

Naval Facilities Engineering Command - Atlantic

RAB Status Report: March 2005

Former Navy Property, Vieques, Puerto Rico

This report provides the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) with a status of on-going work at the Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern (SWMUs and AOCs) on the former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) property in western Vieques and an overview of activities on eastern Vieques. The following is a summary of the activities completed in March 2005, and the activities planned for completion for the next few months.

CURRENT AND COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

SWMU 4 (Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Area)

No updates since the last report. The draft report from the 2002-2003 Munitions/Explosives Remedial Investigation and the Work Plan for an environmental Remedial Investigation are still under regulatory review.

Remedial Investigation (RI) for SWMU 6 (Mangrove Disposal Site at Kiani Lagoon), SWMU 7 (Quebrada Disposal Site), AOC H (Abandoned Power Plant), and AOC J (Former Operations/Staging Area Disposal Site)

No updates since the last report. The draft RI reports remain under regulatory review.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for AOC E (Former Waste Oil Tank)

Two meetings were held with the regulators during March 2005 to discuss comments on the supplementary sampling plan. The sampling plan remains under review.

Remedial Investigation (RI) for AOC R (Former Staging and Operations Area)

A Work Plan that was submitted to the regulators in February 2005 is awaiting regulatory review and approval. The Navy Ordnance Safety and Security Administration (NOSSA) and Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB) are expected to approve the Explosive Safety Submission (ESS) for AOC R in May 2005, which will allow sampling for the RI to start again.

Remedial Investigation (RI) for AOC I

Two meetings were held with the regulators during March to discuss comments on the Interim Remedial Investigation Report and work plan for additional investigations. The Work Plan remains under review.

Site Management Plan

The revised Site Management Plan should be available to the RAB in May 2005.

Eastern Vieques -- RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) of environmental sites

EPA's replies to Navy's responses to comments on the Draft RFI were received on March 11, 2005 and are currently under review.

A Revised Draft Final Background Investigation Work Plan for the Inorganic Constituents in Soils was submitted for regulatory and public review in April 2005. The public comment period on the Work Plan will extend until June 11, 2005.

Eastern Vieques -- Munitions Response Actions

Field investigations for the Munitions Response Program of the former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR) that began in mid-January 2005 are continuing. The investigation includes blow-in-place (BIP) of munitions at selected sites that are identified as an immediate danger to field workers and the public. The BIP procedures follow a RCRA permit issued by EPA to the Navy in January 2005 and are conducted in coordination with Navy and USFWS under EPA oversight.

Public Involvement Activities

- The third RAB meeting was held in Vieques on February 16, 2005 in Vieques. The minutes from this meeting have been sent to the RAB membership.
- On March 17, 2005, RAB members visited some of the environmental investigation sites in eastern Vieques, including: SWMU 1, SMMU 2, northern ranges in the Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA), Camp Garcia, and 8 Potential Areas of Concern/Photo Identified Sites (PAOC/PI). RAB members had the opportunity to raise concerns and ask questions to Navy (who provided the EOD escort), EPA (who coordinated the effort), and USFWS personnel (who provided transportation to and from the sites).
- RAB members are currently participating in a series of conference calls to discuss the RAB charter, so it can be finalized before the next RAB meeting and signed at the RAB meeting. The first conference call was held on March 31, 2005; the second took place on April 5, 2005; the third one is scheduled for April 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

CERCLA Technical Committee (CTC)

A CTC meeting is scheduled for the first week of May 2005.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- The next RAB meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2005 from 5:00 to 9:00 at the Ice House next to Martineau Car Rental.
- On west Vieques, field investigations (taking samples) for the Remedial Investigation of AOC R and additional investigations at AOC I will be conducted after the work plans are approved by the regulators. During the field investigation at AOC R, a munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) avoidance survey will be completed at all sampling locations.
- On east Vieques, field investigations for the Munitions Response Program of the former VNTR will continue into the third quarter of 2005. The Navy has initiated interim remedial actions in the Live Impact Area (LIA) during April 2005, to remove munitions

identified at the surface within a 400 acre area. The Final Time Critical Removal Action Work Plan will be shortly available in the public information repository for review by the public. A public notice will be published in the last week of April (approximately). More information will be provided as it becomes available.

- A RAB site visit to the background sampling locations on east Vieques is tentatively scheduled after the RAB meeting in May.

VIEQUES DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL UPDATE (as of April 22, 2005)

Site	Document	Submitted By Navy To Regulators for Review	Regulator Comments Submitted
West Vieques			
AOC E	Attachment 1 - Sampling and Analysis Plan for Additional Sampling	August 2004	February 2005
AOC H	Draft RI Report	April 2004	
AOC I	Draft Supplemental Work Plan	January 2005	February 2005
	Draft Interim RI Report	January 2005	February 2005
AOC J	Draft RI Report	April 2004	
AOC R	Final RI/FS Work Plan	February 2005	April 2005 (FWS, EQB only)
SWMU 4	Draft RI Work Plan	June 04	
SWMU 6	Draft RI Report	April 2004	
SWMU 7	Response to comments on Draft RI Report	November 2004	
NFA Sites	No Further Action Report	May 2003	
East Vieques			
Background Soil	Revised Draft Final Background Investigation Work Plan	March 2005	
Original RFI Sites	Response to comments on Draft RFI Report	December 2004	March 2005
8 PI/PAOC Sites	Draft Phase I RFI Work Plan	December 2004	March 2005
Baseline Groundwater	Response to comments on Draft Baseline Groundwater Investigation Report	December 2004	March 2005
OB/OD	Draft Final Closure Plan	July 2004	March 2005