

September 8, 2006

FACT SHEET

Naval Activity Puerto Rico (NAPR), formerly Naval Station Roosevelt Roads Ceiba, PR

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to enter into an Administrative Order on Consent (Consent Order) with the United States Department of the Navy (the Navy). The proposed Consent Order is intended to set out the Navy's obligations for completing the clean-up of this large, closed military base, pursuant to the authority of the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"). The Consent Order is planned to replace the 1994 RCRA Permit as the document memorializing these obligations concerning the Naval Activity Puerto Rico (formerly Naval Station Roosevelt Roads) base. As set forth below, EPA is soliciting public comments on this Order for thirty days.

Background:

NAPR/Naval Station Roosevelt Roads (the facility) is located on the east coast of Puerto Rico and is bordered by the Caribbean Sea/Atlantic Ocean and the municipalities of Ceiba to the west and north, and Naguabo to the southwest. The facility covers approximately 8,600 acres, and has been in use as a military base since 1941. The facility also includes two adjacent, unpopulated offshore islands, Piñeros and Cabeza de Perro, previously used for military training exercises. The facility includes a port facility and a major airfield complex. According to information available to EPA, the facility contains small arms ranges, but no bombing ranges, and three possible (based on 1958 aerial photographic study) abandoned open burning/open detonation (OB/OD) pits located where the currently active small arms range is on the Punta Medio Mundo peninsula.

The facility ceased operation as an active Naval Station on March 31, 2004, at which point it was designated Naval Activity Puerto Rico (NAPR). The Navy currently owns and maintains the facility in preparation for sale and/or transfer of the property. The Navy is continuing to implement its clean-up obligations under its RCRA Permit but intends to transfer certain portions of its clean-up obligations to willing buyers.

Property Transfer Plans and Suspension of Work by the Navy:

Approximately 2900 acres of the facility's 8,600 acres consist of wetlands. The Navy has informed EPA that it will likely convey the wetland areas not impacted by contamination to the Commonwealth and/or a conservation trust via public benefit conveyances (PBCs).

The Navy has further informed EPA that, for the remainder of the Facility, other than several limited portions which are to be transferred to other federal agencies (including the peninsula on Punta Medio Mundo where an active small arms range is located), it intends to sell or otherwise

transfer most of the remaining parcel(s) and/or parts of the Facility to non-Federal public and private entities (also referred to as third parties). The Navy has informed EPA that those third parties will either assume responsibility for corrective action on the real property they acquire, as provided for in Section X (Suspension and Resumption of Work by the Navy) of the proposed Consent Order, or the Navy will retain responsibility for completing any corrective actions required. The Navy has further informed EPA that before such transfer to third parties occurs, the Navy will, as a condition of any such sale or transfer to a non-Federal third party, require the acquirer to enter into an administrative order with EPA, which requires the third party to assume responsibility for completing any corrective action on the real property it acquires.

Once an acceptable Administrative Order has been executed between EPA and the third party for work on the specified part of the Facility, EPA intends, pursuant to Section X (Suspension and Resumption of Work by the Navy) of the proposed Consent Order, to suspend most of the Navy's work requirements under this Consent Order for those requirements which are being assumed by the third party for that specified part of the Facility.

A Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), created by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, is developing a master land-use plan to control re-use and development of the entire facility.

Site Clean-up/RCRA Consent Order:

The site is currently being cleaned up pursuant to RCRA corrective action authority and the requirements of the facility's 1994 RCRA Permit. However, pursuant to Section 7003 of RCRA, EPA and the Navy have developed a Consent Order to address completion of clean-up for the entire facility.

In entering into this Consent Order, the objectives of EPA and the Navy are to identify, investigate, remedy, and/or prevent the potential endangerment to human health and/or the environment from activities involving "solid waste" and "hazardous waste" and to ensure that the work ordered by EPA is designed and implemented to protect human health and the environment. Under this Consent Order a total of 77 "solid waste management units" (SWMUs) and 6 "areas of concern" (AOCs) have been identified at the NAPR facility. SWMU is a regulatory term that denotes a "unit" where either "solid" or hazardous wastes have been "managed". AOC is a "term of art", that may include more than 1 area or "site".

Investigations and/or evaluations of whether or not a releases of solid or hazardous wastes and/or hazardous constituents have occurred at a SWMU or AOC have been completed at 59 of the SWMUs and AOCs identified at the NAPR facility. Of these, a total of 41 of the SWMUs and AOCs are proposed under this Consent Order to have a determination of "Corrective Action Complete", pursuant to EPA guidance.

This Consent Order provides for the performance by the Navy of the following:

- implementation of RCRA Facility Investigations (RFIs) at a total of 17 SWMUs and AOCs where investigations have not yet been completed, including the offshore islands Piñeros and Cabeza de Perro. The purpose of an RFI is to determine whether releases of hazardous or solid waste, or hazardous constituents, are present, and if present, to fully characterize the nature and extent of any such releases;
- implementation of Interim Measures at SWMU 11, which is Building 38 the Old Power Plant to prevent unacceptable risks to human health and the environment, pending final disposition of Building 38;
- submission of a work-plan to complete site characterization and clean-up through “monitored natural attenuation” of localized groundwater and/or soil contamination resulting from petroleum releases at 8 underground and above-ground fuel storage sites (designated as AOC F under the Consent Order);
- completion of on-going Corrective Measures Studies (CMSs) at 8 SWMUs and AOCs, and submission of work plans to perform CMSs at 6 additional SWMUs. The purpose of these 14 CMSs is to determine what corrective measures/final remedy will be needed to prevent any unacceptable current or future risks to human health and the environment being posed by known contamination at those units. In addition, CMSs may also be required at some or all of the 17 SWMUs and AOCs where the RFI investigations have not yet been completed;
- completion of public notice and review of any proposed final corrective measures/remedies, including as part of this Public Review, the proposed corrective measures for known contamination at the following SWMUs and AOCs: groundwater and soil contamination resulting from petroleum releases at the “Tow Way Fuel Farm” petroleum storage area (SWMUs 7 & 8); soil and/or drainage ditch sediment contamination resulting from past pesticide management (SWMUs 13 and 53); soil contamination resulting from past waste accumulation and discarded battery storage activities near Buildings 31 and 2022 (SWMUs 31 and 32); and soil contamination from past storage of electrical transformers (SWMU 46 and AOC C);
- implementation of Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) plans for SWMUs 13, 31/32, 46, 53 and AOC C, as modified based on public comments. In addition, a CMI Work Plan will be developed for SWMUs 7 & 8 (“Tow Way Fuel Farm”), and CMIs may also be required at some or all of the SWMUs and AOCs where the RFI investigations and/or CMS evaluations have not yet been completed. Copies of the Final CMI Work Plan Design Packages for SWMUs 13, 31/32, 46, 53 and AOC C are available for inspection at the public repositories listed below. The CMI Work Plan Design Package for SWMUs 7 & 8 (“Tow Way Fuel Farm”) has not yet been developed; however, a Statement of Basis regarding the proposed corrective measures for the large petroleum releases at SWMUs 7 & 8 (“Tow Way Fuel Farm”) is available for inspection at the public repositories listed below;

- implementation of an acceptable Closure Plan for the 85 acre solid-waste landfill (SWMU #3), which has been utilized since the early 1960's as the facility's primary solid waste disposal site. Proposed closure activities, will include installation of a surface cap over the "active cell" areas of the unit, and future groundwater monitoring of the entire 85 acre landfill area to confirm that there are no unacceptable risks to human health and the environment caused by releases from the landfill. The proposed Closure Plans for SWMU 3 include separate Plans for the 35 acre "active cell" area and a Plan for the remaining 50 acres of "inactive areas" at the landfill. Both those Closure Plans and a Statement of Basis summarizing the proposed Closure of SWMU #3 are available for inspection at the public repositories listed below;
- completion of Closure for Building 2009 and associated Buildings 2009-A, B, C, and D (together constituting SWMU 18) under previously approved Plans;
- submission of work plans for RFI investigations at all sludge drying beds at the facility's three wastewater treatment plants;
- submission of work plans for RFI investigations at the small arms range and possible former OB/OD areas located on peninsula on Punta Medio Mundo, upon cessation of usage of the small arms range by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security;
- ensuring that acceptable institutional controls are in effect to prevent future inappropriate usage of portions of the Facility and/or the groundwater in certain portions of the Facility.

The Navy had previously been implementing this work at certain of the units under its RCRA Permit issued in 1994. This Consent Order also requires the Navy to perform any Additional Work that EPA may require. The Navy's obligations are, however, subject to the provisions of the Consent Order which allow for the transfer of work responsibility to third parties who sign Orders for such work.

The Navy will fund and perform the Work required under the proposed Consent Order in accordance with plans, standards, specifications and schedules set forth in the Consent Order or developed by the Navy and approved by EPA pursuant to this Consent Order.

Public Review and Comment on this Proposed Consent Order:

EPA is soliciting public review and comment on this proposed Consent Order. The public review and comment period will run for thirty (30) days, commencing today and closing thirty (30) days from today's date.

Public Meeting:

EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed Consent Order on:

Wednesday, September 27, 2006 between 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at:

The **Ceiba Multiple Use Center** located at:

Calle Córdova (Next to Complejo Deportivo), Ceiba, PR 00735

Copies of the proposed Consent Order and portions of the administrative record may be inspected at:

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
Centro Europa Building, Suite 417
1492 Ponce de Leon Ave
Santurce, PR 00907-4127
Attn: Mr. Luis Negron, phone 787- 977-5855

Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board
Oficina del Presidente - Piso 5
Ave. Ponce de Leon #1308
Carr Estatal 8838
Sector El Cinco
Rio Piedras, PR 00926
Attn: Ms. Yarissa Martinez, phone 787- 365-8573

Ceiba Public Library
Ceiba Mayor's Office
Lauro Piñero Ave, Plaza de Recreo
Ceiba, PR 00735

Tel: (787) 885-2180

The full administrative record may be reviewed at:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
RCRA File Room
290 Broadway, 15th floor
New York, NY 1007-1866
Attn: Mr. David Abrines, phone 212 - 637-3043; and

at the following internet web page address:

<http://nsrr-ir.org/>

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed Consent Order, are requested to submit written comments, in English, on or before 30 days from today's date to:

Mr. Adolph Everett, P.E.
Chief, RCRA Programs Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 1007-1866

In reaching its decision on entering into the proposed Consent Order, EPA will consider all written comments it receives which are post-marked on or before 30 days from today's date.