



Information on the Interim Closure Plan for the Open Burn / Open Detonation Sites on Eastern Vieques Island

Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility

Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

December 2004

Comments

Interested individuals may submit comments on this interim plan for a period of 30 calendar days from December 1, 2004. EPA will evaluate comments received and either incorporate them or provide a response. Comments should be submitted in writing, or via e-mail, no later than December 30, 2004 to the following address:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Attention : Timothy Gordon
RCRA Programs Branch
290 Broadway
New York , NY 10007-1866
Email: gordon.timothy@epa.gov

Public Information Session

EPA will hold a public information session on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at El Faro de Punta Mula in Isabel Segunda, Vieques from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for interested individuals to find out more information about the Interim OB/OD Closure Plan and other issues related to the continuing investigation on Vieques.

This plan identifies the procedures that will be used to investigate and close the areas known as Open Burn / Open Detonation (OB/OD) sites at the U.S. Navy's former Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility on the East side of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. This is an interim plan and does not include all of the procedures that may be included in the final plan. The closure process is designed to prevent future unacceptable impacts to human health or the environment.

The OB/OD site is located on property that is currently owned by the Department of the Interior and was used to burn or explode munitions used by the Navy. The Navy is responsible for the environmental cleanup of this property. There are two approaches to closing the site:

1. Closure by Removal (also called Clean Closure), and
2. In-Place Closure

The closure by removal approach is the removal of contamination at the site until the remaining contamination does not exceed what would be present naturally in background levels or does not present an unacceptable threat to human health or the environment. The in-place closure approach leaves the contamination in place and the site is monitored to ensure it does not impact the surrounding area.

This interim plan presents the procedures that will be used to determine the extent of the contamination and develop the mechanism for the final closure process. The final closure plan will be developed after determining contaminants and the extent of the contamination at the site. It will present the approach that will be used to close the site and, if the site poses an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, define the procedures that will be used to complete the final closure of the site.

Interested individuals can view the Interim OB/OD Closure Plan on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/region2/vieques or at the following locations:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Caribbean Environmental Protection
Division
Centro Europa Building, Suite 417,
Ave. Ponce de León 1492, Parada 22,
San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Telephone: (787) 977-5865

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Caribbean Environmental Protection
Division
Vieques Field Office
Vieques Office Park
Carretera #200, km 0.4,
Vieques, P.R.
(787) 741-5201

Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
National Plaza Building, Office 225
Attention: Ms. Gloria Toro Agrait
Ponce de Leon #431
Hato Rey, PR 00917
Telephone: (787) 767-8181, ext. 2853

