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

TELEPHONE NO:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 21, 2005

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Attn: Ms. Susan Silander
FWS Caribbean Islands Refuge Manager
P.O. Box 510
Boqueron, Puerto Rico 00622

Re: Eastern Vieques Wildlife Refuge, Vieques Island, PR; Expanded Range Assessment /Phase I Site Inspection

Dear Ms. Silander:

As discussed at the Vieques MOA Meeting on October 18, 2004; the Navy intends to initiate field activities for the munitions response program during the week of January 10, 2004 as described in the *Work Plan For The Expanded Range Assessment /Phase I Site Inspection of the Munitions Response Sites at the former VNTR*.

Due to erosion from several tropical storms during the summer of 2004 the access roads to several of the environmental and munitions response sites (MRSs) are not accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles. In accordance with the Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Navy and the Department of Interior (DOI) for eastern Vieques, the Navy will repair and maintain the roads that provide access to the MRSs and environmental sites. These roads were previously used by the Navy to provide access to the ranges and operational areas of the former VNTR.

Based on discussions with local contractors, the best source of granular fill material to repair the roads is the former rock quarry in the vicinity of Camp Garcia. This site is identified as Area of Concern (AOC) F for the RCRA Phase I Site Facility Investigation for the former VNTR (also known as AFWTF). A location of the site is shown in the attached Technical Memorandum. The 1995 RFA report noted that some used tires and paper waste were identified at the site. However, several site inspections completed since 1995 did not identify any solid waste or hazardous waste at this site.

The Navy is requesting that the former rock quarry be utilized as a source of granular fill to repair the roads at the former VNTR. Based on the extent of erosion that was observed in the field, it is estimated that up to 4,200 cubic yards of granular material would be needed to repair the roads.

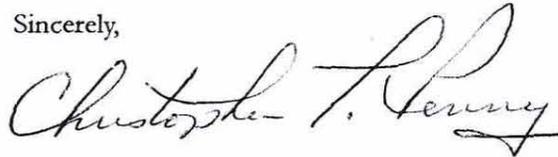
The attached Technical Memorandum provides a summary of the environmental conditions at the former rock quarry and presents the Proposed Operation Plan for the removal of the rock material from the quarry.

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To ensure that no solid waste is present within the quarry material, granular material removed from the site will be visually inspected for these items during the excavation of the material. In addition, at the request of EPA, it is proposed that one soil sample for every 10 cubic yards of material removed be collected and a composite of every ten samples collected be analyzed for inorganic TCLP hazardous waste characterization. Should the analytical results detect levels exceeding TCLP limits, the impacted soils will be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

We understand that FWS will require a Compatibility Determination be completed before you can approve the Navy's use of the quarry. Should you need any additional information to complete this Determination or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate in contacting me at 757-322-4815.

Sincerely,



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

Copy to:

PREQB (Mr. Esteban Mujica Cotto, Chairman)
PREQB (Yarissa Martinez)
NAVFAC ATLANTIC (Mr. Byron Brant)
2DEPP-RPB (Messrs. Tim Gordon, Daniel Rodriguez)
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