



Vieques Environmental News!

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<http://public.lantops-ir.org/sites/public/vieques>

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RAB provides forum for information exchange about the Vieques Cleanup

Several community members gathered at the Vieques Lighthouse February 23, 2011, for the quarterly meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Vieques investigation and cleanup.

The Navy updated participants on recent environmental cleanup activities. Regulators from the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided information on oversight of the Navy's environmental and munitions response programs.

The meeting included discussion about the Navy's investigation of munitions found on the Cayo la Chiva and in surrounding waters. These munitions are dangerous, and residents and visitors are urged to avoid the island and the surrounding waters until the area has been fully evaluated and deemed safe.

The Navy has posted signs at Cayo La Chiva and distributed flyers to warn people to stay away. Warning signs have also been installed at Playa La Chiva (Blue Beach) advising people not to visit Cayo La Chiva. The Coast Guard issued an Advisory Notice for this area. Participants also received information on the continuing investigation into the large fire in the Vieques Wildlife Refuge. The fire was reported to the agencies on Saturday, February 12, 2011. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but no munitions removal work was underway in the area at that time.

The next RAB meeting will be held Tuesday, April 26, 2011, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Vieques Lighthouse in Isabel Segunda.

The public is always welcome!

Summer is time for fun—and SAFETY!

Don't run the risk of ruining your summer by trespassing in dangerous, restricted areas.

If you find a suspicious item on public or private property, please report it to the Police (787-741-2020). The Police will contact the proper authorities to handle the item. Only properly trained and authorized personnel are allowed to move these items.

Enjoy your summer, but please be safe!

Navy contractor clears trash from Bahia Playa Blanca Beach

On February 18, 2011, staff from CH2M HILL, a Navy contractor performing an environmental investigation on the former Vieques Naval Training Range, volunteered their time to remove trash from Bahia Playa Blanca. They quickly filled a pickup truck with household-type refuse from the beach.

Bahia Playa Blanca is an important turtle nesting area, so trash removal makes it easier for the turtles to move across the beach.

