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NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC OFFICIAL TO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE IN SAN JUAN ON JUNE 6 TO OUTLINE REMOVAL OF DEPLETED URANIUM AMMUNITION FROM VIEQUES

OFFICIAL WILL ALSO EXPLAIN AGENCY PROGRAM TO SAMPLE ENVIRONMENT OF ISLAND COMMUNITIES IN RESPONSE TO HEALTH CONCERNS

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top official in the Southeastern United States will hold a news conference in San Juan at 10:30 a.m. on June 6 at the Hampton Inn in Isla Verde to outline NRC oversight of efforts by the U. S. Navy to remove radioactive depleted uranium ammunition from firing range impact areas on Vieques Island and to explain an environmental sampling program aimed at detection of radioactive material at the island's Camp Garcia and the communities of Isabel Segunda and Esperanza.

Luis A. Reyes, administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, will meet with reporters to explain how the NRC is performing its regulatory oversight function as navy personnel work to remove radioactive depleted uranium rounds inadvertently fired at the island during a past military exercise. He will also outline work NRC inspectors are performing at military and civilian areas outside the firing range impact areas, including the taking of soil, water and vegetation samples to confirm the absence or presence of radioactive materials.

Mr. Reyes, a native of Puerto Rico, will conduct the news conference in both Spanish and English. An NRC inspector will be available to demonstrate radiation detection and environmental sampling equipment being used by NRC personnel at Vieques.

Electronic media personnel are requested to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the 10:30 news conference in order to set up necessary equipment.

Mr. Reyes will be available following the news conference for individual interviews by interested reporters who attend.

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