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FINAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE ATLANTIC FLEET WEAPONS TRAINING AREA (ENGLISH VERSION) VIEQUES ISLAND PUERTO RICO

10/01/2015

CH2M HILL

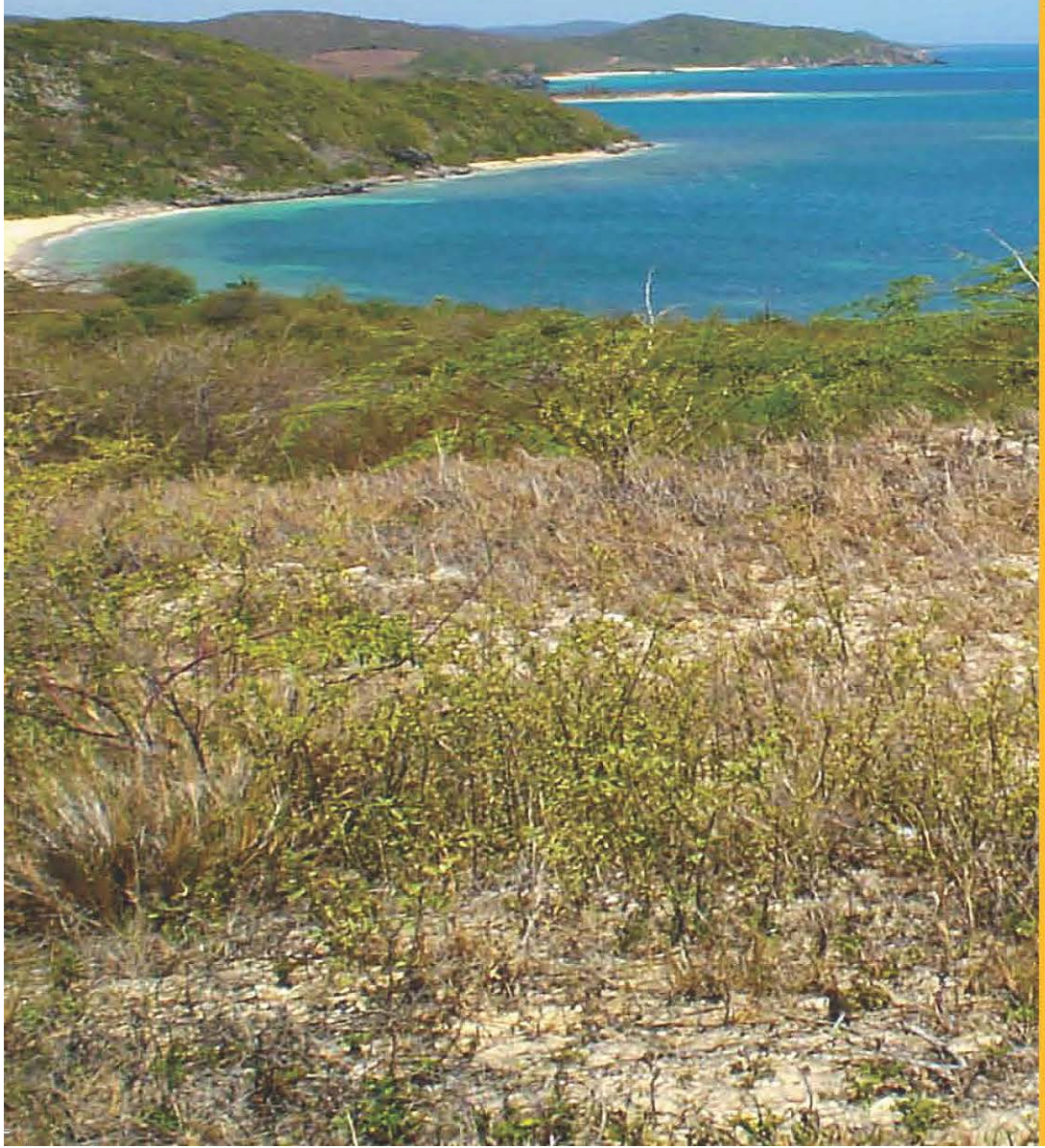
NAVFAC
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

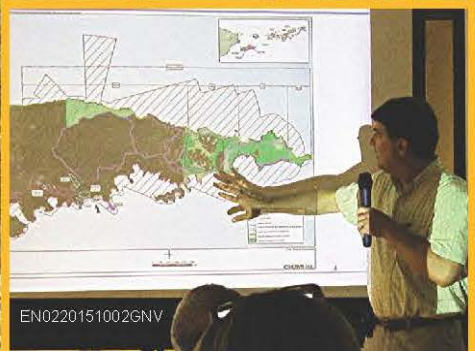
Final

Community Involvement Plan Update

Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area–Vieques
Vieques, Puerto Rico

October 2015





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SECTION 1: OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The U.S. Navy (Navy) worked jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB), and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) to develop this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) update. The CIP is designed to facilitate two-way communication between the community and the agencies involved in the cleanup of former Navy lands on Vieques, Puerto Rico. It was developed in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the Superfund program.

Community members are key participants in the cleanup process. Therefore, this plan has been designed to foster two-way communication whereby the community can provide input into the site characterization and cleanup activities and the stakeholder agencies can keep the community informed about the cleanup progress. The CIP helps the Navy, EPA, PREQB, USFWS, PRDNER, and the community coordinate informational activities, focus these activities on topics of interest and concern by the community, and ensure that the public is kept informed and involved throughout the entire cleanup process.

The CIP was developed with input and review by the public and other stakeholders in the cleanup process. As such, it provides a history of the former Naval facilities; discusses the local community, including its background, makeup, and specific concerns; and provides the structure of the community involvement program. Community input on the CIP was provided through interviews, a survey of Vieques residents and business owners, and community feedback at agency-community meetings.

SECTION 2: SITE DESCRIPTION

SITE HISTORY

Vieques is located approximately 7 miles southeast of Puerto Rico's main island and encompasses 33,000 acres, although most of the island's approximately 9,000 residents live in or around two main towns—Isabel Segunda on the north shore and Esperanza on the south shore (**Figure 2-1**).

From the 1940s until 2003, the U.S. Navy administered lands on both the western and eastern ends of Vieques. The former Vieques Naval Training Range (VNTR) was located on approximately 14,573 acres of the island's eastern side and consisted of four separate areas: the Eastern Maneuver Area (EMA), the Surface Impact Area (SIA), the Live Impact Area (LIA), and the Eastern Conservation Area (ECA). It was used primarily for ground warfare and amphibious training, naval gunfire support training, and air-to-ground training. The former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) covered about 8,200 acres on the west side of the island and was used to store munitions and for other support facilities for Atlantic Fleet training (**Figure 2-1**).

Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) are areas formerly used to store or manage waste. Areas of Concern (AOCs) are sites that may be contaminated based on their history of use. UXO sites are those sites where munitions training took place. These terms are used for most Vieques cleanup program sites, and are commonly found in plans and other documents, as well as the CIP.

In January 2000, EPA and the Navy entered into an Administrative Order on Consent under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to investigate and address potential environmental contamination on east Vieques. Under the order, the Navy began a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) of nine solid waste management units (SWMUs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12) and three areas of concern (AOCs A, F, and G) to determine whether or not they contained potentially harmful releases of hazardous materials (see **Figures 2-2 and 2-3**).

Live-fire training on Vieques ceased in 2001, although periodic training with concrete-filled bombs and blank bullets continued until 2003. On April 30, 2001, 4,250 acres of former NASD land were transferred to the Municipality of Vieques (MOV), 3,050 acres to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to manage as part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, and 800 acres to the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust (PRCT, now known as "Para La Naturaleza") (**Figure 2-4**). The Navy retained 100 acres for its Relocatable Over The Horizon Radar (ROTHR) system. In 2003, all Navy training on Vieques ceased, and the Navy transferred all 14,573 acres of the former VNTR to the DOI in accordance with Public Law 107-107, to be administered as part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge; the law required the former LIA to be managed as a wilderness area with no public access. The Monte Pirata telecommunication facility on the former NASD was transferred to the DOI in March 2005.

On February 11, 2005, areas on Vieques and within the surrounding waters were placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) under the designation Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area (AFWTA)–Vieques. The NPL is EPA's priority list of private, federal, and formerly federal properties throughout the United States and its territories with known or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. With the listing of Vieques on the NPL, all sites, including 12 original Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Consent Order sites, were placed under the cleanup authority of CERCLA. Consistent with the legislation that called for the end of Navy activities on Vieques, the Navy funds and conducts all CERCLA cleanups on Vieques, with EPA and PREQB oversight, as well as input and oversight by other agencies [i.e., USFWS, PRDNER, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)].

The addition of the Vieques sites to the NPL followed a 2003 request by the then-governor of Puerto Rico, Sila Calderon, to make the former AFWTA—Vieques site the Commonwealth's highest priority facility for cleanup. An interagency agreement, called a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), among the Navy, EPA, PREQB, and DOI, ensures potential leftover munitions and environmental contamination due to past Navy activities are properly evaluated and addressed. Most importantly, the agreement establishes the processes and procedures for the cleanup activities and decision-making and defines the specific roles and responsibilities of the government agencies involved. For a listing of points of contact current as of the publishing of the CIP update, please refer to **Appendix A**. The most up-to-date contact information is available via the Navy's public website at http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques. At the Vieques Public Library (Oficina de Asuntos de la Juventud) and at the Luz de la Esperanza Public Library, the Navy has posted written instructions on how to access the Vieques public website and the Administrative Record, which is a repository of the publically available documents associated with the cleanup.

Instructions on accessing the Navy's public website also will be publicized in flyers and newsletters, RAB meetings and other events. The EPA and Navy Field Offices can also be contacted for information.

SITE CLEANUP HISTORY

One of the key provisions of CERCLA is a defined process to clean up contaminated sites. The process includes several steps:

- Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection - A preliminary evaluation/investigation to determine if there has been a release of hazardous waste or materials causing contamination that warrants further study or cleanup.
- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study - The Remedial Investigation determines the nature and extent of contamination and associated human health and ecological risks. If cleanup is determined to be warranted, the Feasibility Study evaluates cleanup approaches that may be selected.
- Proposed Plan - The preferred cleanup approach, based on the evaluation of various alternatives by the Feasibility Study, is documented in the proposed plan, which is provided to the public for formal comment prior to selecting the remedy.

- Record of Decision - The Record of Decision documents the selection of the remedy following consideration of public comments received on the Proposed Plan.
- Remedy Implementation - Preparation and implementation of the remedy documented in the Record of Decision.

For more detail on the various CERCLA steps presented above, see http://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/).

The Vieques cleanup program comprises 73 sites in various stages of the CERCLA process. **Figure 2-5** shows the CERCLA status of each site as of the finalizing of this CIP update. The Navy's Vieques cleanup is organized into two primary programs: the Munitions Response Program (MRP) and the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The MRP addresses leftover munitions in order to reduce explosive hazards. The ERP focuses on addressing potential environmental contaminants (non-munitions related) attributed to past Navy activities that may pose an unacceptable risk to human and/or environmental health.

There are 19 MRP sites and 54 ERP sites on Vieques; **Figures 2-2, 2-3**, and **2-4** show the locations of the sites. **Figure 2-5** presents the status of the 73 sites within the CERCLA process.

FIGURE 2-1:
REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

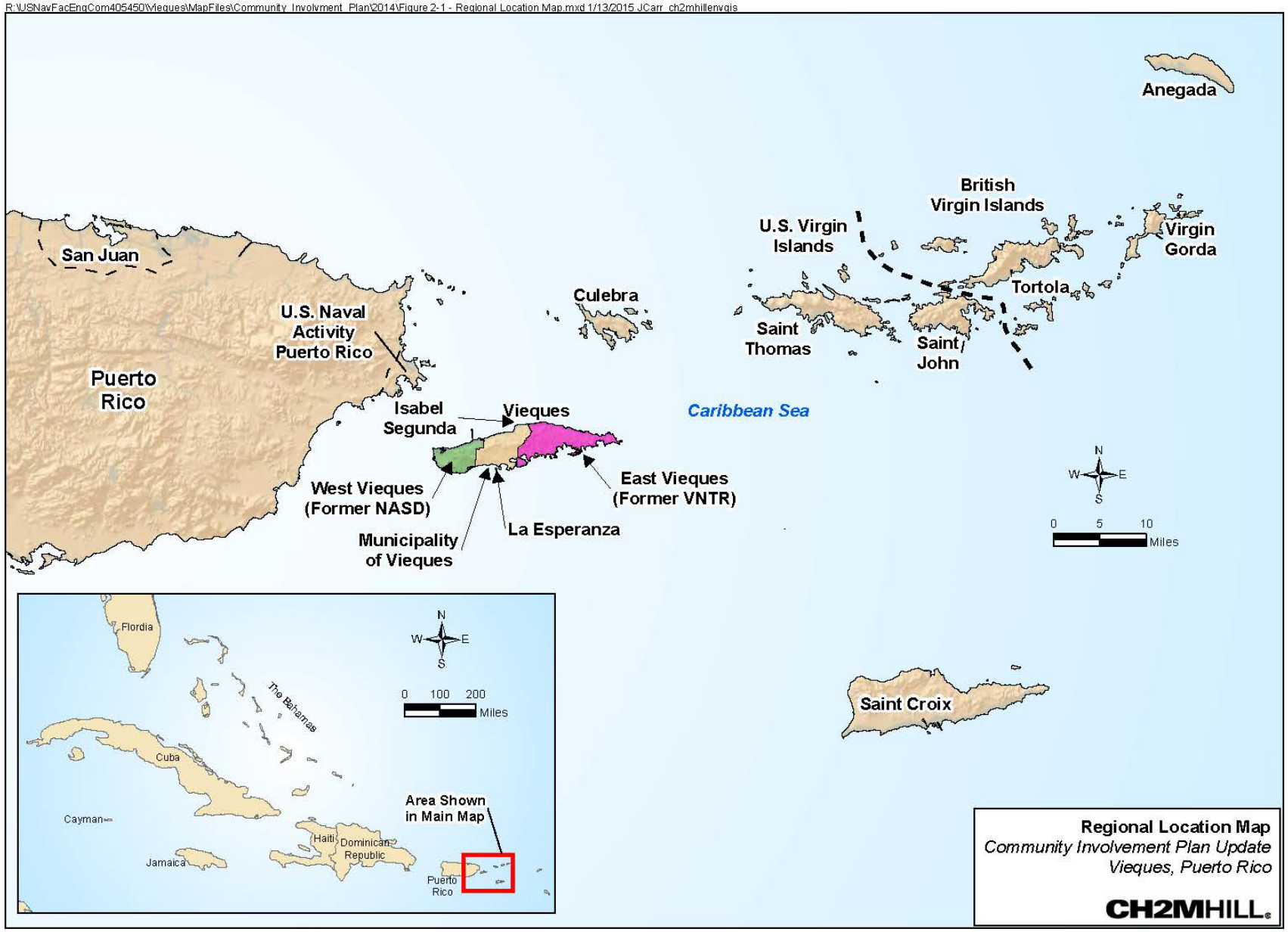


FIGURE 2-2:
EAST VIEQUES ERP AND MRP SITES

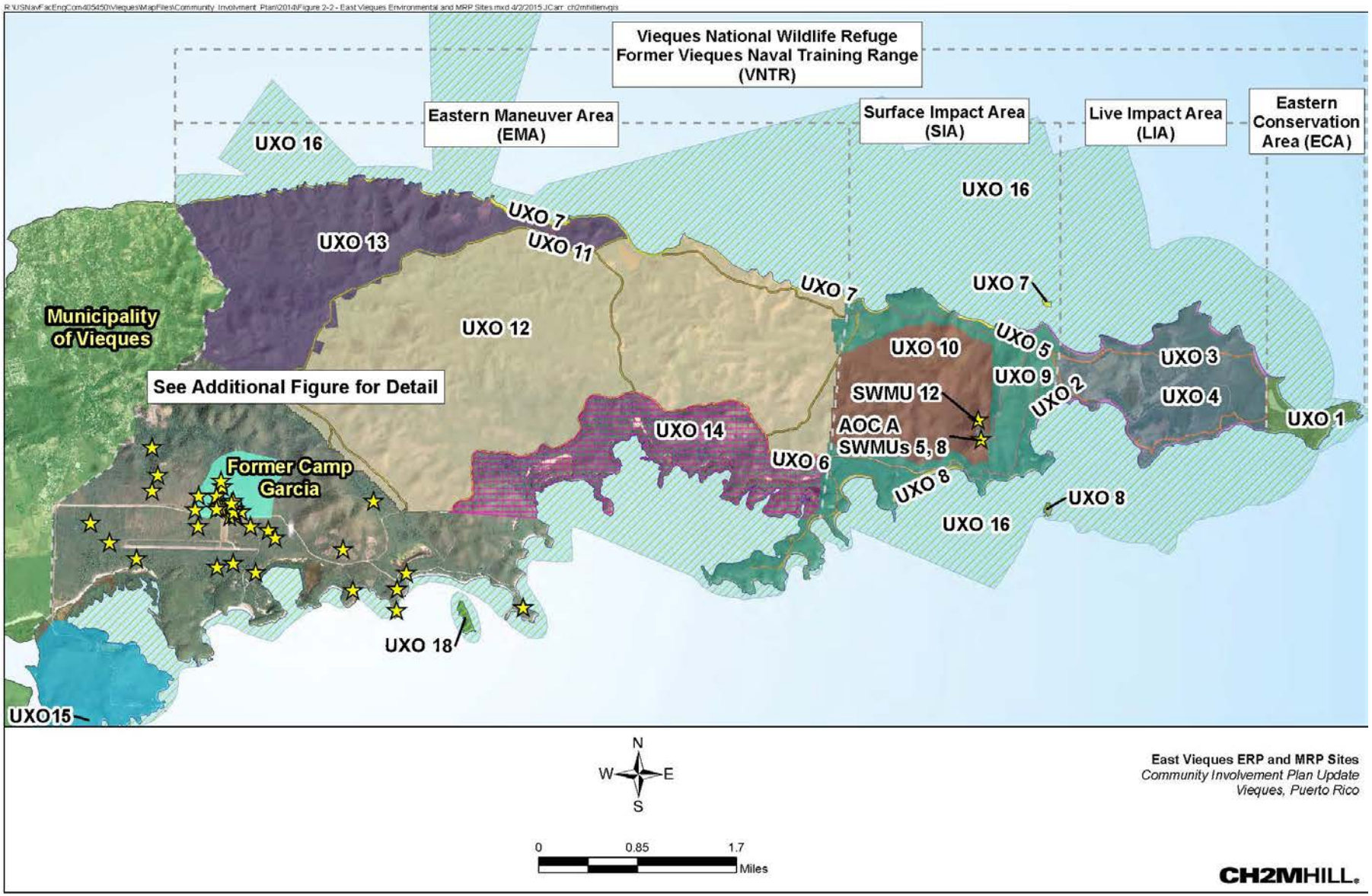


FIGURE 2-3:
EAST VIEQUES ERP AND MRP SITES DETAIL

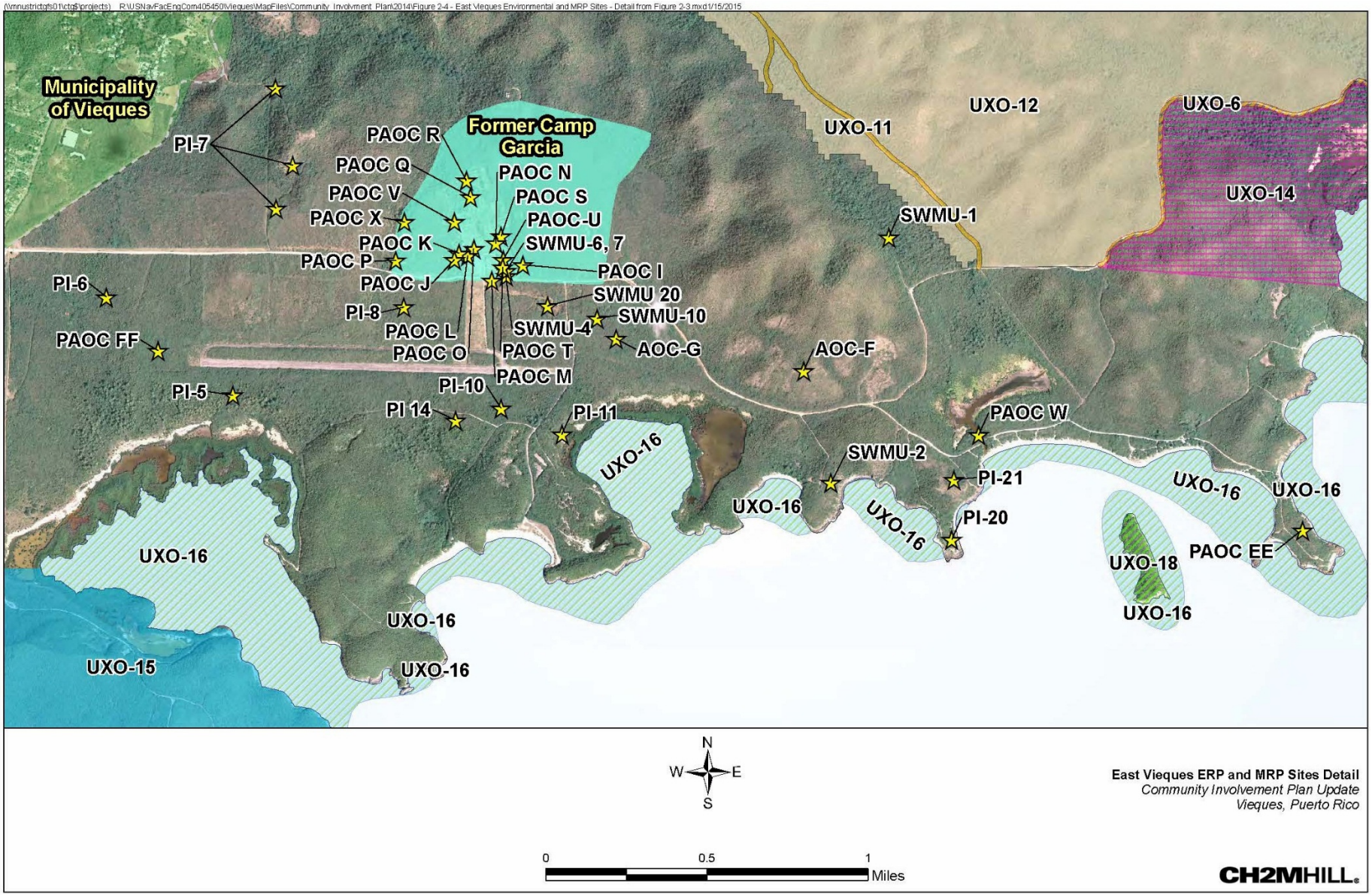


FIGURE 2-4:
WEST VIEQUES ERP AND MRP SITES

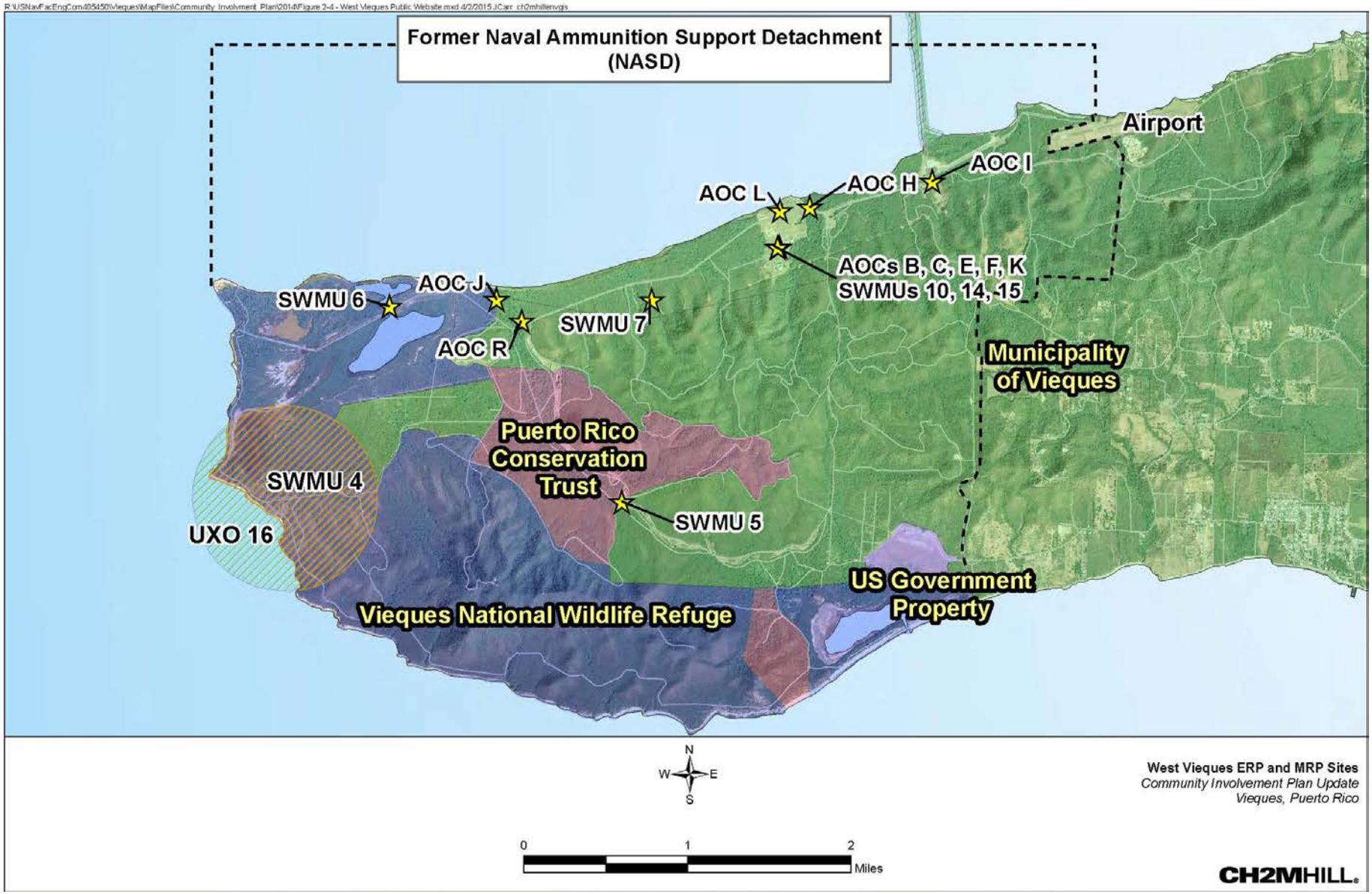
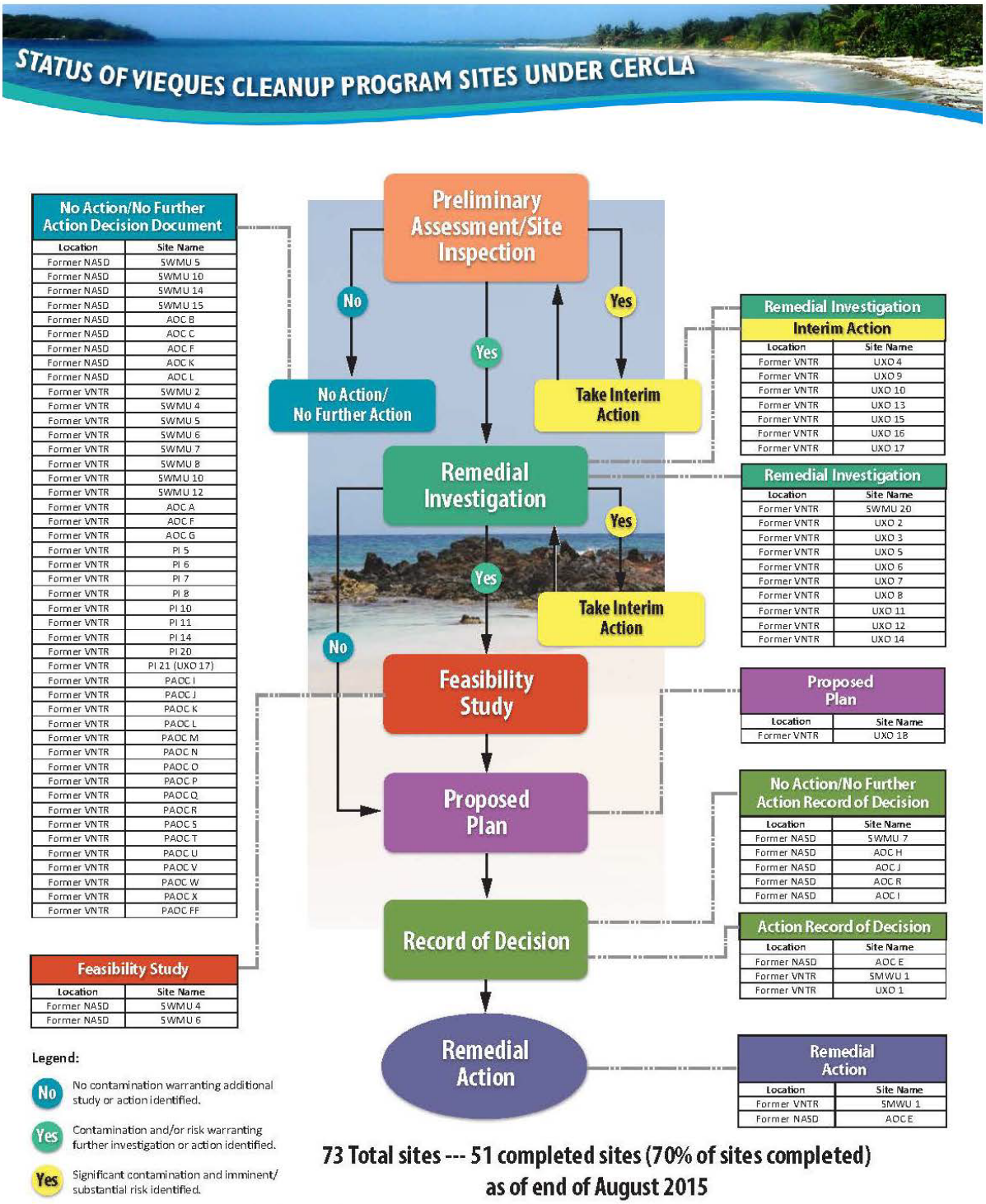


FIGURE 2-5:
STATUS OF VIEQUES CLEANUP PROGRAM SITES UNDER CERCLA



SECTION 3: COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Vieques is surrounded by the Vieques Sound on the north, the Vieques Passage on the west, and the Caribbean Sea on the south and east. Most of the western and eastern thirds of the island make up the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge. The middle part of the island is composed of private and municipal property.

The most developed areas of Vieques are in and around the towns of Isabel Segunda and Esperanza (**Figure 2-1**). To the southeast is the "South La Hueca" area, which consists of privately owned homes, small pastures, and farms.

Vieques Municipal Airport is located on the northwest shore of the island, just northeast of the portion of the former NASD that was transferred to the MOV (**Figure 2-4**).

The Island of Vieques provides unique opportunities for recreation and local resource use and is an appealing destination for tourists.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The MOV government consists of an Executive Branch and a Legislative Branch. The Executive Branch consists of the Mayor, Secretary, and special assistants to Department Directors. MOV departments include:

- Health and Sanitation
- Public Works
- Municipal Office for Emergency Management
- Municipal Police
- Citizens Office

The Legislative Branch consists of 12 legislators who are elected "at large" and do not represent specific neighborhoods. Nine are from the majority party, 3 from the minority party.

WATER RESOURCES

There are several shallow lagoons on Vieques, with large mangrove forests. Streams on Vieques are intermittent, which means that they flow for only a short time after it rains, through natural drainage channels called *quebradas* ("breaks"). Vieques residents fish in many of the island's bays and lagoons.

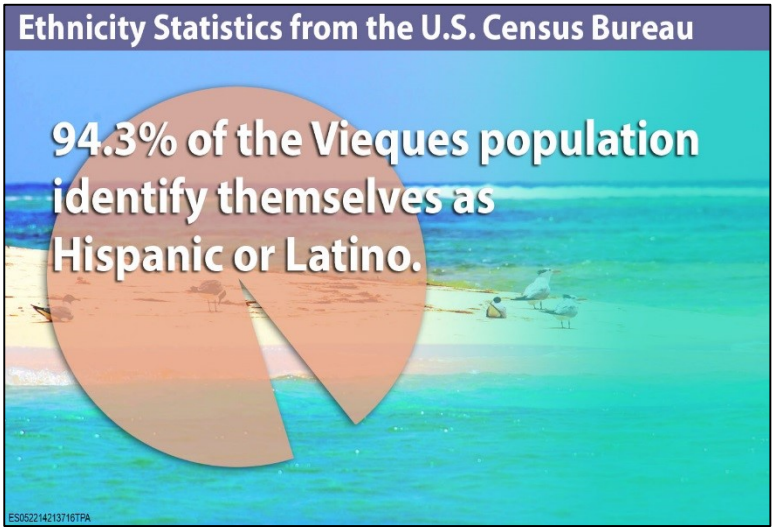
Groundwater has not been used as a source of drinking water on Vieques since 1978, when an undersea pipeline from the main island was installed. Since that time, all potable water on Vieques has been supplied from the main island. The last potable well on Vieques was closed in 1999. Although all potable wells are closed at this time, Puerto Rico's Water Quality Standards Regulation classifies all groundwater in Puerto Rico as potable.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMIC PROFILE

After the Navy acquired large portions of the island in the 1940s, nearly 3,000 of its residents relocated, many to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, in recent years, a growing tourism industry has brought new residents from the continental United States and other countries.

Population growth has remained relatively stable for the last 10 years. The 2010 Census reported approximately 9,301 people were living on Vieques, a 2.2 percent increase from the 2000 Census count of 9,106 people.

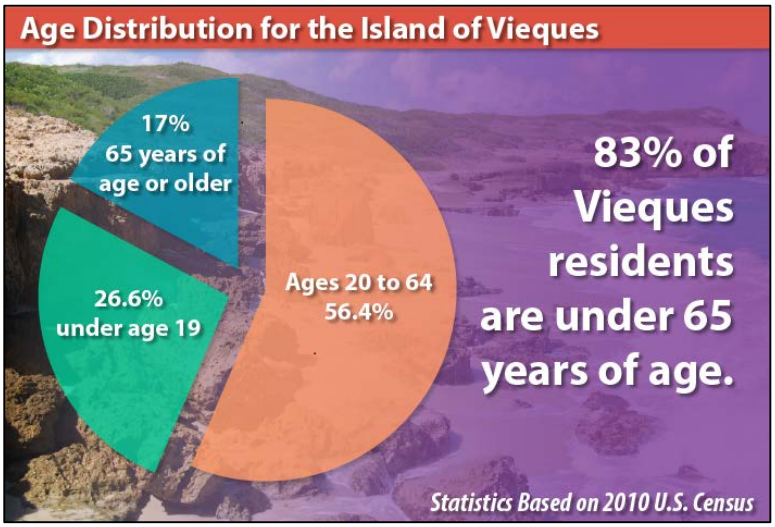
According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 58.7 percent of the population identify themselves as White, 28.1 percent identify themselves as Black or African American, 0.7 percent identify themselves as American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1 percent identify themselves as Asian, 7.4 percent identify themselves as some other race, and 5.1 percent identify themselves as two or more races. Regardless of racial self-identification, 94.3 percent of the population identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.



Males account for 49.6 percent of the population, women 50.4 percent. Young people, 19 years of age and under, make up 26.6 percent of the population. 17 percent of the population is 65 years of age or older.

The main income for Vieques residents, since the Navy left, comes from construction and tourism. Inns, guesthouses, and the seasonal rental of houses provide a major source of tourist-related income on the island. The General Electric (GE) Plant, which manufactures and assembles electronic devices, has operated on the island since 1969.

Unemployment rates reported for Vieques are high, but similar to those of the entire Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, average annual unemployment in Vieques was about 13.9 percent in 2012, based on a labor force of 2,960 adults, compared to 14.5 percent for all of Puerto Rico. In 2000, unemployment in Vieques was 12.2 percent, compared to 10.1 percent for the Commonwealth.



The arrival of the Navy in Vieques in the 1940s created a sector of construction and support jobs. Prior to the close of the VNTR and NASD, the Navy provided about 240 jobs (9 percent of the 2000 labor force) (D. Rivera, 2001). Island residents primarily worked as contract employees either on the island or at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads on the main island, which has since been closed. Contract jobs included security, grounds keeping, trades such as carpentry and cooking, custodial work, and pest control. Since closing, the Navy has trained qualified local residents to work as unexploded ordnance (UXO) technicians and vegetation removal crews for the MRP cleanup activities.

Spanish is the primary language for nearly 100 percent of the population of Vieques. Therefore, summaries of decision documents and reports related to the cleanup are produced in both Spanish and English.

LOCAL COMMUNITY LIFE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A 2006 study by the University or Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program[1] found that 28 percent of those Viequenses surveyed frequented recreational facilities such as baseball fields and basketball courts for recreation. 18 percent mentioned beaches, beach parks or public beaches ("balnearios") and other resources such as el Malecón, La Esperanza, and the bioluminescent bay as places where they spend their leisure time. Only 10 percent of respondents mentioned recreational areas such as parks and open undeveloped natural spaces as areas that are frequented.

70 percent of respondents expressed an interest in participating in the planning and development of recreational facilities in Vieques and in participating in educational activities for the community. In addition, 28 percent expressed an interest in participating in the planning and development of cultural and commercial activities in Vieques. It is interesting to note that, on the other hand, 67 percent of the residents of Vieques interviewed for the study were not familiar with the existence of a community organization in Vieques. Only 32 percent knew of at least one community organization in Vieques. Also, 30 percent expressed no interest in participating in community educational activities.

It is noted that the profile of community and public participation in Vieques may have changed since the 2006 study and several organizations have expressed interest in the effects of the cleanup process on community life, and commercial, economic and leisure activities. Community organizations that have demonstrated an interest in the Vieques cleanup process and progress are presented in **Appendix B**.

SECTION 4: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HISTORY AND PATH FORWARD

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HISTORY

The Navy and EPA began conducting community involvement activities on Vieques in 1998, when EPA issued the Navy an interim permit for burning and open detonation of waste ordnance in the former LIA. The Navy also conducted community involvement activities in 2001, prior to the first transfer of lands in Western Vieques. Since then, the Navy, EPA, PREQB, USFWS, PRDNER and other federal and Commonwealth agencies have been involved in a number of community involvement activities, including hosting Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings and public forums such as public meetings, poster sessions, and informational sessions;

[1] *Survey Results from Vieques on the Use of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge (VNWR) and the Potential for Community Participation with the Service in the Development and Implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the VNWR*, Ruperto Chaparro M.A., and Manuel Valdés Pizzini, Ph.D., University of Puerto Rico, Sea Grant College Program, March 2006.

distributing fact sheets, reports, and newsletters; presenting informational workshops; participating in environmental fairs; and facilitating RAB and public site visits to demonstrate and discuss cleanup activities.

2011 Environmental Fair

One of the most significant community involvement activities on Vieques was the formation of an active RAB in August 2004, which offers an expanded forum for community input and participation in the Vieques cleanup. The RAB grew out of a Technical Review Committee (TRC) formed in 2001 and consists of community members and members from government agencies (see **Appendix C** for the RAB member list as of September 2015). The RAB was initially governed by a charter that was signed in May 2005 that allows for the exchange of information on the environmental restoration and munitions response processes. The RAB approach and processes have been modified over time through collaboration between the RAB members and the Navy to ensure the program provides the flexibility to meet the needs and interests of the community. RAB meetings are held quarterly; 46 RAB meetings have been held as of September 2015. All RAB meetings are open to the general public, presented simultaneously in both Spanish and English, and are announced via informational flyers and broadcasts by megaphone trucks.

COMMUNITY INPUT TO THIS CIP UPDATE

Through one-on-one community interviews, a public survey, RAB meetings, and ongoing public outreach in 2014, the Navy, EPA, and PREQB identified current concerns and topics of particular interest to Vieques community members. The following are the key metrics associated with this process:

- 3,005 survey questionnaires mailed to addresses on Vieques and 169 survey questionnaires electronically mailed (emailed) to community members who have requested to receive information from the Navy electronically
- 164 survey questionnaires were completed and returned
- 88 in-person interviews conducted by Navy, EPA, and PREQB on January 28, 29, and 30, 2014

The results of the interviews and survey responses provide a representative distribution of the community members and their perspectives about the cleanup of the former Navy lands on Vieques. **Appendix D** contains the survey tool and interview questions and a detailed evaluation of the survey and interview responses is in **Appendix E**.

The majority of respondents identified themselves as Vieques residents, and most were not members of local organizations or groups. Most respondents are aware that various areas of the island are restricted and have received information about the Navy's cleanup activities. Important highlights of the community feedback are presented below, including desires, concerns, and suggestions to improve community involvement and communication about the cleanup activities.

Major Community Concerns

- Health issues and general environmental impacts from contamination and munitions.
- Safety dangers posed by munitions and the need to remove munitions on land and in the waters surrounding Vieques.
- Residents' quality of life impacts from beach closures, access restrictions and other cleanup activities.
- Effectiveness of communication of the dangers of munitions and munitions safety to the community.
- Adequacy of the cleanup and the fact that some areas will continue to be restricted from the community.
- Effects of the contamination on future generations.
- Effects of the cleanup timeframe on the local economy and tourism.

Major Community Desires

- To prevent the cultural, environmental and historical degradation of the Puerto Ferro Lighthouse and to involve local community members in the restoration and preservation of this landmark.
- The wildlife refuge to remain protected in the future, not developed.
- The Navy to continue to hire and train local residents as UXO technicians.
- To clean and reopen all beaches as soon as possible.

Helpful Communication Methods

- Translation services at RAB and other public meetings.
- Handouts written in a simple manner so that non-technical readers can understand
- Written updates preferred over meetings.
- Meetings including all cleanup partners/agencies sharing information at the same time.
- Community events such as Environmental Fairs.
- Flyers distributed in key areas of the island that residents frequently visit.

Additional Methods Suggested

- Social media
- Continue outreach via regular mail to ensure that all residents receive the information, not only those who have access to a computer or smart phone.
- Provide clubs, businesses and churches with information about the cleanup and munitions awareness and safety.
- Provide site visits for the public to see first-hand the progress the Navy has made in cleaning up the island.

DISCUSSION AND PATH FORWARD: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GOALS

The Navy received valuable information from the community interviews and survey. As part of updating this CIP, the Navy has integrated this information, as well as knowledge gained implementing the previous CIP, to refine and enhance community involvement for environmental restoration and munitions response efforts on the island. Based on this, the following are the goals for enhanced community involvement and a brief description of how these goals will be achieved. More detail regarding the activities and the communication tools that will be used is presented in Section 5.

Goal #1: To provide information to Vieques community stakeholders about the Vieques cleanup program and address concerns and questions on a regular basis.

- **Provide information directly to residents via electronic and traditional methods.** Many people prefer to receive information at their homes or businesses, as attending meetings is often cited as being inconvenient. Flyers and newsletters are well received, especially by those who do not have access to email. Therefore, flyers will be distributed by U.S. mail, as well as email, approximately every other month. Newsletters, containing more detail about the cleanup, will be produced about every 6 months. Spanish newsletters and flyers will be distributed by U.S. mail to all registered addresses on the island. English newsletters and flyers will be distributed by U.S. mail upon request. English and Spanish versions of newsletters and flyers will be distributed to the Vieques email list and posted to the public website.

Goal #2: To increase Vieques cleanup program stakeholder awareness of the cleanup processes and progress by explaining technical information for MRP and IRP sites and increasing involvement of community members in the cleanup process.

- **Provide easy to understand technical information to the public.** The Navy will take steps to make community outreach materials easier to understand, especially communication about the cleanup progress, and safety and risk. Color-coded maps and charts that provide visual snapshots of the cleanup progress will be added to the Vieques public website and updated regularly.
- **Continue with RAB meetings.** The RAB continues to be a valuable way for community members to learn about and share information about the Navy's environmental restoration and munitions response programs. RAB meetings will continue to be held quarterly.

Goal #3: To extend the reach of communication with Vieques community stakeholders by using non-traditional platforms.

- **Extend the reach of communication by conducting social media and other forms of digital outreach.** Although many community members do not have access to or do not prefer communicating by email and other forms of electronic communication, interest in social media, websites and other forms of digital communication continues to grow. The Navy will continue to maintain and regularly update the Vieques public website, has implemented a Facebook page to post news and updates about the cleanup process, and will continue to explore other possible social media outlets.

SECTION 5: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The Navy, in conjunction with EPA, PREQB, USFWS, PRDNER, and other government agencies, will collaborate to utilize the tools and implement the activities presented in this CIP and will update the CIP periodically so that it remains an effective and efficient tool to assist the public in understanding and providing input on the cleanup process.

The Navy, EPA, and USFWS have representatives on Vieques and other government agencies, such as PREQB and PRDNER are located in San Juan. Some are assigned to the island permanently; others work on the island on a regular basis (**Appendix A**). These representatives, as well as Navy, EPA, and PREQB community involvement specialists, coordinate and implement community involvement activities.

ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS IMPLEMENTATION

The following are the primary community involvement tools associated with the Vieques cleanup program. Similar or associated tools are grouped into the following categories: Internet Resources, Public Notification Tools, Information Resources, and Stakeholder Interaction.

INTERNET RESOURCES

The following resources are used and updated as needed or as requested to inform stakeholders virtually.

SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK)

Description: Facebook is a social media platform designed for real-time two-way communication. Vieques cleanup program information can be shared among subscribers to the page and other Facebook users. The page includes important links and information related to the cleanup work.

Objective: To provide another venue for two-way communication with the Vieques community and other interested parties, by sharing short and timely posts regarding cleanup program information.

Method: A Facebook page has been created and will be updated regularly. Comments and questions will be monitored and responses will be provided accordingly.

WEBSITES

Description: Internet access to the Administrative Record, which includes major technical reports, progress reports, and updates on the cleanup progress, is available on the Navy's Vieques web site at http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques and EPA's Vieques Website at http://www.epa.gov/region2/vieques/.

Objective: The websites noted above provide general and site-specific information about the cleanup and are valuable resources for the public. Access to both websites is available through personal and public computers.

Method: Updates to the Administrative Record are posted on the Navy's Vieques website shortly after they are finalized. Notice of all public meetings, forums, and information sessions and announcements related to the cleanup are also posted online.

CLEANUP INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Navy Vieques Public Website

http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques

EPA Public Websites

www.epa.gov/region2/vieques/index.html

http://www.epa.gov/students/index.html

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION TOOLS

The following resources are used and released as needed to notify or inform the community of specific cleanup activities. Flyers and newsletters may be released more frequently as discussed below.

INFORMATIONAL FLYERS/NEWSLETTERS

Description: Informational flyers are brief documents (one page double-sided) written in plain language and containing clear graphics that help the community learn about upcoming events such as RAB meetings and public comment periods, munitions safety, and the progress of environmental and munitions response activities. Newsletters are community-oriented publications that are longer and explore topics in greater detail than flyers. The Vieques public website contains all informational flyers and newsletters.

Objective: Informational flyers and newsletters keep the public informed and up to date by providing site-related information in an easy-to-understand format. Flyers are also used as a means to solicit input from the public during specific project milestones, such as obtaining public comments on Proposed Remedial Action Plans (PRAP) and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CA).

Method: Informational flyers and newsletters are produced approximately every other month and twice a year, respectively, in both Spanish and English, to promote understanding of the cleanup processes and progress. Informational flyers and newsletters are distributed via email to individuals and organizations (such as clubs, businesses, and churches) on the Vieques email distribution list, posted on the Websites, and are available at agency offices and RAB meetings.

Paper copies of these documents are disseminated throughout the town of Vieques, reaching a wide audience in the community, including local government offices, businesses, and organizations. Spanish newsletters and flyers will be distributed by U.S. mail to all registered addresses on the island. English newsletters and flyers will be distributed by U.S. mail upon request. The documents are also sent via regular mail to those subscribers of the mailing list that do not have Internet access. Frequency of these tools may be adjusted based on continual evaluation of their effectiveness (e.g., informal discussion at meetings, community input, and other feedback).

MAILING LISTS

Description: Mailing lists include RAB members, regulators, Navy, contractor personnel, organizations, businesses, and community stakeholders that have expressed an interest in receiving regular updates about the cleanup activities. Email addresses as well as postal mail addresses are kept for these individuals, as provided, and cleanup information updates are sent per their mailing preference. Commercially available mailing lists will be used to mail flyers and newsletters to all postal addresses in Vieques.

Objective: The goal of maintaining mailing lists for Vieques is to maintain contact and engage interested stakeholders by providing timely notifications of cleanup activities and important documents where the community can provide input.

Method: According to the community survey and interviews, the preferred method for receiving information about the cleanup activities is by email. For individuals that have expressed a preference for hard copy mailings due to not having email access, newsletters and flyers will be mailed via USPS. In addition, a hard copy of the Spanish version of flyers and newsletters will be mailed to all postal residential addresses in Vieques using a commercial mailing service (authorized user of USPS mass mailing lists). Instructions on how to be placed on the mailing list will be featured at the EPA field office on Vieques, on the Navy's Vieques public website, in flyers and newsletters, and announced at RAB meetings and other public events.

EMAIL

Description: Electronic mail (email) is available to contact Navy, EPA, PREQB, and other government agency representatives with questions or requests for information about the cleanup activities on Vieques.

Objective: Email allows residents to provide input, ask questions, and request information.

Method: Email contact information can be found in **Appendix A**. It can also be found in flyers, newsletters, and specific documents where community input is solicited per the CERCLA process, as well as on the Vieques public website at http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Description: Public notices are announcements published in local newspapers or sent through mailings that publicize public comment periods for proposed cleanup decisions, public meetings, and major cleanup milestones. These notices are required for the announcement of PRAPs, EE/CAs, and emergency removal actions.

Objective: The goal of public notices is to communicate an upcoming important event so members of the community can be informed and, as applicable, plan to attend.

Method: Public notices are used to announce public comment periods and public meetings. They are published in Spanish and in English in local newspaper(s) (e.g., *Primera Hora*) and distributed via email. In certain cases, they may be included in radio announcements. Public comment periods are also announced in flyers and newsletters that are frequently disseminated to the public.

SAFETY NOTIFICATIONS

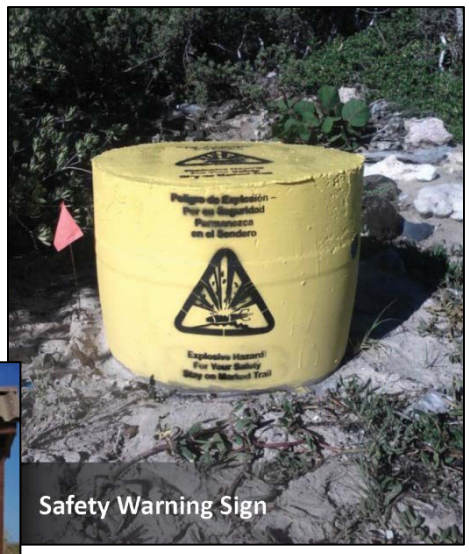
Safety Warning Buoy

Description: The Navy, EPA, PREQB, or USFWS, as appropriate, post advisories, access restrictions, and explanatory signs to clearly mark project work areas.

Objective: Advisories, restrictions, and explanatory signs are intended to keep the public informed and maintain safety.

Method: Advisories, explanatory signs, and restrictions on land access or to project work areas are posted as needed. Six information kiosks have been constructed, one each at Playa La Chiva (formerly Blue Beach), Playa Pata Prieta, Punta Arenas (formerly Green Beach), and Playa Caracas (formerly Red Beach) and two leading to the historic lighthouse at Puerto Ferro (one at the entrance and another one close to the Faro Berdiales lighthouse).

Safety Warning Sign


Safety Warning Sign

Informational Kiosk

The kiosks help visitors learn about munitions safety and the importance of avoiding restricted areas.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

The following resources are used and released as needed to notify or inform the community of specific cleanup actions, documents, and activities. In addition, the EPA Field Office and Technical Support resources are available continually to support and involve the community.

EPA VIEQUES FIELD OFFICE

Description: The EPA Vieques Field Office provides a location for the Vieques community to receive information and provide comments or questions in person.

Objective: To reach community members that prefer direct or interactive communication who may not otherwise be receiving information or providing input regarding the cleanup program.

Method: EPA personnel are normally available during business hours at the Field Office to answer cleanup program questions, provide information, or receive comments to documents in public review period.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Description: The Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP), Technical Assistance Grant (TAG), Technical Assistance Plan (TAP), and Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) programs are Department of Defense (TAPP) and EPA (TASC, TAG, and TAP) programs to provide independent technical support to community members.

Objective: To provide independent technical support to community members on topics of local concern, such as site investigations and remedial activities.

Method: Links are provided in the box to the right for these resources, which include information on how to apply for any of these grants or assistance. Community members without computer access may contact RAB members, Navy or EPA contacts provided in this CIP.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Department of Defense Resources

- Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)
  http://www.navfac.navy.mil/navfac_worldwide/specialty_centers/exwc/products_and_services/ev/erb/prog/comm.html

EPA Resources

- Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)
  http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/
- Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)
  www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/cleanup/superfund/interim-tap-sf-settle-mem.pdf
- Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)
  http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/index.htm

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Description: The Navy maintains an information repository, including the official Administrative Record, at the Vieques public website at http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques**.** The public website is accessible from any computer with access to the Internet, including at the Vieques Public Library (Oficina de Asuntos de la Juventud)

and the Luz de La Esperanza Public Library at La Esperanza. EPA maintains a repository of documents at its Vieques Field Office. See **Appendix F** for the address, phone number, and location map of the libraries and EPA Vieques Field Office.

Objective: Information repositories provide publically accessible locations at which residents can access official documents and other pertinent information about the cleanup process.

Method: EPA will maintain a repository at the EPA office in Vieques that will continue to be updated as documents become available. See **Appendix A** for contact information for the Vieques Field office. The Navy will maintain project-related information, including the Administrative Record, on the website at http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques. Signs showing the instructions to access the public website have been placed at both libraries in Vieques and links have been placed in the library computers for ease of access.

MAPS AND VISUAL AIDS

Description: Maps and visual aids help people understand the geography of the site, the locations of cleanup activities, and areas that are open to the public or restricted from public access.

Objective: The objective of using visual aids is to help the public understand where it is safe to go and areas that are restricted, as well as convey other information related to the cleanup and island resources.

Method: Maps, photographs, and other visual aids will be used regularly in documents and fact sheets, at public sessions, on the various Vieques websites, and on signs and kiosks posted around the former VNTR and NASD.

REPORTS/WORK PLANS

Description: These documents detail the investigations, studies, findings, and recommendations associated with the Vieques cleanup and are made available on the Navy's Vieques public website once finalized.

Objective: To provide the public with access to detailed information on the cleanup process and decision making.

Method: Because these work plans and reports tend to be technically detailed, their availability is supported with other community involvement activities, such as those discussed previously. In addition, the Navy prepares summaries (in both English and Spanish) to accompany the release of many reports and work plans to the public. Reports and work plans are available at the EPA office, and online at the Vieques public website at http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques.

STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION

The following resources are used at different timeframes as applicable to directly involve the community in the various cleanup activities being implemented in Vieques and many of these allow real time input and communication among several groups of stakeholders. The timeframes range from continual interaction as warranted for

coordination with regulatory agencies to as needed or requested by the community such as offering seminars, workshops, and public meetings/comment periods.

COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCIES

Description: The Navy, EPA, and PREQB coordinate with other local and federal agencies to keep them informed and to get feedback on their goals and concerns. A sample of the agencies and local government entities involved is presented in **Table 5-1**.

Objective: Coordination ensures that government officials and agencies are informed of cleanup activities, provide input, and work collaboratively during administration of the cleanup activities.

Method: Relationships among agencies will continually be fostered through meetings and dialogue.

TABLE 5-1:
AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDED IN VIEQUES CLEANUP COORDINATION

Agency	Description and Involvement
U.S. Navy (Navy)	Lead agency in charge of cleanup of lands previously owned by the U.S. Navy. Coordinates activities with the other agencies and the community as part of the CERCLA process.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Stakeholder federal agency with oversight role over the cleanup activities
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB)	Stakeholder commonwealth agency with oversight role over the cleanup activities.
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)	Stakeholder commonwealth agency tasked with protecting, conserving, and managing Puerto Rico's natural and environmental resources.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Stakeholder federal agency whose mission includes working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for future generations. USFWS manages the Vieques NWR for this purpose and to provide opportunities for wildlife dependent recreational activities.
Municipality of Vieques (MOV)	Stakeholder local government and landowner.
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	Federal agency that regulates and disseminates information on restrictions of the navigable waterways (including the waters around Vieques).
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Federal agency whose mission includes conserving and managing coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) division of NOAA is responsible for stewardship and management of the nation's living marine resources and their habitat.
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Commonwealth stakeholder agency whose mission is protecting historic properties. SHPO supports Vieques cleanup by helping to ensure requirements associated with protecting cultural artifacts are met.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETINGS

Description: The Vieques RAB comprises community members and representatives from stakeholder government agencies. Representatives from the Navy, PREQB, PRDNER, EPA, and USFWS participate on the RAB. RAB meetings are held quarterly and are open to the general public. The Navy, EPA, PREQB, USFWS, and other agencies provide presentations on topics of interest, including the cleanup progress. RAB members and visitors may ask questions and offer comments during and at the end of each RAB meeting.

Megaphone truck

Objective: To foster communication among the community, regulators, and other stakeholders associated with or interested in the cleanup on Vieques. RAB meetings serve as a forum to share information on the environmental restoration process and remediation technologies.

Method: RAB meetings are held quarterly and are open to the general public. Attendees have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input during and at the end of each meeting. Simultaneous translation is provided for non-bilingual participants. RAB meetings are advertised to the public in informational flyers, and by broadcasts on the megaphone trucks that are typically used to announce public events on Vieques. RAB meetings are held at the Vieques Multiple Use Center, the Icehouse, the Lighthouse, or other facilities, depending on the availability of the facilities. Stakeholder agencies (Navy, EPA, FWS, and PREQB) schedule, prepare for, and attend all RAB meetings. When scheduling and other logistical considerations allow, the Navy will provide RAB members with the agenda and presentations in advance of the meetings.

Simultaneous Translation Setup

SCHOOL/EDUCATION OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Description: If a school or other educational organization expresses interest, the Navy, EPA, FWS, and/or PREQB can provide munitions safety and cleanup information to assist them in developing related educational projects.

Objective: Educational activities help expand awareness and understanding of the project and strengthen the relationships with the community.

Method: Educators and students can visit or call the Navy, EPA, FWS and/or PREQB for information and to request a visit to their schools (see **Appendix A** for Navy, EPA, FWS and PREQB contacts), or visit the websites.

School Outreach

MEDIA DISTRIBUTION/MEDIA EVENTS

Description: Periodic updates and important information are provided to local media (newspapers, television, and radio) on Vieques and mainland Puerto Rico in both Spanish and English.

Objective: Working effectively with the media allows a large audience to be reached quickly and further reinforces important information.

Method: Navy and regulatory agency representatives provide information about upcoming events and actions and are accessible to the news media. Media briefings may be used to summarize the purpose and main points of public events and to enhance accuracy of media coverage. Media events will be planned on a periodic basis (including tours), based on when newsworthy milestones are reached.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Description: Navy, EPA, PREQB, USFWS and other agency representatives sponsor and attend community events such as the Child Fair at the local hospital, Navy League forums, EPA Region 2 anniversary celebration, EPA Community Involvement Conference, PRDNER Recreational Fishing events, and other activities where cleanup and munitions safety information is distributed and answers to community questions are provided.

Community Events

Objective: Community events provide the opportunity to build and maintain relationships with the public for mutual exchange of information. Community events also foster an understanding and appreciation of the daily lives of community members and the events and activities that are important to them. Information can support munitions awareness and safety, updates on project activities, and other information about environmental protection and conservation.

Method: An information area or booth may be supplied and staffed at community events. Local clubs, businesses, and churches are included in mailing lists and receive hard copies of flyers and other information. However, these entities may request additional cleanup information for sharing with their respective groups and audiences.

PROJECT SITE VISITS/TOURS

Description: Site visits and tours are conducted when possible and as requested based on the interest and audience. Members of the RAB and public are periodically given guided tours to view cleanup activities when such tours are feasible and safe.

Objective: Site visits give the public a better understanding of the cleanup process and progress.

Method: Representatives of the Navy, EPA, FWS, PREQB, and other agencies lead and/or participate in tours of the sites to explain what is occurring and answer questions from the public. Community members interested in a site visit or tour can contact Navy or other stakeholder agencies listed in **Appendix A**.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Description: The public comment period is an opportunity provided under CERCLA for community members to review and provide formal comments on proposed interim or final actions. Comment periods are legally required for, among other things, EE/CAs for interim removal actions and proposed plans.

Public meetings are structured, formal meetings that are open to the general public, featuring a presentation and/or interaction with the public regarding the document that has been submitted for formal public comment.

Objective: Comment periods allow the public to offer formal input on significant decisions associated with the cleanup and provide the agencies with valuable information for use in making those decisions. Public meetings are opportunities to present the key aspects of the proposed action and address community questions, concerns, ideas, and comments.

Method: Each comment period will be announced in a variety of ways that may include public notices in the newspaper(s) (e.g., *Primera Hora*, the main newspaper that serves the local community), the EPA's and Navy's websites, the Navy's email list, and informational flyers. These announcements will ensure the public is informed about the availability of cleanup proposals being made, how comments can be submitted, and how long the comment period will be open.

Public meetings are held when required by regulation or requested. Stakeholder agencies (Navy, EPA, PREQB, PRDNER, and USFWS) schedule, prepare for, and attend public meetings. Public notification of public meetings is provided in advance of the public meetings. Simultaneous interpretation (English and Spanish) is provided and involve the use of a court reporter and preparation of a meeting transcript. Public meetings are held at the Vieques Multiple Use Center, the Icehouse, the Lighthouse, or other facilities depending on their availability.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

Description: Public information sessions are informal meetings open to the general public. They generally feature posters, displays, presentations, question–and-answer sessions, and other interaction between government experts and the public. Detailed information about particular cleanup activities is presented and individuals are encouraged to freely express their concerns and ask questions of government personnel.

Objective: The goal of these sessions is to provide the public with additional opportunities for face-to-face discussions on specific cleanup activities and to enable community members to ask questions in a comfortable and informal setting. Public information sessions also provide an opportunity for detailed discussions of aspects of the cleanup process that the community find confusing or troublesome.

Method: The Navy will conduct these sessions as needed at available locations (see **Appendix E**) and at times representatives from the Navy are available and when most community members are likely available (e.g., evenings). Information sessions are commonly scheduled for specific technical topics such as risk assessment, but can also be arranged based on input from the RAB and/or general public.

Simultaneous interpretation or Spanish speaking Navy and/or contractor staff may be available at all information sessions to facilitate bilingual communication unless it is determined prior to the meeting that Spanish translation is not needed. Public information sessions will be publicized through one or more of the following methods: informational flyers (via email or regular mail), RAB meetings, megaphone trucks, and the Vieques public website.

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

Description: Workshops and seminars are classroom-style sessions used to provide more detailed technical information to interested citizens. Workshops are used to explore cleanup-specific topics and general regulatory or scientific processes.

Objective: Workshops are used to educate small groups of community members on select topics associated with the processes used in the cleanup program.

Method: If there is sufficient interest, focused workshops will be coordinated among key representatives of the agencies and scheduled with interested community members. The Navy will solicit interest in workshops from the RAB. As a key component of the Navy's Vieques community involvement program, the RAB plays an important role in suggesting topics for workshops. Potential for workshops is discussed in RAB meetings and attendees are encouraged to request workshops. Attendance at the workshops requires advanced sign-up as coordination of appropriate resources is required. The workshops are announced to the public so that interested community members can sign up.

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

Description: Community interviews allow the government agencies to listen to, document, and address questions and concerns of community members, groups, and other stakeholders. For more information about the interviews conducted for the CIP update, please see **Appendix D**.

Objective: To obtain public input on topics related to cleanup activities being conducted on former Navy land.

Method: Interviews are generally conducted at residences, businesses, during community events, and at public forums. Interviews are conducted informally in a casual conversation style. Participants are able to speak openly in a comfortable atmosphere with the interviewer.

The Navy, EPA, and PREQB conducted interviews for this plan in 2014. The Navy plans to conduct interviews about every 5 years, before each CIP update. The next round of interviews is anticipated to occur in 2019. Interviews may also be conducted throughout the cleanup process to collect information for a specific site or action.

SECTION 6: TIMING OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Throughout the CERCLA process, the activities and tools presented in Section 5 are used to involve and inform the appropriate stakeholders of site cleanup options, program status, and periods where stakeholder input is needed or required. Based on the community survey results, these tools and activities have been correlated with the community concerns identified and applicable stakeholders **Table 6-1**. An approximate frequency has been estimated for each; however, the appropriate frequency and tools will be based on specific needs identified and the requirements of the corresponding CERCLA step.

TABLE 6-1:
VIEQUES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS SCHEDULE

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Every 2 Years
Internet Resources								
Social Media (Facebook)	• Health and safety • Cleanup status • Availability of information • Upcoming activities • Beach accessibility and use • Current access restrictions • Community involvement in cleanup activities	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Government • Regulatory agencies • Visitors to Vieques • Other stakeholders outside Vieques		X				
Web Site	• Community health and safety • Cleanup status • Availability of information • Upcoming activities	• Vieques community • RAB Members • Local Businesses • Community Organizations • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Other interested stakeholders outside Vieques	X				X	

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Every 2 Years
Public Notification Tools								
Flyers/ Newsletters	• Health and safety • Cleanup status • Community involvement in cleanup activities • Upcoming activities	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Other stakeholders outside Vieques	X (Flyers likely every other month)			X (Newsletters)		
Mailing Lists	• Communicating information to the community • Community involvement in cleanup activities	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Other stakeholders outside Vieques	X					
Email	• Availability of information • Community involvement in cleanup activities • Upcoming activities	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Other stakeholders outside Vieques	X		X			

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Every 2 Years
Public Notices	• Communicating information to the community • Community involvement in cleanup activities	• Vieques community • Other stakeholders outside Vieques	X					
Safety Notifications	• Health and safety	• Vieques community • Vieques visitors • Businesses • Government • Regulatory agencies	X					
Information Resources								
EPA Vieques Field Office	• Communicating information to the community • Cleanup status • Health and safety • Upcoming activities • Community involvement in Cleanup activities • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use	• Vieques Community • Businesses • Community Organizations • Visitors to Vieques		X				
Technical Support (TASC, TAPP, TAG and TAP)	• Communicating information to the community • Cleanup status • Health and safety • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems	• Vieques community • RAB members		X (Requested via application)				

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Every 2 Years
Information Repositories	• Cleanup status • Availability of Information • Current access restrictions • Health and safety • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems • Beach accessibility and use	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Other stakeholders outside Vieques	X					
Maps and Visual Aids	• Cleanup status • Availability of information • Current access restrictions • Health and safety • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems • Beach accessibility and use	• Vieques Community • RAB Members • Businesses • Local government • Regulatory Agencies	X					
Reports/Work Plans	• Removal of munitions • General Environmental Impacts • Health and Safety • Cleanup Status • Communicating information to the community	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Government • Regulatory Agencies • Other interested citizens outside Vieques	X					

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Every 2 Years
Stakeholder Interaction								
Coordination with local, commonwealth, and federal government agencies	• Cleanup status • Health and safety • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use	• Local and commonwealth government and regulatory agencies		X				
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meetings	• Cleanup status • Health and safety • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use • Communicating information to the community • Upcoming activities • Community involvement in cleanup activities • Information on cleanup process and progress • Community involvement and input to cleanup activities • Real time questions and answers	• Vieques community • RAB members • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Businesses • Community organizations • Other interested stakeholders outside Vieques	X		X			

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Every 2 Years
School Education/ Outreach Activities	• Health and Safety • Communicating information to the community • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use • Removal of munitions in land and water ecosystems	• Vieques community	X				X	
Media Engagements (Events and Media Kits)	• Cleanup status • Communicating information to the community • Health and safety	• Vieques community • Other stakeholders outside Vieques					X	
Community Events	• Health and safety • Cleanup status • Communicating information to the community • Community involvement in cleanup activities • Availability of information • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use • Upcoming activities	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Vieques visitors • Government • Regulatory agencies • Other stakeholders outside Vieques						X
Project Site Visits/Tours	• Cleanup status • Health and safety • Communicating information to the community	• Vieques community • RAB members • Government • Regulatory agencies	X					X

Tool/Activity	Community Concern(s) Addressed by this Task	Stakeholder Group(s) Engaged	Target Frequency/Timing					
			As Needed/ Required or Requested by Community	Continually	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Every 2 Years
Public Comment Periods and Public Meetings	• Community Involvement in cleanup activities • Current access restrictions • Health and safety • Removal of Munitions in land and water ecosystems • Beach accessibility and use	• Vieques community • RAB members • Businesses • Community organizations • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Other interested stakeholders outside Vieques	X					
Public Information Sessions	• Information on cleanup process and progress • Timeline of cleanup activities • Concern as to how contamination will affect them	• Vieques community • RAB members • Local businesses • Community organizations	X					
Workshops/ Seminars	• Health and safety • Current access restrictions • Beach accessibility and use • Cleanup status • Community Involvement in cleanup activities	• Vieques Community • RAB Members • Local government • Regulatory agencies • Businesses • Community organizations	X					
Complete Research (Methods could include community interviews, focus groups, and/or surveys)	• Community Involvement in cleanup activities • Availability of information • Meeting with personnel involved with the cleanup program	• Vieques community • Businesses • Community organizations • Other stakeholders outside Vieques	Every 5 years, before each CIP update, or as determined/ warranted by the project team					

APPENDIX A: POINTS OF CONTACT

The Navy, EPA, PREQB, USFWS, and PRDNER have designated the following staff as points of contact for public information and inquiries:

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND

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Hazardous Wastes Permit Division,
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Edificio de Agencias Ambientales Cruz A. Matos
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APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS

Ecological, Conservation, Scientific, Cultural	• Center for Public Environmental Oversight • Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust • Instituto de Cultura de Puerto Rico, Oficina de Vieques • Museo Conde de Mirasol • Vieques Humane Society • Union for the Protection of the Environment of Vieques • Centro de Acción Ambiental • Centro de Investigaciones Arqueológicas Bieke • Centro Cultural Yaureibo • Ticatove • Casa Pueblo, Adjuntas, PR • Puerto Rico Conservation Trust
Academic	• University of Puerto Rico • Escuela Intermedia 20 de septiembre • Escuela Superior Germán Rieckehoff
Religious	• Fellowship of Reconciliation • Iglesia Católica Inmaculada Concepción • Iglesia Fuente de Salvación • Iglesia Metodista • Iglesia Episcopal
Political, Government and Utilities	• La Fortaleza, Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico • Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Office • Puerto Rico Senate • Puerto Rico Legislature • Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority • Puerto Rico Electric Authority • Puerto Rico Ports Authority • Puerto Rico Police • Puerto Rico Fire Department • Vieques Municipal Government • Vieques Legislature
Economic, Health and Community-Related	• Isla Nena en Progreso, Inc. • Environmental Defense Fund • Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques • Asociación Caballos Paso Fino • Centro Salud Familiar Susana Centeno • Liga de Béisbol Papo Gonzalez Foster • Juventud Viequense Unida • Veteranos Viequenses Unidos por la Paz • Viequenses Unidos Hacia Mejor Futuro • Asociación de Comerciantes de Vieques • Campamento Luisa Guadalupe • Asociación Dueños y Criadores de Caballos de Vieques • Asociación Alianza de Mujeres • Movimiento Integral Viequenses • Campamento Justicia y Paz • Navy League of the United States- Vieques Chapter

APPENDIX C: VIEQUES CLEANUP RAB MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015

Vieques Cleanup RAB Members as of September 2015	
Name	**Description**
Jorge Fernández Porto	Community RAB member
Colleen McNamara	Community RAB member
Lirio Márquez D'Acunti	Community RAB member
Stacie D. Notine	Community RAB member
Luther Landrum	Community RAB member
Linda LaViolette	Community RAB member
Myrna Pagan	Community RAB member
James E. Larkins	Community RAB member
Dan Waddill	Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC
Kevin Cloe	Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC
Daniel Hood	Ex-Officio RAB Member, NAVFAC
Susan Silander/Mike Barandiaran	Ex-Officio RAB Member, USFWS
Wilmarie Rivera/Gloria Toro	Ex-Officio RAB Member, PREQB
Daniel Rodríguez	Ex-Officio RAB Member, EPA
Julio Vázquez	Ex-Officio RAB Member, EPA
Craig Lilyestrom	Ex-Officio RAB Member, PRDNER

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY INTERVIEW AND SURVEY TOOL

Date of Interview:	Interviewee Name:				
COMMUNITY PROFILE					
1. Are you a resident of Vieques? a. If Yes, how long have you lived in this community? b. If you are part time resident, how many months do you live on Vieques? c. Where do you live the remainder of the year?	Yes		No		
	Main Island Puerto Rico		USA	Other:	
2. Are you affiliated or represent any of the organizations/groups listed?	No affiliation	Business	Environmental	Education	Fishermen
	Non Profit Organizations	Political	Religious	Sports	Other:
GENERAL AWARENESS AND INTEREST					
3. Are you aware that the Navy is conducting environmental investigations and cleanup of hazardous waste and munitions sites at the former training facilities in Vieques?	Yes	No	Somewhat		
4. Have you received or seen information about the investigations and cleanup?	Yes		No		
5. How would you like to get information about the Vieques environmental/munitions cleanup program? a. Please rank the following in order of importance, Number 1 being the most important source for you to get information, Number 2 being the next most important, etc.		Blogs		Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)	
		Community meetings		Mail	
		Facebook		Twitter	
		Fact sheets, newsletters, flyers		Websites	
		Local news media		Other:	
6. Are you aware of public access restrictions on certain areas?	Yes		No		
7. Do you feel that you are affected by the Navy's activities on Vieques? a. If so, in what way do you believe you are affected?	Not affected	Very little	Somewhat	A lot	

LEVEL OF CONCERN						
8. What are your primary concerns about contaminated and munitions sites on Vieques? Rank the categories in order of importance. Number 1 being your top concern, Number 2 being the next most important concern, etc.		None		Economic Impacts		Impacts to Sensitive Ecosystems
		General Environmental Impacts		Health Issues		Munitions on Land
		Munitions Underwater		Quality of Life, such as use of beaches		Regulatory Oversight
		Security		Timeline for cleanup		Effects of cleanup activities
	Other concerns:					
9. What closed beaches would you most like to see reopened for public use?						
10. Which environmental cleanup or munitions response decisions are most important for the public to be involved with?	Sampling Locations	Final remedies	Technologies used	Other:		
LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT						
11. Do you think the Navy has been effective in providing the community with information about the cleanup program? a. If no, what suggestions do you have for improving Navy communication with the community?	Yes		No			
12. Have you ever used the Navy's repository located at electronic library in Isabel II to access the Administrative Record or documents for public review? a. If no, please explain why?	Yes		No			
13. Have you participated in public meetings/events about the Vieques environmental cleanup program during the last five years? a. If yes, What event (please provide approximate date)	Yes		No			

INFORMATION NEEDS				
14. Do you have the capabilities to access the Administrative Record via the internet?	Yes	No		
15. What information would be most valuable to you regarding the cleanup activities?				
16. What newspaper, radio, or TV stations do you subscribe to and/or listen to for local news?				
17. Do you feel community concerns have been considered by:	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Yes	No	Somewhat
	Environmental Quality Board (EQB)	Yes	No	Somewhat
	Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	Yes	No	Somewhat
	US Navy	Yes	No	Somewhat
	Other, please explain:			
18. Tell me about past efforts by the Navy to involve the public in decisions regarding cleanup. a. Are there aspects of past public participation that worked well? b. Are there aspects of past public participation that should be changed in the future? c. Are there aspects of past public participation that should not be repeated?				
19. If you want to be on a mailing list for information about Environmental Restoration/Munitions Response efforts on Vieques, please provide your mailing address (to receive paper copies) or email address for electronic distribution. a. What method do you prefer?	Mailing address: Email:			
20. Is there anything else you would like to say about the Navy's Vieques environmental cleanup or munitions response programs?				

VIEQUES CIP INTERVIEW ANALYSIS 2014

COMMUNITY PROFILE

1. Are you a resident of Vieques?		TOTAL
yes	245	234
no	8	6
If Yes, how long have you lived in this community?	Range between 2 months - 79 years	
If you are a part-time resident, how many months do you live in Vieques?	N/A	
Where do you live the remainder of the year?	US, FL, NY	

2. Are you affiliated or represent any of the organizations/groups listed?	TOTAL
No affiliation	133
Non Profit Organizations	34
Business	28
Political	9
Environmental	13
Religious	28
Education	10
Sports	6
Fisherman	11
Other: Snorkeling, Vieques Events magazine	9

GENERAL AWARENESS AND INTEREST

3. Are you aware that the Navy is conducting environmental investigations and cleanup of hazardous waste and munitions sites at the former training facilities in Vieques?	TOTAL
Yes	220
No	9
Somewhat	22

4. Have you received or seen any information about the investigations or cleanup?	TOTAL
Yes	164
No	86

5. How would you like to get information about Vieques environmental/munitions cleanup program?

Rated 1-10 ~ 1 being the most important, 10 being the least important	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Blogs	1	4	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
Websites	24	8	7	2	5	2	1	2	0	0	51
Face book	22	6	7	5	6	3	2	1	1	1	54
Twitter	1	4	1	1	1	1	11	9	0	0	29
Community meetings	15	14	5	6	4	0	2	1	0	0	47
Local news media	24	9	9	4	3	2	0	1	1	0	53
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)	4	5	5	7	3	5	4	2	0	0	35
Fact sheets, newsletters, flyers	26	21	10	5	5	0	1	0	0	0	68
Email or Mail	29	19	6	2	1	3	2	2	0	0	64
Other	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

6. Are you aware of the public access restrictions on certain areas?	TOTAL
Yes	239
No	14

7. Do you feel that you are affected by the Navy's activates on Vieques?	TOTAL
Not affected	102
Very little	32
Somewhat	53
A lot	61

If so, in what way do you believe you are affected? Contamination keeps dispersing throughout environment after bomb explosions, grounds are never cleaned up, health has declined since moving to Vieques - high blood pressure/cardio vascular/emphysema/cancer/, dust pollution from UXO detonations, methods of clean-up affecting health, home damage from shelling of ships during practice, respiratory problems, restricted access/parts of island, bad roads, noise, uncertain future for economy, lack of beach/island access, perception of Vieques as contaminated, delay of clean-up affects economy/mindset of residents/tourists. Beneficially - by clearance of munitions. Impact with communities response to those supporting Navy and this clean-up.

VIEQUES CIP INTERVIEW ANALYSIS 2014

LEVEL OF CONCERN

8. What are your primary concerns about contaminated and munitions on Vieques? Rated 1-10 ~ 1 being top concern, 10 being the least concern	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Issues	29	15	6	10	4	3	1	1	3	0	72
Regulatory Oversight	8	5	3	4	5	8	7	11	8	11	70
Economic Impacts	18	17	9	9	6	5	3	8	6	6	87
Munitions on Land	17	21	28	10	8	9	8	5	0	1	107
Security	22	17	9	9	7	11	6	5	5	8	99
Impacts to Sensitive Ecosystems	22	20	9	12	8	9	5	3	3	0	91
Munitions Underwater	28	28	29	9	12	9	6	5	3	1	130
Timeline for cleanup	13	11	12	10	10	7	17	10	6	11	107
General Environmental Impacts	29	13	24	10	8	5	2	3	0	0	94
Quality of Life, such as use of beaches	22	23	21	20	19	8	6	3	11	3	136
Effects of cleanup activities	7	5	5	13	11	6	13	14	14	2	90
Other: Elimination of all danger, Get communities checked for danger, keeping informed & assisting wherever possible when asked, whatever you decide. Other contracts and award info	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8

9. What closed beaches would you most likely see reopened for public use?

All, Playa Tortuga, Haloba, Blue, Red, Playa Fanduca, Campana, Black, Puerto Ferro, Carrucho, Jalorita, Icacos, Isla Chiva, Panduca, Ensenada Honda, Puerto Diablo, Cayo, Playa Yahi, Purple, Puerto Negro, Secluded (on Navy land), Green, Chiva, Bahia, NE Vieques, Bio Bay, Garcia, Punta Jaloua, Matias, Playa White, Fossil,

10. Which environmental cleanup or munitions response decisions are most important for the public to be involved with?	TOTAL
Sampling Locations	101
Final Remedies	124
Technologies Used	71
Other	11

LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

11. Do you think the Navy has been effective in providing the community with information about the cleanup program?	TOTAL
Yes	122
No	123

If no, what suggestions do you have for improving the Navy communications with the community? Too much talk with no information or questions answered, more communication and EPS representation, go to schools and talk with youth, fliers, social media (Face book), newsletters and updates when you can use area again, community meetings, emails, info should be readily available, invite public to see progress, inform the community more with easy to understand mailings, too much attention to groups of protestors that are not residents (NY, etc.).

12. Have you ever used the Navy's repository located at electronic library in Isabel II to access the Administrative Record or documents for public review?	TOTAL
Yes	30
No	213

If no, please explain why? Time, unaware it existed, no need, attend public info sessions, don't know how to work the equipment there or who to see, where is Isabel II, access it online on my home computer, too m any meetings already - overkill, not interested, handicapped.

13. Have you participated in public meetings/events about the Vieques environmental cleanup program during the last five years?	TOTAL
Yes	77
No	171

If yes, what event? Date? 2013 Esperanza, RAB meetings 2011-2012, environmental fairs & various events, old RAV, 2004, Isabelle Segundo, old helicopter landing on marine base, US Navy league presentation, 2010, multiplex, multi-user center, 2006, lighthouse - Isabel, on base, October 2013.

INFORMATION NEEDS

14. Do you have the capabilities to access the Administrative Record via the Internet?	TOTAL
Yes	141
No	99

VIEQUES CIP INTERVIEW ANALYSIS 2014

15. What information would be most valuable to you regarding the cleanup activities?

Warnings of new dangerous areas, current and upcoming activities, true time estimates of work, progress reports, when does underwater work start, schedules, timeframe, disposal of waste & bombs, health outcome after work, which beaches are next and use after it's cleaned, what is being found?, environmental impact, is anything dangerous being found?, when are munitions being exploded, need results and open new areas, air quality after clean-up, land data results, ensuring funding until complete, projects and status of each, how clean-up is being done and with what resources, sampling and munition info, methods of munitions retrieval, photos connected to certain areas/UXO (like Google Maps), safety, what roads/beaches will re-open to use, contamination on island, who helps us if we are contaminated?, why previous open areas now closed, advance closing notice of areas, % of clean-up completed, info relayed to residents/tourists to reduce rumors and to show concern. Cost, budget, contractor companies, salaries. Something a little more "beefy" than a one page quarterly summary.

16. What newspaper, radio, or TV stations do you subscribe to/or listen to for local news?

Vieques FM90.1, La Hova, El Nuevo Dia, San Juan Star, all English channels, all local, WAPA TV, channel 2, 4, 6, 1, Dish Network, Vieques Events, Direct TV, CNN, NPR, Carra6, WWMDD 1480 am, NYT, Local Notice Univision, Vieques Time, DRTV, NY Times, NBC, PBS, CBS, 680 am radio, WKAQ, WIPR Radio/TV.

17. Do you feel community concerns have been considered by:	Yes	No	Somewhat
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	87	56	73
Environmental Quality Board (EQB)	81	52	77
Fish and Wildlife Service	104	50	65
US Navy	86	62	68
Other (please explain) Too militant with tourists, Go easy with ticketing on roads - more warnings, less tickets! Encouraged by the apparent co-op between NAVFAC & FWS. These agencies only responded with protests and much political presence.	2	1	
TOTAL	360	221	283

18. Tell me about past efforts by the Navy to involve the public in decisions regarding cleanup?

a. Are there aspects of the public participation that worked well? Providing translation services at public meetings, fairly understandable handouts, jobs, more meetings with all companies/federal agencies present at the same time, RAB meetings with translation, public fair at Multi-Use Center explaining progress of clean-up - a lot of public attended the activity. Flyers at key points work well.

b. Are there aspects of past public participation that should be changed in the future? More orderly public hearings, complete transparency, being responsive to community communication, acoustics - can't hear anything in the ice-house, more communication/awareness, 3 meetings a year is sufficient to get message across, continue high-end meetings with community leaders, improved communication with honest disclosure of facts, they don't take advantage of local partnership opportunities with organizations like Navy League/Rotary Club/Reach for Success/VCHT - these are influences on the community, steady flow of Accomplishments listed on local news/radio/TV and newspapers, reparation for past lies to local citizens. RAB meetings too technical for general public to understand. Have "listening" meetings with municipal gov't to hear their concerns.

c. Are there aspects of past public participation that should not be repeated? Appalled by incivility of some local attendees - made it impossible to listen to presentation.

19. If you want to be on a mailing list for info about Environmental Restoration/Munitions Response efforts in Vieques, please provide your mailing address (paper copies) or email address for electronic copies (non-survey question)

20. Is there anything else you would like to say about the Navy's Vieques environmental cleanup or munitions response programs?

Cultural/environmental/historical degradation of Puerto Ferro Lighthouse - please involve citizenry in restoration/preservation of this landmark, prefer to see areas stay protected wildlife refuge - not developed, keep it until it's done - there will always be denial by politically motivated people, grateful for any achievement, after hiring and training XOD's - opinion is that they were in the back-up position as all the other agencies came aboard, get all beaches cleaned & open as soon as possible, good job!, we want to fully use our island will it happen in my lifetime?, we're going backwards they are closing beaches and areas instead of opening, what's up!, I hope Navy will do right by the people of Vieques, hope everything can return to the way to was, thank you!, short and long term economic impact of not having clean-up completed stops Vieques from growing economically, doing an excellent job!, needs to continue without interruption, continued care of minimizing chemicals important!, what is being done with the green houses in the field offices in USFW area?, will Navy conduct radiation levels on the public and what is a normal level if contaminated?, open all beaches - island-wide, focus on beaches than inland, increase efforts/results, where are fish and birds? The lack of both in such an unpopulated are is frightening!, keep up the good work!, Navy is cleaning the mess they made and I appreciate that!, Not enough public information available, I want to be tested for contaminants and rule out exposure, would like to meet with persons involved in clean-up someday, access to fish& wildlife areas overly restricted, law enforcement overly concerned with traffic infractions and ineffective regarding petty theft or dangers to beach which reflects negatively on tourists and local perception of island.

Summary of Community Responses to Vieques CIP Interviews and Survey Conducted During January-February 2014

Community Profile

1. The vast majority of respondents identified themselves as Vieques residents
   - Those who identified themselves as part-time residents have second residency primarily in New York, Florida, and Massachusetts
2. The majority of respondents have no affiliation with any local organization or groups
   - Some do have connections with nonprofit organizations
   - Some identified themselves as business owners
   - Some are associated with a religious group
   - Few have association with an education entity
   - Few associated themselves with sports groups
   - Few belong to an organized political group

General Awareness and Interest

3. Most of the respondents know about the Navy's cleanup activities on the former training facilities
4. About half of the respondents have received information about the cleanup activities
5. To the question "How would like to get information about Vieques environmental/munitions cleanup program?"
   - Factsheets sent via e-mail and traditional mail to all the residents seemed to be the preferred methods to reach the community, along with posting information on local news media
   - Public-forum meetings, including RAB meetings generally scored low on the preferred method; same result for social media
   - Some mentioned public-forum meetings as a preferred method to receive information
   - Few mentioned reaching the community in their own homes ("uno a uno")
6. The vast majority of the respondents knew about access restrictions to certain areas
7. To the question "Do you feel that you are affected by the Navy's activates on Vieques?"
   - Less than half of the respondents do not feel affected by the Navy's activities on Vieques
   - Nearly 60 percent of the respondents feel they are affected by the Navy's activities on Vieques
   - These are the issues/categories mentioned most when asked in what way they feel affected:
     - Contamination keeps dispersing throughout the environment from detonations associated with the cleanup
       - dust pollution from UXO detonations
       - One respondent stated his wife died because of heavy metals – specifically uranium – and felt he was next
     - Restricted access to parts of the island
       - lack of beach/island access

    - Cannot access the nicest places on Vieques
  - Methods of cleanup are affecting the health of the community
    - Health has declined since moving to Vieques (high blood pressure/cardio vascular/emphysema/cancer)
  - USFWS should return the beaches to the people; at least when the Navy was still present, there was less abuse
  - The lands will never be fully cleaned up (i.e., only cosmetic restoration is being performed)
  - The 4 "D" demands are: Decontamination, Demilitarization, Devolution and Development
  - Community is fragmented, with animosity toward those community members supporting the Navy's cleanup
  - Newcomers do not have the right to give an opinion; they are not Viequenses
  - Sending the survey to all the residents was a good attempt to reach the public
  - Uncertain future for economy
    - Delay of cleanup affects economy/mindset of residents/tourists
- Home damage from shelling of ships during military practice
- The cleanup is a lie – the Navy should stop wasting money and should keep the damaged lands and leave the local people alone. The residents do not have the right to complain
- One resident noted friends who lost their good jobs with the Navy
- Crime has increased
- Bad roads in town
- Noise Pollution

Level of Concern

8. Primary concerns mentioned related to the environmental contamination and munitions present on Vieques:
   - Health issues, underwater munitions and general environmental impacts were identified as the three top concerns
   - Removal of munitions on land, economic impact, security, impacts to sensitive ecosystems and quality of life and use of beaches also ranked high as top concerns
   - Regulatory oversight, timeline of cleanup activities and effects of the cleanup activities ranked low on the list of top concerns
   - Additional concerns mentioned:
     - Dangers posed by munitions
     - Communicating the dangers to community
     - The lands will never be cleaned up enough – the community will never have access to the lands
     - Current access restrictions
     - Concern for the next generations and how the contamination will affect them

9. To the question “What closed beaches would you most like to see reopened for public use?”
   - The majority responded: All
   - Other beaches mentioned were: Playa Yayi, Playa Tortuga, Playa Fanduca, Campaña, Black, Puerto Ferro, Carrucho, Jalovita, Icacos, Isla Chiva, Fanduca, Ensenada Honda, Puerto Diablo, Cayo, Playa, Puerto Negro, Garcia, Punta Jalova, Matias, Playa White, Fossil
10. To the question “Which environmental cleanup or munitions response decisions are most important for the public to be involved with?”
    - Sampling locations and final remedies scored above technologies used
    - More than 72 percent of survey and interview participants chose sampling location and final remedies as the most important

Level of Involvement

11. To the question “Do you think the Navy has been effective in providing the community with information about the cleanup program?”
    - Half of the responses were YES, half were NO
    - Associated suggestions included:
      - Too much talk with no specific information provided or specific questions answered
        - Inform the community using more easy to understand mailings, flyers
        - Use weekly or monthly posts
        - Inform the public about the dangers
        - Avoid confusing information; is there a risk of cancer or not?
        - Be honest
      - Information about the progress of the cleanup should be readily available
        - Invite the public to see progress
      - Distribute more information to schools and youth
        - Use social media
        - Send information via “snail mail” the same way this survey was sent
      - Reach the key groups in the community with information (clubs, business, churches)
      - Too much attention given to groups of protestors that are not Vieques residents
      - Form a group with community members, municipality, and youth representations
12. To the question “Have you ever used the Navy's repository located at electronic library in Isabel II to access the Administrative Record or documents for public review?”
    - Almost all of the respondents did not know a repository was available to the public
13. To the question “Have you participated in public meetings/events about the Vieques environmental cleanup program during the last five years?”
    - Most of the respondents have not attended public meetings
    - Those who did attended meetings mentioned the following:
      - 2006 RAB meeting – Lighthouse
      - 2010 Meeting in the Multiple Use Center
      - 2011 and 2011 RAB meetings

- 2013 RAB meeting in Conservation Trust Office (2013 event in Esperanza)
- Environmental fairs and various public events
- US Navy League presentation

Information Needs

14. To the question "Do you have the capabilities to access the Administrative Record via the Internet?"
    - About half of the respondents have access to Internet, half do not have access
15. To the question "What information would be most valuable to you regarding the cleanup activities?"
    - Warnings of new dangerous areas
    - Current and upcoming activities
    - Progress reports/Schedules/Timeframes/Budgets
    - Timeframe for the underwater work
    - Disposal methods of waste and bombs
    - Health outcome after cleanup is completed
    - Kinds of munitions/contaminants being found
    - Environmental impacts resulting from the cleanup
    - Early notice of when munitions are being detonated
    - Air quality after cleanup
    - Sampling and munitions information, methods of munitions removal
    - Photos connected to certain areas/UXO (like Google Maps)
    - Which roads/beaches will re-open to use
    - Who would help the residents if they are contaminated
    - Why previously open areas are now closed - advance closing notice of areas
    - Information to residents/tourists to reduce rumors about the cleanup distributed with a little more "beef" than a one-page quarterly summary
    - Contractor companies, salaries
    - Technologies and restoration proposals
16. To the question "What newspaper, radio, or TV stations do you subscribe to/or listen to for local news?"
    - Local Radio: Radio Vieques FM 90.1, Radio Isla, WMDD, WKAQ, WIPR
    - Regional Newspapers: La Hora, El Nuevo Dia, San Juan Star, El Vocero
    - Local Newsletter: Vieques Events (no longer published)
    - National Newspaper: NY Times
    - Regional TV Stations: WAPA TV, Channel 2
    - National TV Stations: Dish Network, Direct TV, CNN, NPR. NBC, PBS, CBS, Univision

17. To the question “Do you feel community concerns have been considered by the agencies?”
    - USFWS scored highest with 104 “yes” and 50 “no” answers. EPA received 87 “yes” and 56“ no,” the Navy 86 “yes“ and 62 “no,” and EQB 81 “yes” and 52 “no” answers
    - Additional feedback:
        - USFWS is too militant with tourists
        - USFWS: Go easy with ticketing on roads with more warnings, less tickets
        - Feel encouraged by the apparent cooperation between NAVFAC and USFWS
        - All the agencies only respond to protests and with political presence
        - Municipality and local government should get actively involved in the well-being of Vieques
        - No agency has done a good job; information is not a cure for the health issues; help with health is needed; new facilities (hospital, university) are needed
18. To the question “Tell me about past efforts by the Navy to involve the public in decisions regarding cleanup
    - Are there aspects of the public participation that worked well?”
        - Providing translation services at public meetings
        - Fairly understandable handouts
        - Meetings with all companies/federal agencies presenting information at the same time
        - RAB meetings with translation
        - Public Fair at Multi-Use Center explaining progress of cleanup (a lot of public attended the activity)
        - Flyers distributed in key access points
    - Are there aspects of past public participation that should be changed in the future?”
        - More orderly public hearings
        - RAB meetings too technical for general public to understand
        - Announce meetings better
        - Complete transparency, being responsive to community communication
        - Acoustics - cannot hear anything in the Ice-House
        - More communication/awareness - three meetings a year is not sufficient to get message across
        - Increase high-end meetings with community leaders
        - Navy does not take advantage of local partnership opportunities with organizations like Navy League/Rotary Club/Reach for Success/VCHT - these are influential in the community,
        - Present a steady flow of accomplishments listed on local news/radio/TV and newspapers
        - Have "listening" meetings with Municipal government to involve them in the decision making process
        - The cleanup is going too slowly, which affects Vieques, such as lack of jobs and precarious health

  - Provide more information about the cleanup in all Puerto Rico (not just Vieques)
  - Technical people should speak Spanish at meetings
- Are there aspects of past public participation that should not be repeated?"
  - Appalled by incivility of some local attendees - made it impossible to listen to presentation

19. To the offer "If you want to be on a mailing list for info about Environmental Restoration/ Munitions Response efforts in Vieques please provide your mailing address (paper copies) or email address for electronic copies (non-survey question)"

Postal mail: 126

E-mail: 94

Note: some respondents indicated a preference for both postal mail and email.

20. To the question "Is there anything else you would like to say about the Navy's Vieques environmental cleanup or munitions response programs?"

Cleanup related issues:

- Cultural/environmental/historical degradation of Puerto Ferro Lighthouse - please involve citizenry in restoration/preservation of this landmark
- Prefer to see areas stay protected wildlife refuge - not developed, keep it until cleanup is done
- There will always be denial by politically motivated people
- Grateful for the achievements after hiring and training local UXO Techs
- Get all beaches cleaned and open as soon as possible
- Want to fully use the island in a reasonable timeframe
- Sense that progress is going backwards since beaches and other areas are being closed instead of opened
- Hope that Navy will do right by the people of Vieques, hope everything can return to the way to was
- The Navy is doing an excellent job, which needs to continue without interruption
- Asking if Navy will conduct radiation levels monitoring on the public
- Appreciation that the Navy is cleaning the mess they made
- Request to be tested for contaminants to rule out exposure
- The Navy is immoral; should stop telling lies and cleanup what was destroyed

Community Involvement Related Issues

- Not enough public information available
- Would like to meet with persons involved in cleanup someday
- Since the primary language is Spanish, is it a lack of respect to send a survey in English
- It may be useful to prepare a short video about the cleanup activities to show the progress and the challenges of the restoration program
- Develop a local newspaper distributed monthly about the restoration program and other related issues

- Should recruit leaders from Vieques to gather the community and help them understand the technical process

Refuge Related Issues

- Question about what is being done with the green houses in the field offices in USFWS area
- Question about where the fish and birds are; the lack of both in such an unpopulated area is frightening
- Access to USFWS areas overly restricted
- Law enforcement overly concerned with traffic infractions and ineffective regarding petty theft or dangers to beach, which reflect negatively on tourists and local perception of island
- USFWS is worse than the Navy; they abuse the residents, who want the beaches back

Health Issues

- A better Hospital is needed for the island

Economic Related Issues

- Short and long-term economic impact of not having cleanup completed stops Vieques from growing economically

Other

- The Manta project run by the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust is helping local youth learn how to protect the environment
- Those community members who were anti-Navy are making a lot of money – now they do not care about the munitions and their health effects
- Sense that the Navy and the Government of Puerto Rico are equally bad
- Question of who is going to clean the urban areas where people live and if it will be the Government of Puerto Rico

APPENDIX F: MEETING AND INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

MEETING LOCATIONS

RAB meetings, public meetings and other outreach events are held at the following locations, depending on availability:

Jorge's Ice House
Carr. 200, Km 3, hm 2
Barrio Martineau, Vieques, PR 00765

Multiple Use Center
Calle Antonio Mellado – (across from Plaza)
Vieques, PR 00765

The Lighthouse
Route #200
Isabel Segunda
Vieques, PR 00765

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Documents pertaining to environmental restoration and munitions response on Vieques can be found at:

Electronic Format
Navy Vieques Website and Administrative Record
http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques

The Navy Vieques Website and Administrative Record can be accessed on any computer with access to the Internet. Publicly available computers in Vieques can be found at:

Vieques Public Library (Oficina de Asuntos de la Juventud)
Calle Carlos Lebrun #449
Vieques, PR 00765
Phone: 787-741-5000 x2331
Typical hours of operation: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Luz de la Esperanza Public Library
Calle Orquídea #48
Vieques, PR 00765
Phone: 787-741-1295
Typical hours of operation: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Paper Format
EPA Region 2 Vieques Field Office
Carr. 200 km. 04
Vieques, PR 00765
Phone: 787-741-5201

FIGURE F-1:
LOCATION OF EPA FIELD OFFICE AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN VIEQUES

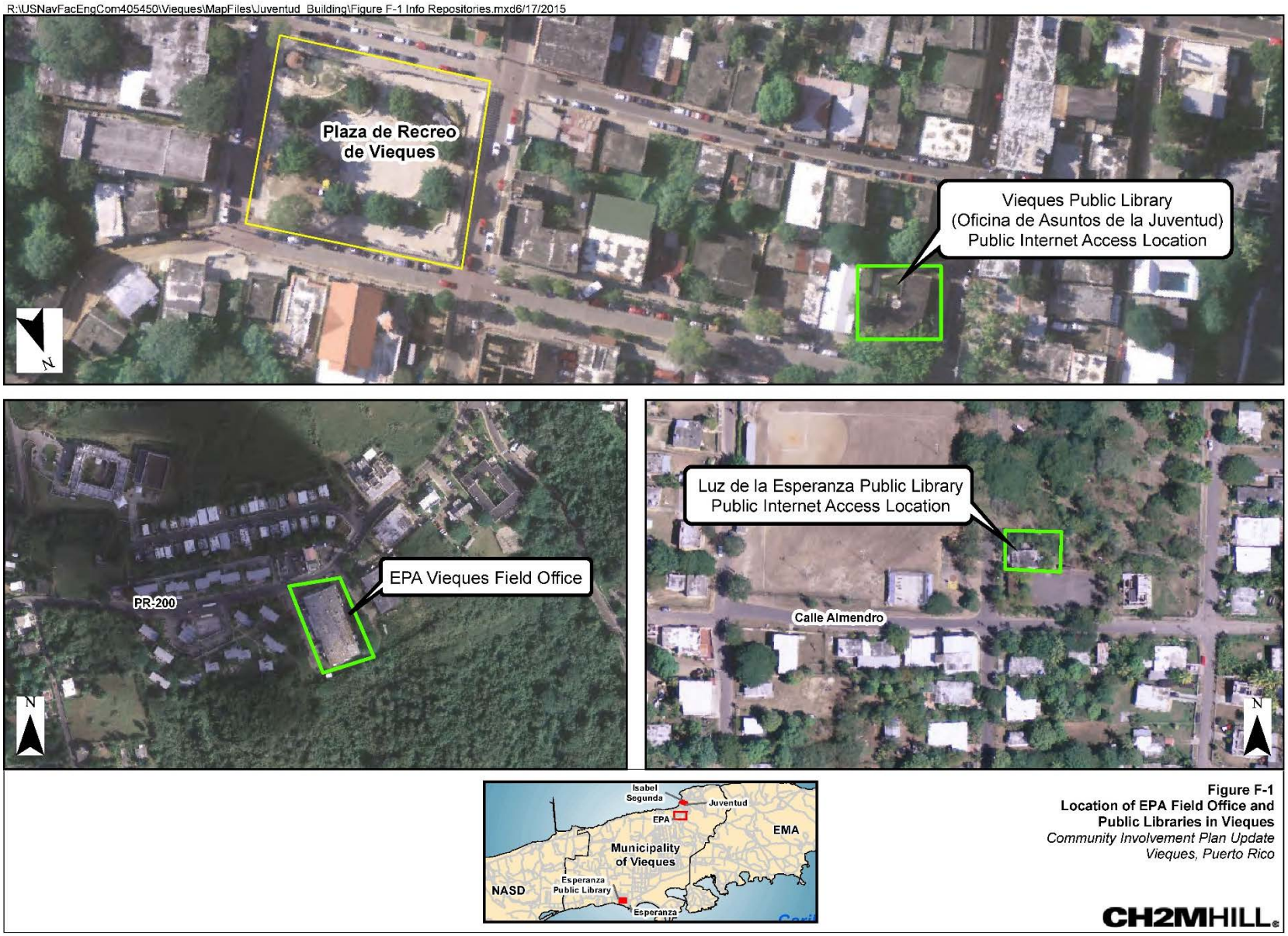

Figure F-1
Location of EPA Field Office and Public Libraries in Vieques
Community Involvement Plan Update
Vieques, Puerto Rico

APPENDIX G: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFWTA	Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area
AOC	area of concern
AR	Administrative Record
ARARs	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
ECA	Eastern Conservation Area
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
EMA	Eastern Maneuver Area
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
FFA	Federal Facility Agreement
GE	General Electric
LIA	Live Impact Area
MRP	Munitions Response Program
NASD	Naval Ammunition Support Detachment
NAVFAC	Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Navy	U.S. Department of the Navy
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPL	National Priorities List
PRDNER	Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
PREQB	Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFI	RCRA Facility Investigation
SIA	Surface Impact Area
SWMU	solid waste management unit
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TAP	Technical Assistance Plan
TAPP	Technical Assistance for Public Participation
TRC	Technical Review Committee
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UXO	unexploded ordnance