

11/5/04-02572



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

TELEPHONE NO:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 5, 2004

Division of Environmental Planning and Protection  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2  
Attn: Mr. Adolph Everett, P.E.  
Chief, RCRA Programs Branch  
290 Broadway  
New York, New York 1007-1866

Re: Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF), Vieques Island, PR; Munitions Response Action; EPA I.D. # PRD980536221

Dear Mr. Everett:

This letter is being submitted pursuant to guidelines provided in 40 CFR 265.56 (j) in response to an imminent hazard action, as described in 40 CFR 265.4, regarding the munitions response action for a munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) item found at the former AFWTF. The MEC item found presented an immediate threat as per 40 CFR 265.1 (c) (11) (i) (D). The information in this letter was e-mailed to you on 25 October 2004.

As you are aware, the former AFWTF is currently managed as a national wildlife refuge by the U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic (NAVFAC Atlantic) is responsible for the munitions response actions completed at the former AFWTF. The point of contacts for these agencies are enclosed.

On 27 September 2004 FWS personnel identified an apparent military munitions round in the vicinity of the access road between Red Beach and Blue Beach, which is located within the Vieques Wildlife Refuge, within the former AFWTF. A figure showing the approximate location of the MEC item is enclosed. NAVFAC Atlantic was notified by FWS and a contracted munitions emergency response specialist (as defined in 40 CFR 260.10) was dispatched to the site to evaluate the identified item (see enclosed MEC Identification Notice). The response specialist arrived on site 29 September 2004 and determined that moving the MEC item would pose a potential explosive safety risk . USEPA RCRA Programs Branch, Caribbean Section was notified of the situation on 29 September 2004 as were PREQB and the Municipality of Vieques response agencies (police and fire)..

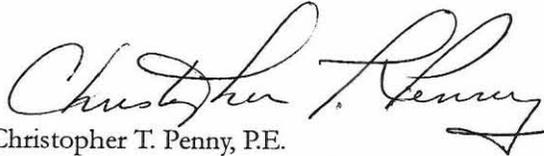
After the MEC item was identified on 28 September 2004, the access road between Red Beach and Blue Beach was restricted from public access with a concrete barricade. To prohibit access to the Vieques Wildlife Refuge, the gate at the entrance remained locked. In addition, FWS agents and contracted security personnel were placed on site to monitor the gated access road and other potential routes of access on 29 September 2004 at all times. These security measures were maintained until the munitions item was demilitarized by detonating the item with a small explosive charge on 10 October 2004.

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The MEC item, after demilitarization, was determined to be a practice version of the M47A1 81mm mortar. The scrap metal (approximately 5 pounds) resulting from the demilitarization of the MEC item were inspected and certified free of any energetic materials and was placed in storage for future delivery to a scrap metal recycling facility.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information concerning this response action please do not hesitate to contact me at 757-322-4815.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Penny, P.E.  
Eastern Vieques Project Coordinator  
Environmental Programs Branch  
Environmental Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosures (4)

Copy to:

USEPA Region II Caribbean Section (Messrs. Tim Gordon, Daniel Rodriguez) (w/enclosures)

PREQB (Ms. Yariisa Martinez) (w/enclosures)

DOI FWS (Messrs. Bud Oliveira, Cal Garnett, Oscar Diaz; Ms. Susan Silander) (w/enclosures)

ASN (I&E) (Mr. Paul Yaroschak)

NAVFACATLANTIC (Mr. Byron Brant)

CH2MHILL (Messrs. Mr. John Tomik, Mr. Stacin Martin) (w/enclosures)

**East Vieques Point Of Contacts**

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