



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
CENTRO EUROPA BUILDING, SUITE 417
1492 PONCE DE LEON AVENUE, STOP 22
SAN JUAN, PR 00907-4127

March 3, 2010

Mr. Kevin Cloe
Project Manager
Commander Atlantic Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Re: Review of the Draft Technical Memorandum Expanded Preliminary
Assessment/Site Inspection for the Playa La Plata and Secret Beaches, Former
Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Cloe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed the review of the Draft
Technical Memorandum Expanded Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection for the Playa
La Plata and Secret Beaches, Former Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto
Rico, dated February 15, 2010. Enclosed you will find our comments.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (787) 741-5201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Rodríguez".

Daniel Rodríguez
Remedial Project Manager
Response and Remediation Branch

Enclosure

cc: Wilmarie Rivera, EQB, w/ encl.
Richard Henry, FWS, w/encl.
Daniel Hood, Navy, w/encl.
Brett Doerr, CH2M Hill, w/ encl.

**EPA Comments on the Draft Technical Memorandum: Expanded Preliminary
Assessment/Site Inspection for the Playa La Plata and Secrete Beaches, Former
Vieques Naval Training Range, Vieques, Puerto Rico
February 15, 2010**

1. EPA's understanding is that these beaches have not been investigated under any of the approved PA/SI work plan. Why is this work an expanded PA/SI? Was any other PA/SI conducted on this area under investigation? Please remove the word expanded from the technical memorandum.
2. Please include the names of the beaches under investigation in the technical memorandum. The attached figures contain the names of these beaches.
3. Introduction: In the first paragraph, please revise the sentence that start with, "The Playa la Plata beaches are also located at the western boundary of the NOAA "Danger Zone" ..." Include the names of the beaches and add the word Chart after NOAA.
4. Modify the last sentence of the first paragraph since it is not accurate. Amphibious landing exercises did occurred west of La Platita, La Plata, Playa Escondida and Punta Conejo Beaches.
5. Field Procedures, Underwater Survey: Underwater survey procedures have not been part of any of the approved EPA work plans. Please provide more information on the use of the ROV. Also, please include discussion of procedures for areas with limited underwater visibility. For example, areas covered with sea grass, turbidity, etc., will prevent a clear view of the floor.



Legend
Boat Anchoring Area
Beach Area of Investigation

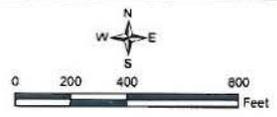
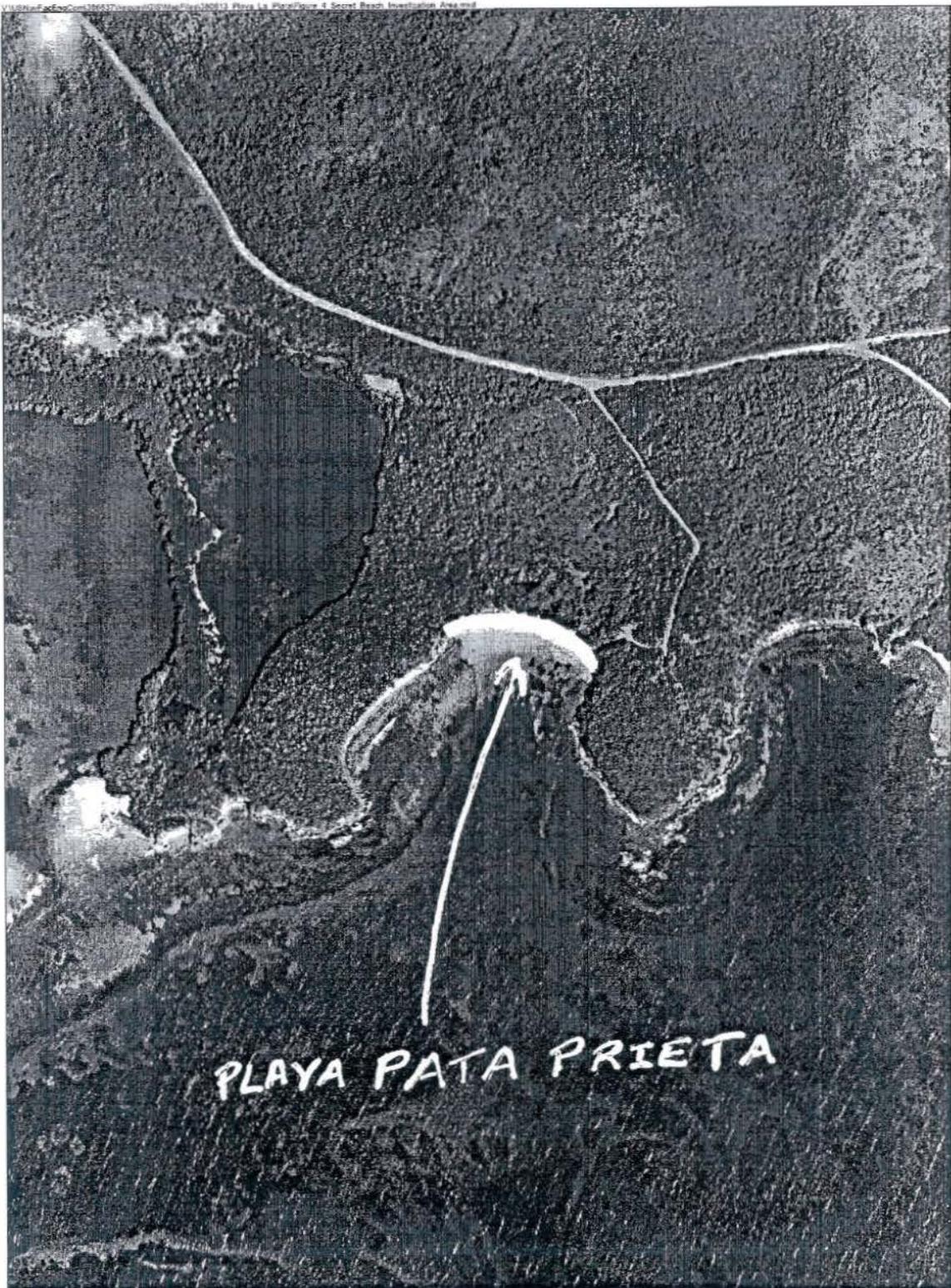


Figure 3
Playa La Plata Beach Areas to be Investigated
Former VNTR
Vieques, Puerto Rico



Legend
Secret Beach Investigation Area

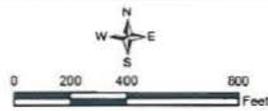


Figure 4
Secret Beach Investigation Area
Former VNTR
Vieques, Puerto Rico