



NAVY, EPA, DOI, and PRDNER Invite Public Comments on the Proposed Plan for UXO 17 Potential Area of Concern EE Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area – Vieques

Former Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto Rico



La Marina, EPA, DOI y PRDNER invitan al público a comentar sobre el Plan Propuesto para UXO 17 Área de Preocupación Potencial EE Área de Adiestramiento de Armas de la Flota del Atlántico – Vieques

Antiguo Campo de Adiestramiento Naval de Vieques, Vieques, Puerto Rico

The U.S. Department of the Navy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Interior (DOI), and Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) invite public comment on the Proposed Plan for implementing a remedial action at UXO 17 Potential Area of concern (PAOC) EE under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The proposed remedial action addresses potential explosive hazards at the site, thereby facilitating public use in accordance with plans identified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

UXO 17 is located within the former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR) in Vieques, Puerto Rico, property that is now part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge managed by USFWS. PAOC EE, comprising approximately 128 acres of UXO 17, is located in the south-central portion of the Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA), which was established in 1947 for the training of Marine amphibious units and battalion landing teams in exercises that included amphibious landings, small-arms fire, artillery and tank fire, shore fire control, and combat engineering tasks. PAOC EE includes Playa La Chiva (known during military training as "Blue Beach"), Punta Conejo, and immediately adjacent areas where military training associated with amphibious beach landings took place. Previous removal actions addressed potential explosive hazards within much of the PAOC EE area, and the preferred alternative in the Proposed Plan will address explosive hazards potentially remaining in areas specifically identified by USFWS for public use where past removal actions were not performed.

Based on the results of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, previous investigations, and munitions removal actions at PAOC EE, the Navy evaluated the following remedial alternatives to address potentially remaining munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) in planned public use areas:

- Alternative 1 – No Action and no restriction on activities
- Alternative 2 – Land Use Controls
- Alternative 3 – Land Use Controls and Subsurface Anomaly Removal in Planned Public Use Areas
- Alternative 4 – Land Use Controls and Subsurface Anomaly Removal in Planned Public Use Areas and Remainder of the Eastern Peninsula Area.

Based on current site conditions, planned land and resource uses, and the results of the past investigations and removal actions at PAOC EE, the Navy and EPA, in consultation with DOI and PRDNER, agree that the preferred alternative for PAOC EE is:

Alternative 3 – Land Use Controls and Subsurface Anomaly Removal in Planned Public Use Areas.

Based on the evaluation of the data, other available information, and comparative analysis of potential remedial alternatives, the preferred alternative meets the statutory requirements of CERCLA for the protection of human health and the environment under current and projected future land use as part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge with portions of the managed areas open to the public for recreational use. It also reflects the MEC clearance that has already been conducted as part of historical munitions removal activities from the areas identified by USFWS for future recreational and refuge use.

After the public comment period ends and comments have been considered, the Navy and EPA, in consultation with DOI and PRDNER, will determine the alternative to be implemented. Therefore, the public is encouraged to comment on the Proposed Plan by attending the Virtual Public Meeting and/or submitting comments in writing to one of the contacts in this notice during the public comment period from **May 25 through June 24, 2022**.

The Proposed Plan summarizes the history and previous investigations at or including PAOC EE, describes how the remedial alternatives were evaluated, and provides the rationale for how the preferred alternative was identified. The Proposed Plan and supporting documents are available for public review online at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>. Paper copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the EPA office in Vieques and the Navy office at Camp Garcia.

Virtual Public Meeting

June 1, 2022, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/VQS-RAB-65>

Join by phone by dialing: 1-787-650-6946

Meeting ID: 648 097 628#

At this virtual public meeting, the Navy will present and discuss the proposed alternative for PAOC EE. Members of the public are encouraged to ask questions and provide oral or written comments at the meeting.

The public comment period will begin May 25, 2022 and will close on June 24, 2022.

During this time written comments can be sent to:

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El Plan Propuesto resume la historia y las investigaciones previas en o incluyendo PAOC EE, describe cómo se evaluaron las alternativas de remediación y proporciona la justificación de cómo se identificó la alternativa preferida. El Plan Propuesto y los documentos de respaldo están disponibles para revisión pública en línea en <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>. Las copias impresas del Plan Propuesto están disponibles en la oficina de EPA en Vieques y en la oficina de la Marina en el Campamento García.

Reunión Pública Virtual

1 de junio de 2022 de 5:00 PM a 6:30 PM

Enlace de reunión: <https://tinyurl.com/VQS-RAB-65>

Únase por teléfono marcando: 1-787-650-6946

Identificación de la reunión: 648 097 628#

En esta reunión pública virtual, la Marina presentará y discutirá la alternativa propuesta para PAOC EE. Se exhorta a los miembros del público a someter preguntas y proporcionar comentarios orales o escritos durante la reunión.

El período de comentarios públicos comenzará el 25 de mayo de 2022 y termina el 24 de junio de 2022.

Durante este periodo, se pueden enviar comentarios por escrito a: