

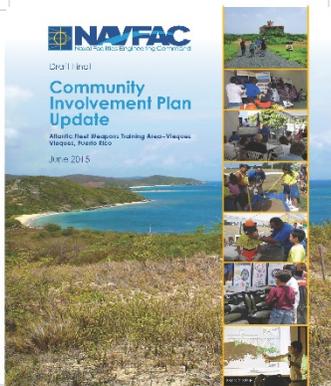
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There's Still Time to Comment on the Draft Final Community Involvement Plan

On June 30, 2015, the Navy began a 45-day comment period for community members to review and offer their comments on the Draft Final Community Involvement Plan (CIP). Your opinions on the best ways to keep the community informed and provide opportunities for public input are extremely valuable. To review the Draft Final CIP on the internet, visit the Navy's Web site at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques> or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Web site at www.epa.gov/region02/vieques/.

Public internet access is available at the Vieques Public Library (Oficina de Asuntos de la Juventud), Calle Carlos Lebrun #449, Vieques, P.R. 00765 and the Luz de la Esperanza Public Library at Calle Orquidea #48 in



La Esperanza, Vieques, Puerto Rico. Paper copies are available for review at the EPA Vieques Field Office located at Vieques Office Park, Road #200, Km 0.4, Vieques, P.R. 00765 and at the Vieques Public Library (Oficina de Asuntos de la Juventud).

You Can Now Connect With Us on Facebook!

The Navy is pleased to announce that the Vieques Environmental Restoration Program has a new Facebook page.

Visit www.facebook.com/ViequesRestoration for information including regular updates on cleanup activities, opportunities to provide input on the cleanup process, current photographs of environmental and munitions response activities, and tips on munitions safety.

Get Involved

- ✓ Attend the quarterly RAB meetings to hear about the latest cleanup activities, ask questions, and provide input. The next RAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Punta Mulas Lighthouse.
- ✓ Provide comments on the Draft Final Community Involvement Plan by August 14, 2015.
- ✓ Provide comments on the munitions removal action at UXO 15 and offshore in Puerto Ferro. The public comment period runs from August 3, 2015, to September 16, 2015.



911 or (787) 741-2020

Attend the August 25 Restoration Advisory Board Meeting to Learn About Cleanup Efforts and Provide Your Input

The Vieques Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is composed of community members interested in collaborating with the agencies involved in the cleanup efforts. The RAB offers a forum for the community to provide input during the decision making process and get important questions answered. Becoming a RAB member is voluntary and community members are encouraged to join.

The next meeting of the Vieques RAB will be on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Punta Mulas Lighthouse in Vieques. RAB meetings are open to the public and are presented simultaneously in English and Spanish. The RAB has been meeting quarterly since 2004.



Members of the Vieques Restoration Advisory Board participated in a site visit to West Vieques environmental and munitions response sites on May 20, 2015.

Additional information about the RAB can be found on the Navy's website at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>. If you are interested in becoming a RAB member, contact Madeline Rivera, Navy Vieques Site Manager, by telephone at 787-741-4792 or email at madeline.rivera@navy.mil.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is the underwater work to remove munitions from the waters surrounding Vieques just starting?

A. Potential exposure to munitions on land is higher than underwater because munitions on land are generally more accessible. For this reason, approximately 10 years ago it was decided to start cleaning up the land first. Also, 10 years ago the methods for working on land were well established. Underwater munitions investigations and removal methods were not as well developed. Studies on the safe and effective investigation and removal of underwater munitions have been conducted over these years, and the Navy is now applying them to the underwater munitions around Vieques.

Offshore of Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 4 on West Vieques, divers recently completed an investigation where they searched for munitions along 14 miles of transects within a 200-acre underwater area.



Munitions investigations and cleanup continues on East and West Vieques. Above, diver performing underwater munitions investigation offshore of SWMU 4. At left, crew performing munitions clearance at SWMU 4



To date, over 4 million munitions and munitions-related debris have been cleared from about 3,500 acres, including 19 miles of roads. Over 14 million pounds of scrap metal have been recycled during the cleanup process.

Independent Scientific Commission Members Visit Laguna Anones

On July 10, 2015, the Navy hosted a site visit that allowed representatives of the Vieques Independent Scientific Commission to observe the current conditions of Laguna Anones. The members of the commission represent different science fields with the objective to provide comment and opinions about the cleanup of the former Navy lands independently of any government agency.



Vieques Independent Scientific Commission members observe Laguna Anones.

Laguna Anones is located within the former Live Impact Area, a designated Wilderness Area that is restricted from public access, and currently under investigation as part of a Remedial Investigation.



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