

Final
Work Plan
for Community Relations Plan
Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility
and Eastern Maneuver Area
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico



Prepared for

Department of the Navy
Atlantic Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Under the
LANTDIV CLEAN II Program
Contract No. N62470-95-D-6007

Prepared by

CH2MHILL

Tampa, Florida

January 2002

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4305 West Cypress Street
Suite 600
Tampa, FL 33607

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Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	iv
1. Introduction	1-1
1.1 Facility Background and Setting	1-1
1.2 Purpose of This Work Plan	1-4
1.3 RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)	1-4
2. Public Participation Planning	2-1
2.1 Overview	2-1
2.2 Community Relations Work Plan	2-1
2.3 Community Relations Plan	2-1
2.3.1 Background Review	2-1
2.3.2 Community Interviews	2-2
2.3.3 Completing the CRP	2-3
2.4 Public Participation Implementation	2-3
2.4.1 Short-Term Public Participation Activities	2-3
2.4.2 Future Public Participation Activities	2-6
2.4.3 Public Comment on Proposed Corrective Measure	2-7
2.4.4 Bilingual Public Outreach	2-7
2.4.5 Timing	2-7

Appendices

- A. Locations of Public Information Repositories
- B. Mailing List of Interested Parties
- C. Fact Sheet

Tables

1-1 Description of Sites	1-5
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Figures

1-1 Regional Location Map, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico	1-2
1-2 RFI Sites on AFTWF and EMA, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico	1-3
2-1 General Schedule for Public Participation Activities	2-8

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFWTF	Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility
AOC	Area of Concern
AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act
CMS	Corrective Measures Study
CRP	Community Relations Plan
DOI	Department of the Interior
EMA	Eastern Maneuver Area
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
IR	Installation Restoration (environmental restoration)
LANTDIV	Atlantic Division (Naval Facilities Engineering Command)
NASD	Naval Ammunition Support Detachment
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NFRAP	No Further Remedial Action Planned
NFRAP-DD	No Further Remedial Action Planned – Decision Document
NSRR	U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
PAOC	Potential Area of Concern
PREQB	Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFI	RCRA Facility Investigation
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
TRC	Technical Review Committee
UST	Underground Storage Tank

1 Introduction

In January 2000, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Navy entered into an Administrative Order of Consent (Consent Order) under Section 3008(h) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended (U.S. EPA Consent Order Docket No. RCRA-02-99-7301). The Consent Order is designed to address potential environmental contamination at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF) and Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA), on the eastern side of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico (Figure 1-1).

In accordance with the Consent Order, the Navy will perform an RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) to fully determine the nature and extent of any releases of hazardous wastes, solid wastes, and/or hazardous constituents, from (or at) the EMA and AFWTF.

The Consent Order requires the investigation of nine Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and three Areas of Concern (AOCs). These SWMUs and AOCs are located on the AFWTF and EMA; many are on Camp Garcia, which is part of the EMA (see Figure 1-2). Additional suspected areas could be added, if preliminary study shows that a release of hazardous materials may have occurred elsewhere.

If releases of hazardous wastes, solid wastes, or hazardous constituents are found that could threaten human health or the environment, the Consent Order requires that corrective measures be implemented to remediate those releases.

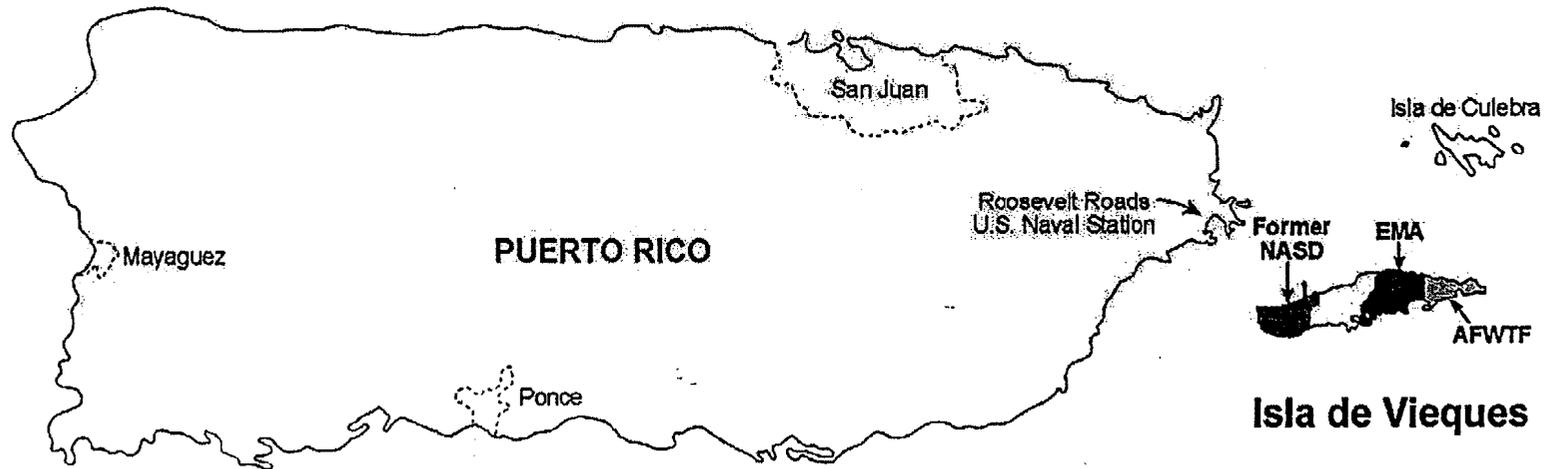
Another three known areas of contamination (SWMUs 3, 9, and 11) are not included in the RFI, because they are located in the active military range and thus, presently excluded from any corrective action requirements under the Consent Order's terms and conditions. These sites will be addressed separately if the active military range is closed.

1.1 Facility Background and Setting

Vieques Island lies about 7 miles southeast of the main island of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads (NSRR) (Figure 1-1). According to the 2000 Census, approximately 9,106 people currently live on Vieques Island, a 5.9-percent increase from 1990. Most live in and around the towns of Isabela Segunda on the north shore and Esperanza on the south shore.

The Navy currently occupies approximately 14,700 acres (23 square miles) of the 33,000 acres (52 square miles) that make up Vieques Island. AFWTF occupies 3,600 acres on the eastern tip of the island, and EMA occupies 11,000 acres contiguous with the AFWTF and is located on the east-central portion of the island.

For many years, the AFWTF has provided facilities for naval gunfire support and air-to-ground ordnance delivery training for Atlantic Fleet and North American Treaty Organization (NATO) ships; air wings, as well as smaller air units from other allied nations; and



AFWTF - Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility
EMA - Eastern Maneuver Area
Former NASD - Former Naval Ammunition Storage Detachment

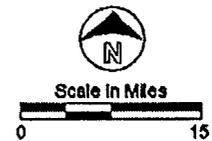


Figure 1-1
SITE LOCATION MAP
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico **CH2MHILL**

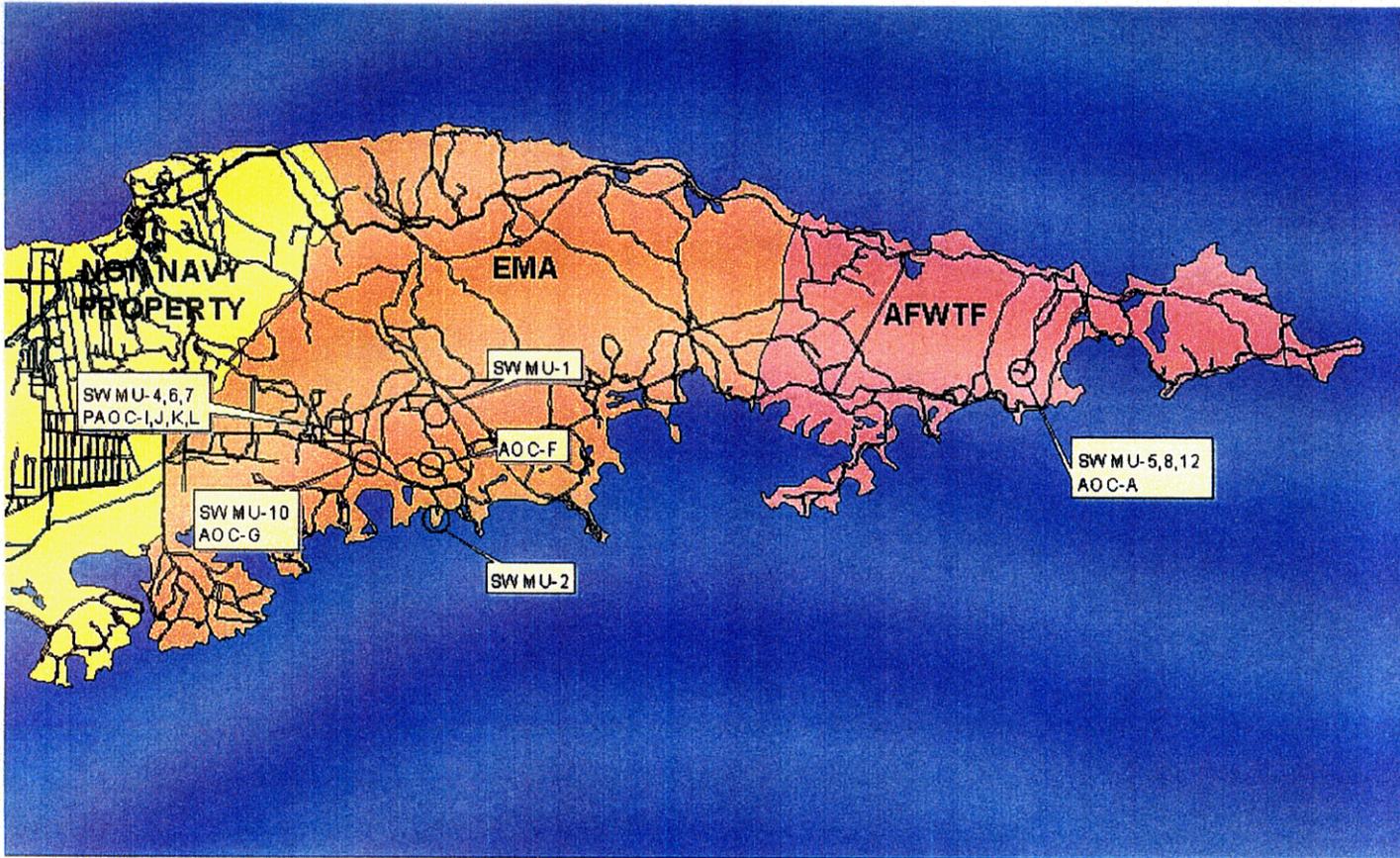


Figure 1-2
RFI Sites on AFTWF and EMA
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

CH2MHILL

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the Puerto Rican National Guard. The Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, has conducted training for Marine amphibious units, battalion landing teams, and combat engineering units in the EMA. On occasion, the Puerto Rican National Guard and naval units of allied nations (with a presence in the Caribbean) have also used the EMA. The training areas have been in continuous use since World War II, when the Navy acquired title to the land.

Until 2001, the Navy occupied another 8,000 acres on the western end of the island, known as the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD), formerly used to store ammunition and ordnance used by the Atlantic Fleet. It also contained public works facilities to support Navy activities.

On April 30, 2001, the Navy transferred about 4,000 acres of the former NASD property to the Municipality of Vieques; 3,100 acres to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI); and about 800 acres to the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust. The DOI lands are now being managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge. The Navy has retained about 100 acres on the western side of the island, where the communications facilities on Monte Pirata and the Relocatable over-the-Horizon Radar are located.

In preparation for this transfer, the Navy Public Works facilities that provide vehicle and infrastructure (buildings, roads, and utilities) maintenance support for Navy activities on the island were relocated from the western side of the island to Camp Garcia, which is part of the EMA.

1.2 Purpose of This Work Plan

This work plan has been prepared to describe an approach to encourage public participation, including the preparation of a CRP (Community Relations Plan), to support the RFI and any removal actions for sites with environmental contamination on the U.S. Navy's EMA and AFWTF properties. It also describes the approach for conducting specific interim public participation activities while the CRP is being prepared. It is intended to be a collaborative effort between the Navy and EPA.

Since there are no statutory requirements or regulations mandating specific public participation activities under RCRA §3008(h) Consent Orders, public participation activities are based on guidance and on the terms of the Consent Order itself. For example, the Consent Order requires that a CRP be developed as part of the RFI Work Plan. This work plan has been prepared in accordance with the methods suggested for RCRA 3008(h) Consent Orders in EPA's 1996 *RCRA Public Participation Manual*.

Section 1 provides background information about the U.S. Navy's property on Vieques Island and the affected community. Section 2 describes the approach for preparing a CRP and interim public involvement activities.

1.3 RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)

The Navy will conduct the RFI, as required by the Consent Order, in coordination with EPA Region 2 and in cooperation with the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB).

The RFI objectives supplement data collected during previous investigations, concerning the nature and extent of potential contamination at the SWMUs and AOCs at the EMA and AFWTF, and to make recommendations for additional or no further action for each site, based on that data.

The RFI will focus on potential contamination at the nine identified SWMUs and three AOCs shown on Figure 1-2 and described in Table 1-1:

TABLE 1-1
Description of Sites

Area	Area Name	Description of Area
SWMU 1	Camp Garcia Landfill	55-acre landfill used from 1954 to 1978 to dispose of construction debris, scrap metal and food packaging
SWMU 2	Fuels Off-Loading Site (Camp Garcia)	Former location of four 20,000 to 30,000-gallon above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) and pipelines used to store diesel fuel and gasoline
SWMU 4	Waste Areas of Building 303 (Camp Garcia)	Waste areas include: a spent battery accumulation area, a hydraulic oil catch basin, degreasing basin and waste rag storage area
SWMU 5	Spent Battery Accumulation Area (Observation Post 1, Inner Range, AFWTF)	An outside storage area for waste batteries
SWMU 6	Waste Oil and Paint Accumulation Area (Seabees Area, Camp Garcia)	Area used to store 55-gallon drums of waste oil and paint
SWMU 7	Waste Oil Accumulation Area (outside Building 303 at Camp Garcia)	Vehicle maintenance area used to store 55-gallon drums of waste oil
SWMU 8	Waste Oil Accumulation Area (Observation Post 1, Inner Range, AFWTF)	Waste accumulation area outside generator building used to store waste oil and lubricants
SWMU 10	Sewage Treatment Lagoons (Camp Garcia)	Four unlined lagoons formerly used for the equalization and treatment of domestic wastewater
SWMU 12	Solid Waste Collection Unit Area (Observation Post 1, Inner Range, AFWTF)	A solid waste transfer area used to store domestic trash
AOC-A	Diesel Fuel Fill Pipe Area (Observation Post 1, Inner Range, AFWTF)	An area of petroleum-stained soil in the vicinity of a diesel fuel underground storage tank (UST)
AOC-F	Rock Quarry (Camp Garcia)	A rock quarry where used tires and waste paper were identified
AOC-G	Pump Station and Chlorinating Building at Sewage Lagoons (Camp Garcia)	Pump station and chlorination equipment stored in building next to former lagoons

Additional Potential Areas of Concern (PAOCs) suspected of possible contamination based on their prior use, and areas identified by aerial photos (where ground scarring and disturbed vegetation was identified) could also be investigated as part of the Phase I RFI, if it is determined that a release of hazardous materials has occurred.

2. Public Participation Planning

2.1 Overview

Both the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) program and the EPA's RCRA corrective action process recommend a public participation effort to encourage public input and feedback into RCRA Facility Investigations, Corrective Measures Studies, permits, and removal actions. This section describes the approach for preparing and implementing a public participation program for the RFI at the EMA and AFWTF.

The Navy and EPA Region 2 will collaborate in planning and implementing the RCRA public participation program for the RCRA activities at the EMA and AFWTF under the Consent Order. The PREQB and interested community members may be asked to provide consultation.

Public participation materials, such as fact sheets explaining and summarizing environmental investigation results, and proposed clean-up plans (if necessary), will be produced in both Spanish and English, but draft technical documents will not be translated.

2.2 Community Relations Work Plan

This Community Relations Work Plan has been prepared following the approach suggested by the *RCRA Public Participation Manual* for public participation activities, including preparation of a CRP and some interim public participation activities to be conducted while it is being prepared. This work plan will be available for public review in public repositories (see section 2.4.1).

The CRP will be prepared during the initial stages of the RFI process. When the CRP is complete, it will replace this work plan as the outline for conducting public participation activities. The completed CRP for the RFI at AFWTF/EMA will be a self-contained supplement to the RFI Work Plans.

The rest of this section presents the approach for developing the CRP, as well as a description of public participation activities to be implemented in the short term and in the future.

2.3 Community Relations Plan

2.3.1 Background Review

The Navy (or its duly designated representative) will review existing documents to obtain additional background information if needed. Newspaper coverage and correspondence relevant to the RFI will be reviewed, to the extent that NSRR, EPA, or others can provide this material.

2.3.2 Community Interviews

The EPA's *RCRA Public Participation Manual* (1996) recommends community interviews when there is a high level of interest in the facility. Discussions with local officials and interested citizens provide an opportunity to determine public concerns and to find out how and when community members want to participate in the decision process for environmental remediation.

Community interviews were conducted in December 2000, to prepare a separate CRP for the CERCLA investigation of sites on the western side of the island (where land was transferred from the Navy to the Municipality and DOI in 2001). These interviews provided useful information about the community and public involvement methods, which will be incorporated into the RCRA community relations plan as appropriate, but the AFWTF and EMA were not specifically discussed at that time. Therefore, additional interviews will be conducted.

Lead agency personnel, preferably including the Remedial Project Manager or a technical representative should conduct interviews. The Navy and EPA will conduct the interviews. The Navy and EPA will prepare a list of questions or talking points for the interviews, in both English and Spanish, based on concerns identified during the background research phase and the previous interviews. The questionnaire will be used to record comments made by interview respondents.

The Navy and EPA will contact interested citizens and local officials to schedule the interviews. Community members who are interested in participating in CRP interviews should contact the EPA (points of contact are listed in Section 2.4.1). In addition, the Navy will ask community members who have expressed interest in the cleanup program on the western side of the island, if they wish to be interviewed or can help identify potential interview participants. As interviews are scheduled, participants will be asked to identify additional persons who might wish to participate.

The goal is to interview a variety of people, including local officials, community leaders, environmental group members, Vieques business owners, and Vieques residents—including some who were not interviewed for the CERCLA CRP and some who are not affiliated with any organized groups.

Interviews will be conducted in person on Vieques Island, at a location that is comfortable for the person being interviewed. In this case, a public facility such as a school, library, or local government office in Vieques may serve as a good location for conducting the interviews. It is expected that interviews will take place over a single week.

The Navy and EPA will conduct interviews together. Interviews will be conducted in English or Spanish, depending on the individual participants. At least one bilingual staff member from EPA, the Navy, or a designated representative, will be present at the interviews.

Every effort will be made to focus the discussions on identifying community concerns about the work specified in the Consent Order and on the RCRA process of preparing the RFI Final Report and any subsequent decision documents, which could include a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) Final Report and a Statement of Basis document for proposed

response actions (including for any No Further Remedial Action decision). Information will be provided about the process and the key points at which public participation will be invited.

2.3.3 Completing the CRP

The Navy, or its designated representative, will draft the CRP, based on the interview records and background information provided by EPA, PREQB, and the Navy. EPA will review the CRP and provide comments and the Navy, or its designated representative, will finalize the CRP.

The CRP will summarize the compiled information, with particular attention to the level and nature of environmental concerns. The design of the public participation program will depend largely on this information and on EPA's participation. The program will be flexible to allow expansion of involvement opportunities, depending on the level of community interest in the RFI of the nine SWMUs and three AOCs at the AFWTF and EMA (as opposed to other actions at Vieques). The stated preferences of the participants, such as written or face-to-face communication, will be important in planning and implementing specific public participation techniques.

Although planning for the RCRA CRP is focused on the RFI at the AFWTF and EMA, it will be coordinated as appropriate with public involvement activities for the CERCLA investigations at NASD and other remedial actions, if any, that may be ongoing on the western side of the island.

The CRP will consist of the following main sections:

- Introduction
- Facility Description and History
- Community Concerns
- Objectives of the Plan
- Public Participation Activities

Appendices may include:

- Mailing List of Interested Parties
(addresses and telephone numbers of private citizens will not be published in the CRP)
- Locations for Meetings and Information Repositories
- Media Contacts
- Sample Fact Sheets and Public Notices

2.4 Public Participation Implementation

2.4.1 Short-Term Public Participation Activities

The objective of both the EPA and the Navy is to plan and implement public participation activities, including effective communications with the community about how residents can participate in the RCRA process. The public participation activities planned by the Navy and EPA to meet this short-term objective are described in the sections that follow.

Mailing List

The Navy maintains a mailing list of persons who have expressed interest in the environmental restoration of former and current Navy property on Vieques Island (Appendix B). At present, the list consists of about 80 persons, including both residents of Vieques Island and people who live elsewhere.

People who have expressed interest in any one of these properties (EMA, AFWTF, or the Navy's former property on the western side of the island) will be placed on the mailing list to receive public information about all of them.

Public notices and community updates will notify the public of the opportunity to be included on the mailing list and receive information and updates by direct mail. People can get on the mailing list by getting in touch with the points of contact who are identified in all fact sheets and public notices.

Technical Review Committee (TRC)

A TRC was established to enhance public participation in the CERCLA remedial investigation of the Navy's former property on the western side of the island. The TRC includes representatives of the Municipality of Vieques and US Fish & Wildlife Service (the new landowners), as well as EPA Region 2 CERCLA program staff and a number of local community members. PREQB has been invited to appoint a representative to the TRC, but has not thus far done so.

The primary focus of this group is and will continue to be the restoration of the former NASD. However, the Navy's *Installation Restoration Manual* states that public participation at RCRA sites will be accomplished by keeping the existing Restoration Advisory Board or Technical Review Committee informed of the status of site cleanup. Accordingly, the Navy will provide periodic updates about the RFI (and any subsequent RCRA activities) during regularly scheduled meetings of the existing NASD TRC.

Public Information Repositories

Public information repositories are located in public libraries in the town of Isabela Segunda on Vieques Island and at EPA's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division offices in Santurce, Puerto Rico. The addresses, telephone numbers and hours of operation for the repositories are provided in Appendix A.

At a minimum, the Navy will place the CRP and any bilingual fact sheets developed for the AFWTF and EMA in the public information repositories. As requested by EPA, the Navy will make the RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plan(s) and Final Report(s), draft and Final Corrective Measures Study, and any other documents developed under the Consent Order available for public review and comment in the public repositories.

Administrative Record File

An Administrative Record file consists of the information supporting the selected remedy for corrective actions and interim removal actions. An Administrative Record file for the Consent Order is maintained by EPA and is available for public inspection at EPA's Region 2 offices in New York City and at its Caribbean Environmental Protection Division offices in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

Fact Sheet

An introductory fact sheet will be distributed to provide an overview of the upcoming RFI and outline the opportunities for public participation. This fact sheet will inform community members about the RCRA process, the RFI work plan and upcoming activities, locations of the public information repositories (Appendix A) and the primary points of contact for the Navy, EPA, and PREQB (see Table 2-1). The Navy has prepared, and EPA has reviewed the introductory fact sheet; a final draft pending EPA approval is provided in Appendix C.

The fact sheet will be translated into Spanish and NSRR Environmental Engineering Division personnel will review the translation. The Navy or its designated representative will distribute the fact sheet through the existing mailing list of interested parties; additional copies will be placed in the repositories.

Public Review of Work Plans

After EPA completes the review and approval of the RFI Work Plan(s), EPA will place a public notice in local newspapers to notify the community that these documents are available for review. In addition to this community relations work plan, the other components of the RFI Work Plan are: a Description of Current Conditions report; a Project Description/Data Collection Plan; a Data Management Plan; a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Project Plan; and a Health and Safety Plan.

Points of Contact

Table 2-1 presents the primary points of contact designated within the Navy, EPA, and PREQB for public information and inquiries.

TABLE 2-1
Primary Points of Contact

Agency	Name	Contact Information
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 (for public participation issues)	Mary Helen Cervantes	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 Communications Division 290 Broadway, 26 th Floor New York, New York 10007-1866 Phone: (212) 637-3673 Email: Cervantes.Mary@epa.gov
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 (for technical issues)	Mr. Timothy Gordon	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 RCRA Programs Branch 290 Broadway, 22 nd Floor New York, New York 10007-1866 Phone: (212) 637-4167 Fax: (212) 637-4437 Email: Gordon.timothy@epa.gov
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 (Vieques Workgroup)	Mr. Carlos Ramos	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 Office of Regional Administrator 290 Broadway, 26th Floor New York, New York 10007-1866 Phone: (212) 637-3588 Fax: (212) 637-4943 Email: Ramos.carlos@epa.gov

TABLE 2-1
Primary Points of Contact

Agency	Name	Contact Information
US Environmental Protection Agency, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division	Mr. Daniel Rodriguez	US Environmental Protection Agency Caribbean Environmental Protection Division Centro Europa Building, Suite 417 1492 Ponce de Leon Avenue Santurce, Puerto Rico 00907-4127 Phone: (787) 977-5849 Fax: Email: Rodriguez.Daniel@epa.gov
Naval Facilities Engineering Command	Mr. Christopher T. Penny Remedial Project Manager	Atlantic Division, Code EV23 1510 Gilbert Street Norfolk, VA 23511-2699 Phone: (757) 322-4815 Fax: Email: PennyCT@efdlant.navfac.navy.mil
U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Environmental Engineering Division	Ms. Madeline Rivera	PSC 1008, Box 3021 FPO AA 34051-3021 Phone: (787)865-5337 Fax: (787) 865-4967 Email: riveramad@mercury.navstarr.navy.mil
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board	<i>TO BE DETERMINED</i>	National Plaza Building 431 Ponce de León Avenue Hato Rey, PR 00917 Phone: (787) 766-2817 Fax: Email: jcaterr@prtc.net

2.4.2 Future Public Participation Activities

Additional public participation activities, to be conducted during the RFI and CMS and corrective measures implementation (if any), will be evaluated when the CRP is prepared. These potentially could include activities such as:

- Developing additional fact sheet(s) at appropriate point(s).
- Mailing public information, which could include public notices, fact sheets, or summaries of reports to the current mailing list of interested parties that is maintained by CH2M HILL for the Navy. Additional entries will be added to the mailing list as requests are received.
- Holding public meetings or open houses, depending on the level of public interest, at key decision milestones.
- Providing information about the RCRA facility investigation at AFWTF and EMA during meetings of the existing TRC, which meets to discuss environmental restoration (under CERCLA) of former Navy lands on the western side of the island.

2.4.3 Public Comment on Proposed Corrective Measure

The RCRA Consent Order (Docket No. RCRA-02-99-7301) and EPA's *RCRA Public Participation Manual* describe certain public participation activities that EPA and the Navy are expected to implement.

After the RFI and CMS are finalized, and EPA has approved the reports and tentatively selected the corrective measure(s), EPA will prepare a Statement of Basis or fact sheet to solicit public review and comment. The Statement of Basis will identify the proposed final corrective measure(s) selected, including any no further action determination, and will describe other alternatives that were evaluated in the CMS report. EPA will issue a public notice that the corrective measure(s) have been tentatively selected and that the Statement of Basis is available.

The Navy will make the RFI Final Report (or a summary), the CMS Final Report (or a summary), and other relevant portions of the Administrative Record, including EPA's Statement of Basis, available in the public information repositories, for public review and comment, for at least thirty (30) days.

Although not required by the Consent Order, if a public hearing is requested in response to the public notice, EPA and the Navy will collaborate in arranging the public hearing and EPA will take the lead in responding to public comments.

Following the public review and comment period, EPA will prepare the final notice of decision and a response to public comments. EPA will provide copies of these documents to the public information repositories and to all persons who submit comments or request a copy of the response.

EPA will notify the Navy of the corrective measure(s) selected by EPA after consideration of public comments. If directed to do so by EPA, the Navy (or its designated representative) will revise the RFI and/or CMS, based upon public comment, and place the revised documents in the public repositories.

2.4.4 Bilingual Public Outreach

Because English is not the primary language of many Viequenses, public information materials, such as fact sheets, public notices and the Statement of Basis, will be produced in both Spanish and English. Lengthy technical documents will be prepared in English. Local personnel (NSRR Environmental Engineering Division and/or EPA Caribbean office) will review translations, for both local idiom and technical terminology.

If a public hearing is held during the public comment period for the proposed corrective action, bilingual stenographers will be hired to produce transcripts in English and Spanish.

2.4.5 Timing

Figure 2-1 presents a general schedule for conducting public participation activities related to the RFI and subsequent RCRA actions.

	RFI Work Plans Completed	During RFI	RFI Report Completed	CMS Completed
Community Relations Plan		★		
Public notice	☆		☆	★
Copies for repositories	★		★	★
Fact sheet	☆		☆	
Statement of Basis <i>(summary fact sheet on final remedy-determination)</i>				★
30-day comment period	☆		★ (with CMS)	★
Public meeting <i>(on request)</i>			☆ (with CMS)	☆
Response to public comments				★
LEGEND				
★	Required action	☆	Recommended action	

Figure 2-1
GENERAL SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

APPENDIX A

Locations of Public Information Repositories

Public Information Repositories

Location	Hours	Telephone
EPA Caribbean Environmental Protection Division Centro Europa Building, Suite 417 1492 Ponce de Leon Avenue Santurce, Puerto Rico 00907-4127	Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	787-977-5849
Biblioteca Pública Jose Gautier Benitez Calle Baldorioty de Castro Vieques, PR 00765	Monday–Friday, 8:00 am-6:00 pm	787-741-3706

APPENDIX B

Mailing List of Interested Parties

List of Interested Parties AFWTF, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

(Note: As of the time of writing. The mailing list is continually updated.)

Federal Officials and Agencies

The Honorable Aníbal Acevedo Vilá
Resident Commissioner
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-5401

Mr. Carlos Ramos
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 26th floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Sr. Daniel Rodríguez
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
US Environmental Protection Agency
Centro Europa Bldg, Suite 417
1492 Ponce De Leon Avenue
San Juan, PR 00907

Mr. Tim Gordon
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Mr. Robert Wing
Chief of Federal Facilities
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway
E.R.R.D.
New York, NY 10007-1866

Ms. Susan Silander
US Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 510
Bóqueron, PR 00622

Sr. Felix López Arroyo
Boqueron Field Office
US Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 491
Bóqueron, PR 00622-0491

Sr. Oscar Díaz
Manager, Vieques National Wildlife Refuge
US Fish & Wildlife Service
PO Box 1527
Vieques, PR 00765-1527

Sr. Rafael W. Rodriguez
Puerto Rico State Representative
US Geological Survey
651 Federal Drive, Suite 400-15
GSA Center
Guaynabo, PR 00965

State Officials and Agencies

La Gobernadora Sila Maria Calderon
Governor of Puerto Rico
Oficina de la Gobernadora
La Fortaleza
San Juan, PR 00920

Representante Augusto C. Sánchez Fuentes
Electoral District 36
Camara de Representantes
El Capitolio
San Juan, PR 00920

Dr. Manuel Rivera
Department of Natural & Environmental
Resources
Box #906600
Puerto de Tierra, PR 00906

Sr. Genaro Torres León
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
National Plaza Bldg., Office 225
431 Ponce de Leon Avenue
Hato Rey, PR 00917

Dr. Juan Fernández
(ATTN: Felipe Morales)
Oficina del Comisionado Especial para Vieques
PO Box 9023271
San Juan, PR 00902-3271

Sr. Radamés Tirado Guevara
Subcomisionado
Oficina del Comisionado Especial para Vieques
Calle Prudencio Quiñones # 35
Esquina Carlos Lebrum
Vieques, PR 00765

Mr. E. Donald Elliott
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
1299 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
(Re: PR Environmental Quality Board)
Washington, DC 20004

Lic. Esteban Mujica Cotto
President
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
National Plaza Bldg.
431 Ponce de Leon Avenue
Hato Rey, PR 00917

La Senadora Yasmin Mejias
8th Senatorial District-Carolina
Senado de Puerto Rico
El Capitolio
San Juan, PR 00920

El Senador Juan Cancel Alegria
8th Senatorial District-Carolina
Senado de Puerto Rico
El Capitolio
San Juan, PR 00920

Local Officials and Agencies

The Honorable Dámaso Serrano López
Mayor of Vieques
Casa Alcaldia
Vieques, PR 00765

Sr. Miguel Pablo Connelly Pagan
Dir., Departamento Obras Publicas Municipal
Gobierno Municipal Vieques
Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico
449 Calle Carlos Lebrum
Vieques, PR 00765

Sr. Rafael Rodríguez Vega
Director of Finance
Municipality of Vieques
PO Box 875
Vieques, PR 00765

Sr. Emeric Catarineau
President
Vieques Municipal Assembly
Vieques, PR 00765

Non-Governmental Organizations

Ms. Aimée Houghton
Associate Director
Center for Public Environmental Oversight
101 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Lenny Siegel
Director
Center for Public Environmental Oversight
C/o PSC
222B View St.
Mountain View, CA 94041

Mr. John Lindsay-Poland
Director, Task Force on Latin America &
Caribbean
Fellowship of Reconciliation
2017 Mission St. #305
San Francisco, CA 94110

Secretary/Treasurer
Union for the Protection of the Environment of
Vieques
PO Box 1504
Vieques, PR 00765

Vieques Chamber of Commerce
Crow's Nest
PO Box 1545
Vieques, PR 00765

Public Relations Committee
Vieques Conservation & Historical Trust
Calle Flamboyán #138
Esperanza Beach
Vieques, PR 00765

Public

*To protect privacy, names and addresses of
private individuals on the interested parties
mailing list are not published.*

Media

Vieques Times
153 Flamboyán St.
Esperanza Beach
Vieques, PR 00765

U.S. Navy

RADM Green
U.S. Federal Building, Room 354
150 Carlos Chardon Ave
Hato Rey, PR 00918

Captain Craig James
U.S. Federal Building, Room 354
150 Carlos Chardon Ave
Hato Rey, PR 00918

Public Affairs Officer
Naval Forces, U.S. Southern Command
FTO AA 34099-6004

Mr. Rick Urbanski
OESO Directorate, Code N59
Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity
Farragut Hall Bldg D-323
23 Strauss Avenue
Indian Head, MD 20640-5555

Captain John Warnecke
Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
PSC 1008
Box 3001
FPO AA 3405

Ms. Madeline Rivera Ruiz
Environmental Program Manager
U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
PSC 1008, Box 3021
FPO AA 34051-3021

Commander William N. Hughes
Executive Officer
U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
PSC 1008
Box 3001
FPO AA 34051

Mr. Christopher Penny
Installation Restoration Section
US Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Atlantic Division, Code EV23
1510 Gilbert Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-2699

APPENDIX C

Fact Sheet

RCRA Facility Investigation
Community Fact Sheet
Eastern Maneuver Area and Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

Spring 2002

The U.S. Department of the Navy is beginning an environmental investigation of potential contamination on some of its property on the eastern side of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing this work through an Administrative Order on Consent (Consent Order) signed with the Navy. This fact sheet explains the process for planning and carrying out this environmental investigation, as well as any cleanup work or other actions needed to protect the public and the environment. Future community updates will inform the public about specific steps in this process and opportunities for the public to provide input into this work. Terms and acronyms in bold print are explained in the Glossary.

Background

The U.S. Navy owns about 14,600 acres on the eastern side of Vieques Island. The Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA) takes up 11,000 acres on the east-central portion of the island and the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF) takes up 3,600 acres on the far eastern end of the island (see Figure 1). The AFWTF and EMA have been used for naval training exercises. Camp Garcia, located in the EMA, contains public works facilities to maintain the vehicles, buildings, roads and utilities that are needed for Navy activities on Vieques. These lands contain areas that may have been contaminated by past activities such as training exercises, maintenance activities, storage of supplies, and waste disposal.

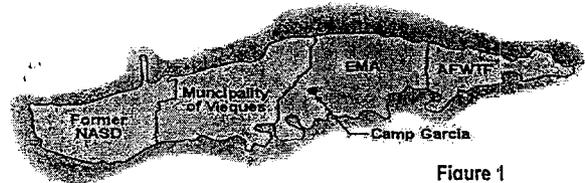


Figure 1

Since May 1999, the Navy has only used inert (non-explosive) **ordnance** on the training range. However, most of the Navy's past training on the live impact area of AFWTF prior to that date used explosive ordnance. As part of normal operations, unexploded ordnance (UXO) has been periodically cleared from the training range and destroyed by open burning/open detonation (OB/OD) at the AFWTF. Some expired or otherwise deteriorated munitions were also destroyed there.

In April 2001, the Navy transferred 8,100 acres of land on the western side of island to the Municipality of Vieques, the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust and the U.S. Department of Interior. CERCLA requires the Navy to conduct all necessary investigations and cleanup work to protect human health and the environment from any hazardous substances remaining from past Navy activities on this transferred property. (CERCLA is the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act, more commonly known as "Superfund".) Seventeen potentially contaminated sites on the western lands are currently being investigated, to determine what cleanup actions are needed. The Navy is the lead agency for the work on western Vieques, with guidance from EQB and EPA.

What is RCRA?

The **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** is the federal law through which EPA regulates and permits facilities that store, treat or dispose of solid and hazardous wastes. Figure 2 illustrates the RCRA investigation process and the opportunities for public participation. Under RCRA, EPA can also require facilities that are subject to RCRA permit regulations to investigate and clean up any wastes that may have been released into the environment. This cleanup process is called a **corrective action**.

Figure 2 illustrates the RCRA corrective action process and the opportunities for public participation.

What Will the Navy Do Under its Consent Order with EPA?

In January 2000, EPA and the Navy voluntarily entered into a RCRA Administrative Order on Consent to address potential environmental contamination at certain areas of the AFWTF and EMA. The Consent Order requires the Navy to perform a **RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)** at nine **Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs)** and three **Areas of Concern (AOCs)**. AOCs are areas that may be contaminated, but are not clearly linked to waste management activities. The twelve sites that will be investigated under the Consent Order do not include sites used as active military ranges, either for training or the disposal of waste munitions (such as the Live Impact Area and Open Burn/Open Disposal area at AFWTF).

If the results of the investigations show that cleanup work or other actions are needed to address any threats posed to people's health or to the environment, the Consent Order also requires the Navy to perform a **Corrective Measures Study (CMS)** to evaluate alternatives to do this work. Also, the Consent Order requires the Navy to take **interim measures**, if necessary, to prevent or reduce any immediate threats to people's health (including Navy personnel working at Camp Garcia) or to the environment that might be discovered while the study process is underway.

All of the Navy's work under this Consent Order is subject to EPA's approval and oversight, with input from the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB). In addition, the public will be given the opportunity to review and comment on all significant documents and plans developed under this Consent Order.

The nine known **SWMUs** and three suspected **AOCs** were identified in *RCRA Facility Assessments* of the AFWTF and EMA that were prepared for EPA in 1988 and 1995. These twelve sites cover a total of about 80 acres, mostly on or near Camp Garcia:

- SWMU 1 – Camp Garcia Landfill
- SWMU 2 – Fuels Off-Loading Site (Camp Garcia)
- SWMU 4 – Waste Areas of Building 303 (Camp Garcia)
- SWMU 5 – Spent Battery Accumulation Area (Observation Post 1, AFWTF Inner Range)
- SWMU 6 – Waste Oil and Paint Accumulation Area (Seabees Area, Camp Garcia)
- SWMU 7 – Waste Oil Accumulation Area (outside Building 303 at Camp Garcia)
- SWMU 8 – Waste Oil Accumulation Area (Observation Post 1, AFWTF Inner Range)
- SWMU 10 – Sewage Treatment Lagoons (Camp Garcia)
- SWMU 12 – Solid Waste Collection Unit Area (Observation Post 1, AFWTF Inner Range)

- AOC A - Diesel Fuel Fill Pipe Area (Observation Post 1, AFWTF Inner Range)
- AOC F - Rock Quarry (Camp Garcia)
- AOC G - Pump Station and Chlorinating Building at Sewage Lagoons (Camp Garcia)

Some Potential Areas of Concern (PAOCs), which are discussed in the *Description of Current Conditions Report* (see below), could be added to the requirements of the Consent Order, if it is determined that a release of hazardous materials has occurred.

Planning for the Investigations

The first step in the RFI is to prepare a *Description of Current Conditions Report*, which pulls together historical information and current knowledge about existing conditions at the identified SWMUs and AOCs, as well as any other areas of the facility currently or previously used for treatment, storage, or disposal of solid or hazardous waste. This report is then used to prepare the work plans for the investigations.

The RFI Work Plans describe the objectives, technical approach, and schedule for a site investigation. They describe where and how samples will be collected and handled, which contaminants will be investigated, and how the samples will be analyzed. A work plan has also been prepared for completing the baseline groundwater investigation along the western boundary of the EMA. This investigation will supplement previous groundwater investigations conducted by the Navy.

Once EPA has approved the work plans for the RFI and the *Description of Current Conditions* report, these documents will be released for public review.

Environmental Investigations and Results

Once the RFI work plans are finalized, samples will be collected from the soil, surface water, and/or ground water at each of the twelve sites. Samples will be analyzed using EPA's quality control protocols. After the data are evaluated to determine what chemicals are present at each site, a RFI report will be prepared to describe these results and recommend further action (or no action) at each site. Further action may include active cleanup work. The report will be submitted to EPA Region 2 and the EQB for review and approval. This process could take one or more years to complete.

In 1999, the Navy prepared a report indicating that the results of the groundwater, surface soil and subsurface soil sampling along the western border of the EMA did not detect munitions-related contaminants. This report, *Results of the Hydrogeologic Investigation, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico* (November 1999), was based on sampling work that the Navy initiated and completed independently, before entering into the January 2000 RCRA Consent Order. To satisfy EPA's RCRA requirements under the Consent Order, the Navy will collect more groundwater samples from designated groundwater monitoring wells and analyze these samples for contaminants specified in the work plan. The *Work Plan for Groundwater Baseline Investigation at the US Navy's Eastern Maneuver Area, Puerto Rico*, describes how this additional work will be done and made available for public review.

What Comes Next?

If the RFI confirms that a cleanup or other corrective action is needed at one or more of the sites, a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) will be prepared to evaluate alternatives. EPA will

notify the community when the RFI and CMS reports are available for public review and comments. After the CMS is completed and EPA has tentatively selected the preferred response action, EPA will ask the public for its comments on both the CMS Report and the recommended action. Once EPA has reviewed and considered public comments, the RCRA Consent Order will be modified, if the CMS requires the Navy to implement a final cleanup plan.

Live Impact Area

Other known areas of potential contamination on the AFWTF, including the OB/OD area at which unexploded ordnance has been destroyed and the Live Impact Area, are not included in the Consent Order and the RFI, because they are part of the active military training range. If the military training range is closed, removal of UXO and ordnance explosives and environmental cleanup on the active military range will be addressed separately.

Public Participation

Public participation is an important part of the environmental investigation and cleanup process. Input from Vieques residents will help the Navy and the EPA make better decisions. The public will have several formal opportunities to comment on the study plans and the proposed remedies. However, questions and comments are welcome at any time during the study process. *People from EPA, the Navy, and EQB who can answer questions are listed at the end of this fact sheet.*

EPA and the Navy will work with community members from Vieques to prepare a Community Relations Plan. This plan will describe how the community will be kept informed about the activities carried out under the Consent Order and how public input will be obtained. *If you are interested in assisting us in developing this plan, please contact Mary Helen Cervantes (see last page).*

The Navy maintains a mailing list of people who want to receive fact sheets and other information about the environmental study and cleanup process on Vieques Island. *To get on the mailing list, please contact Mary Helen Cervantes (see last page).*

Several public information repositories exist, at which the Consent Order, work plans, fact sheets, technical reports and other documents are available for public review. Locations and hours are listed on the last page.

A **Technical Review Committee** exists to provide a forum for exchanging information about the cleanup of the Navy's former property on the western side of Vieques. This group of interested Vieques residents and government representatives will also be a valuable link between the Navy, EPA, EQB and the local community during the investigation and cleanup of the EMA and AFWTF under the Consent Order. *For information about meetings of the TRC for the environmental investigation of the western lands, please contact Madeline Rivera Ruiz or Christopher Penny (see last page).*

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**Public Information Repositories**

Biblioteca Pública, José Gautier Benitez
Calle Baldorioty de Castro
Vieques Island, PR
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Phone: 787-741-3706

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
Attention: Daniel Rodriguez
Centro Europa Building, Suite 417
1492 Ponce De Leon Avenue
San Juan, PR 00907
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Phone: (787) 977-5849
Email: Rodriguez.Daniel@epa.gov

People to call with questions or comments:**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Mary Helen Cervantes
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 2
Communications Division
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
Phone: (800) 346-5009
Email: Cervantes.Mary@epa.gov

Phone: (212) 637-4167
Fax (212) 637-4437
Email: Gordon.Timothy@epa.gov

Timothy Gordon
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 2
RCRA Programs Branch
290 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Carlos Ramos
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 2
Office of Regional Administrator
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
Phone: (212) 637-3588
Fax: (212) 637-4943
Email: Ramos.carlos@epa.gov

PUERTO RICO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

[to be determined]

U.S. NAVY

Christopher T. Penny, REM
Remedial Project Manager
Atlantic Division, Code EV23
1510 Gilbert Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-2699
Telephone: 757-322-4815
E-mail:
PennyCT@efdlant.navfac.navy.mil

Madeline Rivera Ruiz
Environmental Engineering Division
U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
PSC 1008, Box 3021
PO AA 34051-3021
Telephone: 787-865-5337
E-mail: RiveraMad@navstarr.navy.mil