

*Munitions Response
Success Story: Navy
implements munitions
removal action at Solid
Waste Management Unit 4
to make area safe for
public use*

Vieques

Environmental Restoration News

JULY 2018



Participate in the SWMU 4 Proposed Plan Public Meeting

August 8 Wednesday, August 8, 2018
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Jorge's Ice House
Road #200 Km 3.2
Vieques, PR

The Navy will present and discuss the proposed alternatives for SWMU 4. Provide input on the SWMU 4 Proposed Plan at the Public Meeting or submit comments to one of the contacts in this flyer.

The public comment period will begin on July 16, 2018 and close on August 14, 2018.

Attend the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Wednesday, August 8, 2018
Poster Session
6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Updates/Q&A Session
7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

**Jorge's Ice House
Road #200 Km 3.2
Vieques, PR**



Navy, EPA, DOI, EQB, and DNER Invite Public Comments on the Proposed Plan for Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 4

Former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment – Vieques

The U.S. Department of the Navy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Interior (DOI), Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB), and Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) announce the public comment period and invite the public comment on the Proposed Plan for implementing a remedial action at SWMU 4 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

SWMU 4 is a former Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) site located at the western end of Vieques within the Former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment. The site is approximately 400 acres in size and located on property owned by the DOI that is part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). SWMU 4 was used for the detonation and burning of unserviceable and surplus munitions, fuels, and propellants from 1969 through 1979 and may have periodically been used for this purpose as far back as the late 1940s. The OB/OD operations were conducted in 16 man-made earthen pits, but "kick-out" of material from the pits scattered debris across portions of the site, including munitions and explosives of concern (MEC).

Between 2000 and 2015 interim removal actions were performed, consisting of munitions removal across 165 acres of SWMU 4, including the roads, beach, OB/OD areas, and other areas planned for public use.

Based on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, previous investigations, and interim removal actions at SWMU 4, the Navy evaluated the following potential remedial alternatives to address the potential for MEC to remain at the site as well as the presence of perchlorate in groundwater (perchlorate is used in fireworks, road flares, explosives, and rocket fuel):

Munitions Safety • Practice the 3Rs





July 2018 Field Activities

**Non-Time-Critical
Removal Action
(NTCRA) at UXOs 9
and 10 (Surface
Impact Area):** Surface
munitions removal



Munitions Safety

- Pay attention to all warning signs and locked gates.
- Stay out of restricted areas.

Practice the 3Rs

Recognize

- Recognize when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat

- Do not approach, touch, move or disturb a munition, but note the location of any landmarks or features that would help officials locate it.
- Carefully leave the area on the same pathway you entered.

Report

- Call 911 or (787) 741-2020.

For more information
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Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC)

- **Alternative M-1** – No action (serves only as a baseline to which to compare the other alternatives; it is not a viable option considered for the site)
- **Alternative M-2** – Land use controls (LUCs)
- **Alternative M-3** – Surface clearance of the land area not already surface-cleared and LUCs
- **Alternative M-4** – Surface and subsurface clearance of the entire terrestrial area not already cleared and LUCs

Groundwater

- **Alternative G-1** – No action (serves only as a baseline to which to compare the other alternatives; it is not a viable option considered for the site)
- **Alternative G-2** – Long-term monitoring (LTM) and Institutional Controls (ICs)
- **Alternative G-3** – Enhanced in-situ bioremediation (EISB)

The Navy and EPA have carefully reviewed the current conditions at SWMU 4, and have evaluated future anticipated land and resource uses. Based on the results of the interim removal actions and the MEC and environmental investigations at the site, the Navy and EPA, in consultation with DOI, EQB and DNER, agree that the preferred alternatives for SWMU 4 are:

Alternative M-2 – LUCs and Alternative G-2 –LTM and ICs.

These preferred alternatives are the best options to protect human health and the environment under current and projected future land use of SWMU 4 as part of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge. The alternatives meet the statutory requirements of CERCLA.

After the public comment period ends and comments have been considered, the Navy and EPA will make a decision on the alternative to be implemented. Therefore, the public is encouraged to comment on the Proposed Plan by attending the Public Meeting or submitting comments in writing to one of the contacts in this notice.

The Proposed Plan summarizes the history, previous investigations and interim removal actions at SWMU 4 and explains how the remedial alternatives were evaluated and how the preferred alternative was identified. The Proposed Plan and supporting documents are available for public review online at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/vieques>. Paper copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the EPA office in Vieques and the Navy office at Camp Garcia.

✉ Comments can be sent to:

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