

ATTACHMENT 6 - English version of the concerns from a community sector regarding RAB meetings

November 17, 2004

Vieques, Puerto Rico

RAB Meeting #2

The purpose of having a RAB in a community affected by military contamination is so that true participation from every community sector in the review of the cleanup process occurs. Actual information exchange between the affected community, government agencies, and those responsible for the cleanup (military) should occur during this process. All RAB activities and regulations should contribute to this goal. For this reason, the following issues concern us:

- In the first meeting, we were told that this second meeting would take place two months after that first meeting. Today it has been three months which requires that we have a long meeting of nearly four hours.
- This meeting did not have the publicity necessary to stimulate significant community participation. Additionally, not all of the RAB community members received the official notification.
- Community members interested in the process, who signed the list to receive updates, notices, and information, have not had access to the minutes from the previous meeting, and were also not notified of this meeting.
- The English to Spanish translation of the draft RAB regulations was sent two months later which hindered an adequate review.

We urge that standards of communication and publicity used for other RABs be followed, particularly in the predominant language which is Spanish. This is the only way to enable true community participation in the cleanup process in Vieques.