



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

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

Meeting Number 52

6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m., February 15, 2017, Vieques Lighthouse, Vieques, PR

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

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| Dan Waddill - Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC Atlantic | Linda LaViolette – Community RAB Member |
| Kevin Cloe -- Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC Atlantic | James Larkins – Community RAB Member/ Amigos del Cayo La Chiva |
| Daniel Hood – Ex-Officio RAB member, NAVFAC Atlantic | Stacie Notine – Community RAB Member |
| Madeline Rivera – NAVFAC Atlantic | Luther Landrum – Community RAB Member |
| James Brantley – NAVFAC Atlantic | Héctor Olivieri – Vieques Emergency Management Office |
| Mike Green– NAVFAC Atlantic | Steve D Wer – Community RAB Member |
| Daniel Rodríguez – Ex-Officio RAB Member, USEPA Region 2 | Doug McHoul – Community Member |
| Julio Vazquez – USEPA Region 2 | Mary Kay McHoul -- Community Member |
| Susan Silander – Ex-Officio RAB member, USFWS | Juliana C. Ramos – Amigos del Cayo La Chiva |
| Mike Barandiarán – Ex-Officio RAB member, USFWS | Ana Elisa Pérez – Amigos del Cayo La Chiva |
| Juan Babá Peebles – Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board | Jorge Cora – Amigos del Cayo La Chiva |
| Juan C. Martínez – United States Coast Guard | Anel Torres – Community Member |
| Efraín López – United States Coast Guard | Nancy Migneutt – Community Member |
| Dennis Ballam – CH2M | Hilda Bonilla Rodríguez – Community Member |
| Bill Hannah – CH2M | June Landrum – Community Member |
| Madeline Almodovar – CH2M | Brenda Torres – Community Member |
| Daniel G. Concepción – CH2M | Eliván Martínez – Centro de Periodismo Investigativo |
| John Cosme– USAE | |

These minutes represent a summary of the meeting presentations, comments, questions, and action items and are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Topics Discussed:

Opening and Introductions

Madeline Almodovar
(CH2M/Facilitator)

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Participants were welcomed to the 52nd RAB meeting and guided through a series of posters highlighting different aspects of the Vieques cleanup process. Representatives from the Navy and US Coast Guard were available to answer questions. The second part of the meeting included a discussion of the level of regulatory oversight of the cleanup activities.

Dan Waddill
(Navy Program Manager)

Daniel Hood
(Navy Project Manager)

Kevin Cloe
(Navy Project Manager)

Madeline Rivera
(Navy Site Manager)

Dennis Ballam
(CH2M)

Navy and agency representatives greeted the attendees and provided information answering questions posed by RAB and community members. Each poster was also available to the attendees as a handout.

Bill Hannah
(CH2M Project Manager)

Susan Silander
(Refuge System Supervisor,
USFWS)

Mike Barandiarán
(Vieques Wildlife Refuge
Manager, USFWS)

Julio Vázquez
(USEPA Region 2)

Daniel Rodríguez
(USEPA Region 2)

Juan Martínez (USCG)

Efraín López (USCG)

Status of Vieques Installation Restoration Sites

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| Bill Hannah (CH2M) | Bill described the work that is being performed at the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites located on west and east Vieques. The sites included: AOC E, SWMU 6, SWMU 1 and SWMU 20. The presentation also included CERCLA timelines with projected timeframes for the completion of each CERCLA stage. A map with an aerial image of Vieques showed the site locations; photographs of the site showed the work performed within the IR sites. |
| Community Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda LaViolette (Community RAB Member) said that she had heard about a new residential development east of SWMU 5, and she was interested to know what the source of their potable water would be. She also wanted to know if groundwater was being used for agricultural purposes on the ranges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bill Hannah (CH2M) answered that water is piped from the main island of Puerto Rico and is supplied by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA); he added that groundwater is not used for agricultural purposes on the ranges. • A member of the public asked about the schedule for opening SWMU 6 and if the site has been transferred to USFWS. The community member was complimentary on the restoration activities at the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bill explained the site timeline presented on the poster and stated that the Navy expects to finalize the Record of Decision for SWMU 6 late this year, then the site will be released to the USFWS. |

Underwater and Beaches Investigation Status Update

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| Kevin Cloe (Navy) | <p>Kevin provided information on the status of the underwater investigations, as well as the status of the Beach Dynamics Study. The investigations update included the UXO 16 Wide Area Assessment and Remedial Investigation offshore of SWMU 4. The Beach Dynamics Study information included how the sea currents, tides, and sand movement relate to the migration of underwater munitions and how these events affect the cleanup activities.</p> <p>A map of Vieques showed the location where underwater investigations are taking place. Several pictures presented the sequential nature of the underwater and Beach Dynamics investigations.</p> |
| Community Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the community asked about the next steps following these investigations and where the information would be posted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel answered that the Navy is planning on performing reconnaissance work using a magnetometer and higher level instrumentation, and will develop a diving/exploration plan. The plan includes scientific and munitions response divers diving into the sites where the Wide Area Assessment indicates magnetic anomalies are present to assess whether the items detected are munitions-related and if so, determine how to address them safely. Part of the assessment includes documenting each item by recording a high definition video. Daniel added that the Vieques Restoration Program Administrative Record file stores the information related to Vieques after documents have been finalized and approved by the regulatory agencies. |

| Status of Vieques Munitions Response Sites | |
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| Dennis Ballam (CH2M) | Dennis presented a summary of the Munitions Response Program (MRP) investigations including the planned work. The presentation included pictures showing sampling and cleanup activities with a written description of each site location. A Vieques map showed the relative location of the sites, approximate areas, and site status. |
| Community Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community member asked about which areas are currently open to the public at UXO 15, and the approximate timeline for the remaining restricted areas at UXO 15, for example, PI-9 East, to be open for public access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dennis answered that the road to the historic lighthouse and most of the beaches are open to the public at UXO 15, since the Navy has completed their investigations and munitions clearance in those areas. However, the majority of the UXO 15 area is still under investigation with an approach to complete the investigation and removal action at PI-9 East currently under development. Once the removal action is completed, the Navy along with the stakeholders would discuss the need for further investigation and determine if the area could be opened prior to completion of the CERCLA process for the entire site, based on the current understanding of the area. |
| Key Areas Where Accelerated Cleanup is Taking Place to Foster Public Access | |
| Madeline Rivera (Navy) | Madeline presented the timeline for SWMU 4, Península Carenero, and UXO 18 (Cayo la Chiva). The public expressed interest in having access to these sites, therefore the Navy is accelerating the cleanup in those areas to support USFWS and DNER land use plans. Madeline reminded the attendees that the Proposed Plan (PRAP) for UXO 18, Cayo La Chiva, is still within the public comment period. A map showing the location and status of each site was shown on the poster. |
| Community Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Migneutt (Community Member) asked when the Navy and the regulators would be able to open new beach sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Madeline stated that the Navy and the regulatory agencies are working together as fast as they can to reduce the risk that these areas pose to the public; it is difficult, very detailed work that must be done carefully to reduce the risk to the workers and future uses such as the public; these efforts affect the timeframe needed to open new areas. |
| Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Process | |
| Madeline Rivera (Navy) | Madeline provided an overview of the CERCLA process stages. The poster included a flowchart of the process and described each type of documentation generated for review by the regulatory agencies and the public. She highlighted the steps in which the public can provide direct input in the decision making process, like submitting comments on PRAPs. |
| Community Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the public asked about the certifications for the divers supporting the Navy's underwater investigations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Madeline responded that the Navy contracts scientific or munitions response divers with extensive experience working with tasks involving munitions and related scientific activities. The Professional Association of |

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| | <p>Diving Instructors (PADI) certification is not sufficient to perform this type of work.</p> |
| <p>Areas Under Notice to Mariners</p> | |
| <p>Juan Martínez (USCG) Efraín López (USCG)</p> | <p>A map showing three underwater areas off the coast of Vieques that are under a Notice to Mariners was presented. Juan Martínez and Efraín López from the Coast Guard were available to answer questions. Navy representatives were also available to answer questions about the reasons for navigational restrictions. The poster described the three types of navigational restrictions in effect at this time: 1) prohibits mariners from entering the area due to the presence of underwater unexploded ordnance, 2) prohibits mariners from anchoring, dredging, or trawling in the area due to the potential presence of underwater unexploded ordnance, 3) prohibits mariners from entering the area during clearance operations in the Submunitions Area due to potential fragmentation hazard from cleanup operations.</p> |
| <p>RAB Community Updates</p> | |
| <p>Community RAB Members</p> | <p>James Larkins (RAB Community Member) presented a PowerPoint presentation summarizing “Amigos of Cayo La Chiva” collective idea for developing the cayo. The presentation included a brief background of the historical importance of the area, its geography; discussed the ecological/sustainable approaches and showed the recreational conceptual zones proposed. The slides also contained pictorial examples of structures that could be used as a reference for architecture in Cayo La Chiva.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the public asked to clarify if the intended use of Cayo la Chiva was residential since a campsite for visitors to stay over is proposed which in turn will require strict coordination with the regulatory agencies and local authorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James Larkins responded that Amigos of Cayo La Chiva would like to coordinate a meeting with Mrs. Tania Vazquez, director of DNER and representatives from PREQB to discuss the proposed land use plan. James also thanked the Navy and regulatory agencies for permitting a group of Amigos of Cayo La Chiva to visit the site which was very useful to gather data to develop the proposed plan. James added that it was satisfactory to see the RAB work jointly with the Navy and the regulatory agencies to coordinate the visit that supports Vieques community’s endeavors. ○ Dan Waddill (Navy) stated that the Navy will await DNER’s decision regarding the plan and then factor that into the cleanup process. ○ Juan Babá Peebles (PREQB) stated that he will discuss this proposal with PREQB’s directorate and will contact DNER personnel to discuss the details of this proposed land use plan. • Another member of the public asked if the Amigos de Cayo La Chiva had similar land use plans for the other sites or cays within Vieques and what were the ecological consequences of their proposed uses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James Larkins responded that Amigos de Cayo La Chiva as their name implied, had been formed to collaborate with the Navy and the regulators to discuss other uses for Cayo la Chiva, specifically. He added that the ecological aspects of the proposed use are exactly the type of discussion |

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| | <p>they want to have with DNER to incorporate an ecological impact assessment in the proposed plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Susan Silander stated that part of the discussion, the charge capacity (number of people allowed) on the area needs to be calculated for projecting the ecological impact. ● Stacie Notine (Community RAB member) asked about the use of depleted uranium ammunitions on Vieques and commented that she would like to share written information that she had collected on the subject with the Navy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel Hood welcomed any information she may have. He added that the Navy’s use of depleted uranium rounds on Vieques was very limited and in a localized area. |
| Regulatory Agencies Update | |
| Julio Vázquez, EPA Region 2 | Julio stated that EPA will continue reviewing work plans submitted by the Navy for certain Vieques sites. He added that the agency is also available to receive comments regarding the PRAP for UXO 18, Cayo La Chiva. |
| Community Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stacie Notine (RAB Community Member) asked if the agency is reviewing comments regarding controlled burning operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Julio responded that the agency has discussed public concerns on this topic in the past during previous public meetings. |
| Susan Silander/Mike Barandiarán, USFWS | Susan Silander and Mike Barandiarán thanked the Amigos del Cayo La Chiva presenters for preparing their proposal for Cayo La Chiva land use. Susan also added that USFWS is moving forward with some projects at the Refuge to make sure that the Vieques community has access to additional recreational areas to enjoy soon. |
| Juan Babá Peebles, PREQB | Juan thanked all of the participants involved in the preparation for the proposal of Cayo la Chiva land use and invited the rest of the public to provide input on the PRAP for UXO 18, Cayo La Chiva. |
| Community Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. James Larkins (RAB Community Member) also thanked the PREQB, DNER and the Navy for being able to facilitate the Cayo la Chiva visit. He asked whether the PREQB – DNER merger will affect the review process for the Amigos de Cayo la Chiva proposal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Juan stated that he does not foresee that the merger process will change the review time for this site, but that Amigos de Cayo la Chiva should also submit the information to DNER representatives and continue working with both agencies. |
| Adjournment | |
| Madeline Almodovar | All participants and presenters were thanked for attending the meeting, which was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. The next RAB meeting will be held on May 10, 2017. |