



# Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

SUBJECT: Former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads  
DATE: Meeting Number 53 – November 17, 2022  
LOCATION: Ceiba, Puerto Rico

*Note: This meeting summary is based on informal notes taken at the meeting. It is not intended as a verbatim transcript. Rather, it is intended to summarize the overall discussions. If comments or additional notes are provided within 30 days of distribution of these minutes, they will be considered and potentially added as an attachment to this summary.*

## Welcome and Introductions

Prior to the formal Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, the Navy presented a poster session (5:00p.m – 6:00 p.m.) that included Accomplishments To Date, and updated information for various Sites under the Environmental Restoration Program. The RAB meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Thuane Fielding greeted attendees to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Naval Activity Puerto Rico (NAPR) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, thanked the attendees and introduced Jamie Butler as the NAPR Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator, indicated that Kevin Cloe is the interim Remedial Project Manager. She also introduced Renee Hunt Project Manager (Jacobs) and Rosa Esquivel (Jacobs) as the new Community Outreach Facilitator.

Thuane provided a brief explanation of the new meeting format (Poster Session) which will allow for attendees to obtain project status information, ask questions, and indicated that the last hour of the meeting will include a presentation with specific topics. Thuane indicated that she will further discuss the new meeting format and start time with Ramon Figueroa (RAB Member Co-Chair) for future meetings.

Limited attendance at the RAB was observed. Refer to Attachment 1 for a list of meeting attendees.

Thuane Fielding introduced the participating attendees that support the cleanup program at the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads; including members of the RAB, the Navy, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER, formerly Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board).

Jamie Butler began the presentation on emerging chemicals of concern and reminded the meeting attendees that during the RAB presentation of the February 2020 meeting (or potentially the one prior [November 2019]), the Navy had discussed the initial investigation process to assess potential release areas and sources of potential contamination. She indicated that the presentation would provide an update, and clarified she was not the subject matter expert and indicated that there would be future opportunities to ask questions to the experts.

Jamie proceeded to explain that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals widely used in commercial and consumer products since the 1950s all over the world to prevent stains and repel water, oil, and grease. They are used in a variety of products, such as personal care, stain-resistant carpet and upholstery, water-resistant clothing, nonstick cookware (Teflon), floor wax, food packaging, and other commonly used products.

Jamie indicated that the most common historical military use of PFAS has been as a component of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film forming foam, or AFFF) which have been used at Navy facilities and airfields for many years in firefighting, specifically on fuel-related fires. Because of the concerns related to PFAS, the Navy no longer uses AFFF for training .

Because of the widespread use of PFAS, these compounds are found throughout the world due to their use in many industrial, commercial, and household products. Further, because these compounds break down very slowly, they persist in the environment for a long time when released into water, soil, air, and sediment.

Jamie indicated that EPA is currently working diligently to develop official drinking water standards (called Maximum Contaminant Levels [MCLs]) for PFAS compounds and that PFAS are not listed currently as a hazardous waste. As the presence of and exposure to PFAS is global, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that most people in the US have been exposed to PFAS. The health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS continues to be investigated.

For NAPR the statutory regulatory process is being followed during the investigation, and Navy is working with EPA and DNER to determine data needs and path forward. A total of 21 potential release areas have been identified. Co-located surface and subsurface samples have been collected from 24 locations. Groundwater samples were collected from 23 monitoring wells. Sediment samples were collected from 2 locations with a co-located surface water sample at one location.

Sample results are currently being evaluated, and that the Navy will share with regulators and inform/update the public on the PFAS investigations as information becomes available.

## Other Topics – Land Transfers

Thuane Fielding (Navy) noted that about 700 acres at NAPR remain to be remediated and transferred for redevelopment. The cleanup schedule has been affected due to the worldwide pandemic and hurricane events over the past several years, and the Navy will provide an updated schedule at a later date.

## Questions and Answers/Comments

**Doug Pocze** asked if the 700 acres included acreage under Army control.

- Thuane Fielding responded that Army acreage was transferred under intergovernmental transfers.

**Ramon Figueroa** (RAB Co-Chair) – commented that he was happy to see everyone back after difficult times in Puerto Rico. No further comments.

## Closing

Rosa Esquivel (Jacobs) thanked the participants for attending the RAB meeting. The meeting ended at 7:40 PM. The next RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for late February 2023.

Attachment 1  
Meeting Attendees: Nov 17, 2022

<b>RAB Members</b>	
<b>RAB Community Members Present</b>	<b>RAB Community Members Absent</b>
<b>Ramón D. Figueroa, Community Co-Chair</b>	Samuel Caraballo, Michael Dalton, Jorge Fernández Porto, Lirio Márquez D'Acunti, Ramón M. Ríos, Rafael Montes, Ismael Velázquez, Naida Dávila, José Julio Díaz, and Agustín Velázquez, Luis Velázquez
<b>Community Members Visiting</b>	
Roberto Hernández	
<b>RAB Agency Representatives</b>	
<b>Thuane Fielding, Navy Co-Chair</b>	Navy – Base Closure Manager
Jamie Butler	Navy – BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Maria Danois	Navy – Local Site Manager
Doug Pocze	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Angela Carpenter	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Karyn Treinen	Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Juan Babá Peebles	Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) – Federal Facilities Coordinator, Emergency Response Area
<b>Other Agency Representatives</b>	
Nilda Marchán	LRA
<b>Support Staff</b>	
Renee Hunt	CH2M/Jacobs (Navy Contractor – NAPR Activity Manager)
Rosa Esquivel	CH2M/Jacobs (Navy Contractor – Facilitator)
Daniel G. Concepción	CH2M/Jacobs (Navy Contractor – Facilitator)
Raquel Gonzales	Lighthouse (Subcontractor – Interpreter)
Luis Martinez	Lighthouse (Subcontractor – Technician)