



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 09 2009

Ms. Leimarys Delgado-Medero  
Manager, Air Quality Area  
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 11488  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00910

Dear Ms. Delgado:

We have completed our review of the draft final technical documents submitted to us by the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board and the Army regarding the variance request for the open burn operations at the Portugues Dam Project in Ponce, Puerto Rico. EPA has determined that the information provided by the Department of the Army on September 25, 2009 is responsive to concerns EPA raised in the November 25, 2008 and June 1, 2009 letters to the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board and to questions raised during subsequent conference calls. In our opinion there is sufficient information to proceed with a public hearing on the Army's variance request.

In the September 25, 2009 letter to your office, Mr. Eric P. Suma submitted additional documentation to support the Army's variance request. The supporting documentation consists of the Thermal Reduction Plan, the Contingency Plan and the Air Monitoring Plan. We base our recommendation on the review of this material.

If the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board decides ultimately to approve the variance request the Chairman should notify the Regional Administrator. This process is discussed in our November 25, 2008 letter. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 212-637-3706 or Mr. Richard Ruvo of my staff at 212-637-4014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Werner".

Raymond Werner, Chief  
Air Programs Branch

cc: Angel O. Berríos Silvestre, PREQB  
Blanche González, PREQB  
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APB file