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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
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July 23, 2010

The Honorable Jackalyne Pfannenstiel
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations & Environment)
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4E739
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary Pfannenstiel:

It was a pleasure meeting you and Deputy Assistant Secretary Donald Schregardus on July 14, 2010 to discuss the status of the work that the Navy is conducting to remediate the Island of Vieques. I want to thank both of you for taking the time to meet with me, my Deputy, George Pavlou, and Gail Cooper, Deputy Director of the Federal Facility office at EPA Headquarters.

As you know, the cleanup of Vieques is one of my highest priorities as Regional Administrator of Region 2 at EPA.

I appreciate the Navy's long-term commitment to clean up Vieques, and appreciate that it is a complex site to remediate. I am encouraged by our conversation on how to proceed forward to address potential ways to accelerate the cleanup, address the trespassing and worker safety issues, and provide enhanced community involvement.

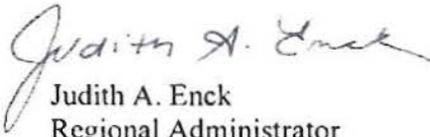
During our meeting we agreed to create a high-level Task Force to explore options on how to best accelerate the remedial investigation/feasibility study and remedy selection. We envision the members of this Task Force to include senior government officials from the Navy, EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and locally elected officials. The Task Force's charge would be to meet periodically to provide guidance and direction for the investigation of cleanup of the Island, taking into consideration the ultimate remedial action objectives, including reasonably anticipated land uses. To that end, I am selecting George Pavlou as EPA's member on the Vieques Task Force. He can be reached at (212) 637-5000; or by e-mail at pavlou.george@epa.gov. Please provide me with the name of the Navy's Task Force member so we can initiate the convening of the first meeting in the near future. Once we have received your nominee, Mr. Pavlou will work with your representative to seek members from the other federal agencies, Puerto Rican government, and local officials and invite them to participate in the Vieques Task Force.

I believe that enhanced community engagement will lead to a more timely cleanup that achieves significant community support. As we discussed in our meeting, EPA has set

aside funding to facilitate a dialogue or series of dialogues with the Navy, EPA, the Vieques community and other interested parties.

I look forward to working with you on this very important issue. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 212-637-5000 or enck.judith@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

cc: John Reeder, EPA
GailAnn Cooper, EPA
George Pavlou, EPA
Donald R. Schregardus, Navy