

## **Public Notice – Puerto Rico Police Department**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has negotiated a proposed Order on Consent with the Puerto Rico Police Department (PRPD) regarding handling and disposal of explosive or reactive materials confiscated by the PRPD and that later becomes solid or hazardous waste. This material includes illegal pyrotechnic devices, pyrotechnic material, fireworks, and other explosive items from throughout the island.

**BACKGROUND:** The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is the federal law that governs solid and hazardous waste management. Section 7003 of RCRA gives EPA the authority to issue Orders where solid waste may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment. Based on EPA inspections and other information, EPA determined that the lack of safety equipment, engineering controls and facility oversight at locations where such confiscated material had been stored constituted inadequate management of solid waste and presented a threat to health and the environment. PRPD has already completed removal of all of the material from each of the five locations at which it was previously stored and it has been properly disposed of at a treatment facility in Louisiana.

**PROPOSED ORDER:** Going forward, PRPD plans to store the confiscated material at a single, consolidated storage facility at its Isla de Cabras facility. Detailed plans for management and disposal of the waste will be developed and documented by PRPD as part of the Order on Consent with EPA. Specifically, the Order requires PRPD to develop, and submit to EPA for acceptance, a work plan that ensures that future confiscated material regulated by RCRA is handled in compliance with all applicable EPA RCRA regulations in a safe, secure and timely manner. The work plan must also describe in detail how PRPD will handle any future confiscated material under its control from storage through transportation and disposal of the waste.

**INFORMATION SESSION:** A public availability session will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Municipal Government Center, Municipality of Toa Baja, 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, Highway PR 867, Km. 2 (Antigua Avenida Sabana Seca), Toa Baja, PR. EPA representatives will explain the activities to take place under the proposed Order and provide time for the public to comment. PRPD representatives have also been invited to attend.

**COMMENT PROCESS:** EPA welcomes questions and comments from the public on the proposed Order during the meeting. Copies of the proposed Order are available to the public at the EPA's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division at Centro Europa Building, Suite 417,

Ponce de Leon Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00907 and online at [http://www.epa.gov/region2/public\\_notices/](http://www.epa.gov/region2/public_notices/). The public may also submit written comments to EPA on the proposed Order. EPA will carefully evaluate all comments, and may consider modifying the proposed Order, as appropriate, to reflect any relevant comments raising matters not already addressed by the Order. Written comments must be received by EPA no later than September 8, 2009. All written comments must be mailed, faxed or emailed to the address below.

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