

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Defense Environmental Restoration Program - Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS), Fort Brooke, Property Number I02PR0983, San Juan, Puerto Rico - Lack of Sufficient, Sustained Interest in Forming a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

1. In accordance with Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-3-1 and the FUDS Handbook, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is required to invite the public to participate in the response action process and establish a RAB at DERP-FUDS undergoing a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) remedial response if there is sufficient and sustained community interest. After an initial assessment of RAB interest at the start of a remedial response, the Corps also re-assesses interest every two years during the response action process.
2. The Corps solicited public interest in a RAB for the Fort Brooke FUDS between January 2022 and 25 August 2023 utilizing a number of methods. The Corps had multiple meetings and discussions with the property owner (National Parks Service) and stakeholders where community outreach activities were presented including a discussion of RABs. The Corps placed a notice in the local newspaper, *El Nuevo Día*, on 19 July 2023, put the RAB fact sheet and Community Interest Form on the project website, and posted a message on the Corps' Antilles office Facebook page on 28 July 2023. On 17 July 2023, the Corps emailed information about the RAB to local stakeholders and requested they forward the information to anyone that may be interested. The newspaper advertisement, Facebook message, and email asked those interested in serving to fill out the Community Interest Form.
3. As of 25 August 2023, no one has contacted the Corps to express interest about a RAB for Fort Brooke nor submitted a Community Interest Form. The Corps reviewed correspondence files, project emails, telephone logs, project records, and media coverage, and also consulted with opinion leaders, government officials, and other stakeholders.
4. Engineering Pamphlet (EP) 200-3-1 indicates a RAB should be formed if there is sufficient, sustained community interest and at least one of the following: the installation is closing and transferring the property to the community; fifty local citizens sign a petition requesting that a RAB be formed; federal, state, tribal, or local government representatives request that a RAB be formed; or if the project delivery team recommends that a RAB be established. None of the four factors required in addition to sufficient, sustained community interest have been met.
5. In consideration of the above, the Corps has determined there is not sufficient, sustained community interest in forming a RAB at the Fort Brooke FUDS. The Corps will continue to update the stakeholders and the community through letters/postcards, meetings, social media, and the project website. The Corps will reassess community interest in a RAB in two years or before should project circumstances change.

CESAJ-PMM-E (1200C PERM)

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6. Should you need additional information, please contact Wendell Hardwick, Program Manager, at 904-232-1804 or by email at Wendell.M.Hardwick@usace.army.mil.

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Colonel, EN
Commanding