

4/7/06-02528



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
ATLANTIC
6506 HAMPTON BLVD
NORFOLK VA 23508-1278

TELEPHONE NO:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 07, 2006

Carlos W. López Freytes, Esq
Chairman
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 11488
Santurce, PR 00910

Re: Munitions Removal Time Critical Removal Action /Prescribed Burning Plan, Live Impact Area,
Former Vieques Naval Training Range Vieques Island, PR

Dear Mr. López:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and your staff on February 3, 2006 to discuss the Draft Prescribed Burn Plan for the munitions removal program in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Since our February 3rd meeting there has been an increase in the need to implementing the Prescribed Burn Plan due to the following: 1) the recent discovery of highly sensitive munitions where the UXO contractors are currently working and 2) the recent unintentional fires during the munitions removal actions. As we discussed at our last meeting, in addition to your comments on the plan, the Navy is requesting a variance of the open burning regulations (Regulations for the control of Atmospheric Pollution Rule 402). This variance is proposed to allow prescribed burning of selected areas within the LIA to minimize the explosive risk exposure to on-site munitions contractors to coming in contact with highly sensitive munitions during the removal of vegetation prior to the removal of munitions within the LIA.

I will be in Puerto Rico during the week of April 24th and request to meet with you and your staff, either during the afternoon of April 27th or the morning of April 28th to discuss the status of the burn plan. If you need additional information from the Navy or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 757-322-4815 or by e-mail: christopher.penny@navy.mil

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher T. Penny".

Christopher T. Penny, P.E.
Eastern Vieques Project Coordinator
Environmental Programs Branch (Caribbean Section)
Environmental Division
NAVFAC ATLANTIC
By direction of the Commander

Quality Performance ... Quality Results

Copy to:

NAVFAC ATLANTIC (Mr. Byron Brant, Mr. Jeffrey Harlow)

USEPA (Mr. Daniel Rodriguez)

DOI (Messrs. Bud Olivera, Oscar Díaz, Susan Silander, Félix Lopez)

CH2MHILL (Mr. John Tomik)