rivera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes, DNER works with their consultants.
Lirio Marquez (Community member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How does this impact the FFA?
Wilmarie Rivera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This does not have an impact on the FFA; DNER will not be added to the agreement. They will provide their comments to EQB. The two agencies will discuss the comments and will provide the Navy with one set of comments from the two agencies. This adds one more step for EQB as we still need to meet the review schedule stipulated by the Site Management Plan.
Daniel Rodriguez (USEPA)	<p>Agencies Update – US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EPA participated in the same technical meeting Wilmarie mentioned and reviewed and submitted comments for the same documents. ➤ EPA conducted a field visit to review the Field Change Request (FCR) submitted by the Navy to modify the erosion control fence for SWMU 1 (landfill). The Navy requested the change after evaluating the actual site conditions and recommended a modification to the erosion control plan. We agreed on a small change to the FCR, and it should be approved.
Mike Barandiarán (USFWS)	<p>Agencies Update – US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FWS will also work with DNER to ensure comments are in agreement. ➤ The Remedial Project Manager for USFWS is now Susan Silander. Rich Henry will remain as a technical advisor. ➤ Susan will work with the Technical Services (FWS), Refuge Management (FWS), and DNER to review and approve the approach for the Work Area Determinations (WADs).

Jorge Fernández Porto	➤ What is the status of UXO 1?
Mike Barandiarán	➤ We discussed the approach and decided to do the restoration plan for UXO 1 (ECA) in phases, starting with Phase 1 (first 60 acres). This phase will determine the abiotic conditions of the plants to allow an aggressive repatriation with native species within the next 3 years. The proposed restoration plan will be sent to the Navy for review.
Susana Struve	<p>Closing Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy to send a copy of the AR protocol to the RAB members. Printed copies of the protocol will be available at the next RAB meeting