



**Vieques Environmental Restoration Program
Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic**

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

Meeting Number 57

6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. | November 7, 2018 | Jorge’s Ice House Activities Center, Vieques, PR

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Dan Waddill – Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC Atlantic	David Otani – United States Coast Guard, San Juan
Daniel Hood – Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC Atlantic	Brett Doerr – CH2M
Kevin Cloe – Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC Atlantic	Madeline Almodovar – CH2M
Mike Andrews –NAVFAC Atlantic	Daniel G. Concepción – CH2M
Madeline Rivera – NAVFAC Atlantic	Maria Danois – CH2M
Jessica Mollin – Ex-Officio RAB Member, USEPA Region 2	Don Shaw – USA Environmental
Daniel Rodríguez -- Ex-Officio RAB Member, USEPA Region 2	Stacie Notine – Community RAB Member
Susan Silander – Ex-Officio RAB Member, USFWS	Genoveva Rodríguez Páez – Community RAB member
Mike Barandiarán – Ex-Officio RAB Member, USFWS	Edna Rodriguez – Community member
Juan Babá Peebles -- Ex-Officio RAB Member, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board	

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	
Madeline Almodovar (CH2M/Facilitator)	The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Participants were welcomed to the 57 th Vieques RAB meeting and were guided through a series of posters highlighting different aspects of the Vieques Environmental Restoration Program. Representatives from the Navy, USEPA, PREQB, USFWS and USCG were available to answer questions.
Dan Waddill (Navy Program Manager) Kevin Cloe (Navy Project Manager) Daniel Hood (Navy Project Manager) Madeline Rivera (Navy Site Manager) Mike Barandiarán (USFWS Vieques Wildlife Refuge Manager) Jessica Mollin (USEPA Region 2) – Remedial Project Manager	Navy and regulatory agency representatives greeted the attendees, provided information, and answered questions posed by RAB and community members. Each poster was also available to the attendees as a handout. A summary of the discussions is provided below.

<p>Daniel Rodríguez (USEPA Region 2) – Remedial Project Manager Juan Babá Peebles (PREQB) – Federal Facilities Coordinator David Otani (USCG) – Waterways Safety Officer</p>	
Underwater and Beach Investigations Status Update	
<p>Kevin Cloe (Navy) Daniel Hood (Navy)</p>	<p>Kevin Cloe (Navy) provided a status update of the underwater and beach investigations, which included the Beach Dynamics Study, UXO 16 Wide Area Assessment and Remedial Investigation (RI) offshore of SWMU 4.</p> <p>Various photographs and a map of Vieques showed the locations and timeline related to the underwater investigations.</p>
<p>Community Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) asked how the Navy would handle issuing work plans to remove ordnance found underwater and its expected timeline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel Hood (Navy) indicated that the Navy prepared a Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) Nearshore Work Plan to handle anything found near shore. In addition, a general underwater work plan is being developed to address additional areas around portions of the island. A record would be kept for every munitions item found in underwater areas. ○ Kevin Cloe (Navy) added that the Navy would inform their progress removing the underwater UXO items or debris in future RAB meetings.
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Process	
<p>Madeline Rivera (Navy)</p>	<p>The CERCLA process poster included a flowchart and described each type of documentation generated for review by the regulatory agencies and the public. Madeline highlighted the steps in which the public can provide direct input into the decision-making process, like submitting comments on Proposed Remedial Action Plans (PRAPs).</p>
<p>Community Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) asked if there was a difference between the Site Management Plan and the SMP Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dan Waddill (Navy) indicated that each year’s amendment is an update to the previous year’s report. It contains the same information, updated with what cleanup activities have occurred during the past year and an updated projection for future activities. He added that the Site Management Plan Fiscal Year 2019 Amendment has been posted to the Vieques Environmental Restoration Program public website.
Status of Vieques Munitions Response Sites	
<p>Daniel Hood (Navy)</p>	<p>Daniel Hood (Navy) presented a summary of the Munitions Response Program investigations including the planned and upcoming work. He explained the status of munitions response field activities at the Eastern Maneuver Area, Live Impact Area, Surface Impact Area, and the Eastern Conservation Area.</p> <p>The corresponding poster showed investigation and cleanup activities, together with a tentative timeline, and a map with the site locations.</p>

Community Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) asked about the terrestrial extent of clearance within UXO 18 Cayo La Chiva. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel Hood (Navy) indicated that the Navy conducted MEC clearance within accessible areas already and that additional MEC clearance will be performed along the trail and beach area that will be the public use areas planned by DNER.
Status of Vieques Installation Restoration Sites	
Kevin Cloe (Navy) Dan Waddill (Navy)	Kevin Cloe (Navy) described the work that is being performed on the environmental sites located on West and East Vieques. These sites comprise AOC E, SWMU 6, SWMU 1 and SWMU 20. The poster showed the projected timelines for the completion of each CERCLA step for each site. A map with an aerial image of Vieques showed the site locations and photographs showed examples of work performed on each site.
Community Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) asked what happened to the structures around Camp Garcia when the Navy transitioned the land ownership to USFWS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kevin Cloe (Navy) indicated that most of the structures that were associated with Camp Garcia were demolished as part of the transition. An investigation was performed associated with the areas around Camp Garcia and their results have been shared at previous RAB meetings and included in reports that are part of the Administrative Record that is available on the public website. Structures requested by USFWS were left standing.
Public Use Areas and Offshore Safety Zones	
David Otani (USCG) Dan Waddill (Navy)	This public use areas and proposed offshore safety zones poster included a map of Vieques with the different proposed safety zones around the coastlines. The legend described the areas where mariners are prohibited from entering the area due to the known presence of underwater munitions, and also described the areas where anchoring, dredging, or trawling are prohibited due to the potential presence of underwater munitions.
Community Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genoveva Rodriguez (RAB community member) asked about the importance of and approximate timeline for implementation of these proposed safety zones. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David Otani (USCG) stated that the main goal of the proposed safety zones is to protect the boaters from potential risks associated with the possibility of underwater UXOs around Vieques waterways. The USCG will announce a public meeting to discuss the water way use around Vieques with respect to the extent of the proposed safety zones and address concerns or questions from the Vieques and boaters. There will be a public comment period associated with the safety zones, published in the Federal Register. Once the public comments are addressed, the safety zones will be enforced through the USCG San Juan and other agencies. The USCG expects to host the public meeting during calendar year 2019.

Introduction

Dan Waddill (Navy) greeted the participants and asked whether the community wanted to provide comments or discuss relevant topics.

RAB Opening Remarks

Community Feedback

- Genoveva Rodriguez (RAB community member) responded that she recently visited the Vieques Wildlife Refuge around the areas of USFWS office and Blue Beach, especially the areas that were transitioned from the Navy and she appreciated the new kiosks. She believes the kiosks are nice and will be important to keep the community and public entering the facility informed of the activities permitted within public spaces and the hazards posed by restricted areas.
 - Dan Waddill (Navy) thanked Mrs. Rodriguez for her comments.

Vieques Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Fair

Madeline Rivera (Navy)

Madeline Rivera (Navy) presented an overview of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Fair community involvement event held on August 22nd, 2018. Over 200 Vieques high school students learned about the technical professions and the professionals involved in the Vieques Environmental Restoration Program. The activities at the fair also encouraged the students to consider degrees in STEM fields and enroll in undergraduate studies related to the careers. The event was originally planned for 2017, but it was postponed due to the emergencies caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Madeline explained that the event was held at the open field in front of the USFWS informational kiosk next to Camp Garcia. Bilingual professionals from the disciplines of Engineering, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Surveying/ GIS, UXO Technicians, and Safety Management gave the students the opportunity to interact and ask questions about the Navy's cleanup work in Vieques. She described the content displayed in each station and the positive feedback received from the students as well as the school director, who suggested the fair be repeated approximately every year.

Community Feedback

- Stacie Notine (community RAB member) asked if the Navy had invited Marine Biology college students.
 - Madeline Rivera (Navy) stated that the event featured Navy employees and its contractors CH2M and USA Environmental, who are professionals who have experience working in the project, including a marine biologist. Madeline added that the students were given souvenirs which consisted of a reusable bag, a clipboard and an informational booklet highlighting outstanding internationally recognized Puerto Ricans who are professionals in STEM fields.

General Project Updates: PFAS Evaluation Planning/ What are PFAS and where are they found?

Dan Waddill (Navy)

Dan provided an overview of the Per and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), their chemical composition, and historic use as a component of Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF) to extinguish fires and as ingredients in a number of common consumer products. He also provided a summary of the regulatory background as contaminants that are being studied by EPA and the Navy across all of the bases where potential use is suspected. The Navy is currently performing historic document review and interviews on potential areas where the

	AFFF substance may have been used within the NASD and VNTR. For now, two potential sites - the Former Fire Station and the fire training area at NASD - have been identified for sampling.
Community Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) asked if the Navy had considered the vessels offshore used for target practice such as the USS Killen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel Hood (Navy) stated that these vessels were not linked to AFFF but rather polystyrene foam which was used to enhance buoyancy. ○ Dan Waddill (Navy) thanked Stacie for the suggestion and noted that they will look into historical document information regarding fires around vessels used as targets.
General Project Updates: Fiscal Year 2019 Site Management Plan Amendment	
Dan Waddill (Navy)	Dan announced that the FY19 Site Management Plan Amendment document has been published and encouraged the community to take a look at it on the Vieques Environmental Restoration Program webpage and to bring any questions the community might have about the document during future RAB meetings.
Community Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) – asked about the status of the sites within the 2019 SMP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dan Waddill (Navy) stated that out of 73 total sites there have been 51 sites completed with no further action, 3 sites with a remedy in place and long-term monitoring, 1 site in remedial action planning and 18 sites in different phases of the CERCLA process.
General Project Updates: Ongoing Remedial and Removal Actions	
Daniel Hood (Navy)	<p>Daniel provided an update on the remedial actions within the Eastern part of Vieques including construction of physical demarcation boundaries (gates and 2,000 lbs concrete barriers painted in red) at the boundary of the Live Impact Area (LIA) and Eastern Conservation Area (ECA). In addition, approximately 200 sea grape plants had been planted at Playa Blanca.</p> <p>He provided a brief summary of the surface clearance activities at UXO 4, 9 and 10, where various milestones have been reached in terms of acreage.</p> <p>Daniel’s presentation included various photos of geophysical investigation and sampling work being performed by staff along roads (UXOs 3, 5 and 11) and beaches (UXOs 2, 7 and 8). He also discussed the timeline for development of various documents for public review, including UXOs 12 and 14 Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), which is expected to become available for public comment in 2019, as well as the of UXO 18 (Cayo La Chiva) Record of Decision.</p>
General Project Updates: UXO 16 Status	
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	Kevin presented a map of UXO 16 (underwater areas around Vieques) to demonstrate the approximate extent of where various types of CERCLA activities are planned. Kevin briefly described the completion of the Wide Area Assessment (WAA) and the Beach Dynamics

	Study. The results from the studies are crucial tools to identify where underwater UXO may be located and how they may move based on the ocean bottom and current/wave conditions.
Community Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) asked how the Navy would define which and when to remove items from underwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel Hood (Navy) answered that the Navy has developed a work plan to address nearshore items while studies are conducted to evaluate the nature and extent of underwater UXO. Protection of marine species will be performed in accordance with a Biological Assessment and associated Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service. • Stacie Notine (RAB community member) asked what the procedure would be on the underwater items to be removed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kevin Cloe (Navy) responded that the process could be similar to the recent UXO 15- PI-9 East encrusted munitions debris removal action or for the removal of underwater munitions offshore of Cayo La Chiva. At PI-9 East, the site work consisted of installing a coffer dam to be able to drain the water in which the munitions-related items were located so that they could be readily removed. In this example, the Navy did not find any explosive concerns as the debris mainly consisted of used and discarded empty projectile shells. ○ Daniel stated that the method of removal for the near-shore items will be on a case by case basis. The expected outcome would be to start removing and addressing underwater UXO items as they are found and reduce the risk to boaters around Vieques waterways.
General Project Updates: AOC E Status	
Kevin Cloe (Navy)	Kevin provided a summary of the historical site use of AOC E with a site map as well as the contaminants of concern being associated with the waste oil associated with the previously removed underground storage tank. Kevin explained the ROD and remedial actions including the in-situ remediation with chemical oxidation. Kevin explained the path forward to include additional in situ-remediation by injection into two wells.
Regulatory Agency Update	
Jessica Mollin (USEPA)	<p>Jessica thanked the participants for contributing to the RAB meeting; she introduced herself as the replacement for Julio Vázquez as the RPM for the terrestrial munitions sites.</p> <p>Jessica added that she just performed a Vieques site visit and was quickly being brought up to speed with the latest work being performed. She mentioned that EPA recently reviewed the Draft SWMU 4 ROD and is reviewing the Draft UXO 12 and 14 PRAP.</p>
Mike Barandiarán (USFWS)	Mike Barandiarán (USFWS) stated USFWS has finally been able to reopen all of the public beaches around east Vieques after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, including Playa Escondida, La Plata, and La Platita. A team of USFWS staff and its contractors are currently working on

	the west part of the refuge at Playa Grande and Punta Arenas. The timelines to re-open these areas are expected before the end of the year, if the weather allows.
Adjournment	
Madeline Almodovar (CH2M)	Madeline (CH2M) thanked all the participants and presenters for attending and contributing to the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. The next RAB meeting was scheduled for February 27, 2019. After the meeting, the next meeting was rescheduled to February 26, 2019.