



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
ATLANTIC
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

(757) 322-4736

December 12, 2007

U.S. Department Of Interior Fish & Wildlife Service
Boqueron Field Office
Attn: Mr. Edwin E. Muniz
Field Supervisor
Carr. 301, KM 5.1, Bo. Corozo
P.O. Box 491 Boqueron, PR 00622

RE:

- 1) Biological Assessment of the Former LIA within the Former VNTR, Vieques, Puerto Rico, Amendment 1: Eastern Conservation Area
- 2) Former VNTR and SWMU 4 Turtle Nesting Areas Site Description and Map Set
- 3) Biological Assessment of the Former LIA within the Former VNTR, Vieques, Puerto Rico
- 4) Methods and Approach for Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitat Surveys within the ECA, SIA, and EMA on Vieques, Puerto Rico

Encl:

- 1) Reference 1 document
- 2) Reference 2 document

Dear Mr. Muniz:

Enclosed for your review are two copies of the Biological Assessment of the Former LIA within the Former VNTR, Vieques, Puerto Rico, Amendment 1: Eastern Conservation Area (Reference 1).

NAVFAC Atlantic is requesting U.S. Fish and Wildlife review and comment of Reference 1. The referenced and enclosed amendment is intended to provide the documentation and mitigation measures necessary to proceed with the removal of munitions items from:

- 1) East Vieques Eastern Conservation Area (ECA) beach and inland areas;
- 2) East Vieques Surface Impact Area (SIA) beach areas and inland areas previously identified as not requiring surveys;
- 3) East Vieques Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA) beach areas and inland areas previously identified as not requiring surveys; and

- 4) West Vieques SWMU 4 beach areas and inland areas previously identified as not requiring surveys.

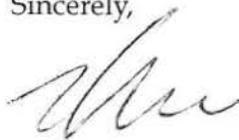
The ECA has been evaluated for threatened and endangered plant species and all sea turtle nesting areas identified. The findings are presented in References 1 and 2. The mitigation measures presented in Reference 3 will be applied to work in sea turtle nesting areas within the ECA, SIA, EMA, and SWMU 4.

NAVFAC understands that for the SIA and EMA, munitions removal actions may also proceed in the areas identified as not requiring ecological surveys in Reference 4 the other areas will require evaluation as described in Reference 4. Additionally, the inland areas, non-turtle nesting areas, within SWMU 4 have previously been evaluated and U.S. Fish and Wildlife has indicated that there are no threatened or endangered plant species concerns.

Your organization's continued support of NAVFAC projects is greatly appreciated.

Please call me at (757) 322-4736 for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Mr. Kevin Cloe, P.E., RPM
Environmental Programs Branch
Environmental Division
By direction of the Commander

Copy to:

Ms. Marlisa Rivera/USFWS (1 copy)
Mr. Mike Barandrian/USFWS (1 copy)
Mr. Chris Penny/NAVFAC (1 copy)
Mr. Daniel Hood/NAVFAC (1 copy)
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