



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
ATLANTIC
6506 HAMPTON BLVD
NORFOLK VA 23508-1278

TELEPHONE NO:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 3, 2005

State Historic Preservation Office
Attn: Ms. Aida Belen Rivera Ruiz
State Historic Preservation Officer
Cuartel de Ballaja
Office 336A
Old San Juan
San Juan, PR 00906-6581

Re: Environmental Investigations at the Former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) and Former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR), Vieques, Puerto Rico

Dear Ms. Rivera Ruiz:

The Department of the Navy is currently in the process of conducting evaluation and remediation work on portions of Vieques where ordnance or waste may be present as a result of past Navy practices. The evaluation and remediation is being conducted under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program, with the intention of identifying, locating, and treating or removing munitions-related items and environmental contaminants. In the course of implementing this program, archaeological resources may be encountered. While many of the study areas are in previously disturbed locations and in areas where archaeological surveys have been completed, some of the areas may not be where significant Navy activities occurred in the past and may require archaeological surveys. Therefore, the Navy is submitting the attached information for your review and comment pursuant to Section 106.

There are three sites (AOCE, AOCl, and AOCR on the former NASD) for which we request your immediate attention, which were identified to Mickey Bonini on 21 October 2005 via email. Due to the importance of expediting the investigations at each site, the Navy is requesting, to the extent possible, a very quick reply to the Navy's determination of no effect on these three areas. The no effect determination is based upon the facts that (1) all three sites were the locations of former Navy activities and, therefore, have been previously disturbed and (2) all three sites are located in areas that has been surveyed archaeologically and determined to not contain any cultural resources. The planned investigation activities at these sites are described in their respective work plans, which are enclosed.

In addition to the three sites discussed above, there are several additional sites located on the former VNTR where archaeological surveys are planned during the month of November 2005. These sites will be investigated in accordance with their respective workplans, which are enclosed.

Due to the complexity of the CERCLA program and the numerous sites on both east and west Vieques under investigation and cleanup, additional requests for evaluation will be required. The

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Navy will follow up with you to determine the best way to continue the Section 106 consultative process.

We appreciate your input in this process and look forward to continue the communication flow between the agencies. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate in contacting me at 757-322-4787.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey C. Harlow
Western Vicques Remedial Project Manager
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic
Environmental Division
By direction of the Commander

Copy to:

PREQB (Ms. Yarissa Martínez)

NAVFAC ATLANTIC (Messrs. Byron Brant, Christopher Penny, Bruce Larson, Johnny Nolcs)

USEPA (Mr. Daniel Rodríguez)

DOI (Ms. Susan Silander; Messrs. Bud Oliviera, Oscar Díaz)

CH2MHILL (Messrs. Brett Doerr, John Tomik, Ms. Susana Struve)