

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-
13
OFFERED BY MISS GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN OF PUERTO
RICO**

Add at the end of subtitle G of title X the following
new section:

1 **SEC. 10___. INDEPENDENT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**
2 **OF HEALTH EFFECTS FROM EXPOSURE TO**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTIVITIES IN**
4 **VIEQUES.**

5 (a) AGREEMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
7 shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Na-
8 tional Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Med-
9 icine for the National Academies of Sciences, Engi-
10 neering, and Medicine to perform the services cov-
11 ered by this section.

12 (2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to enter
13 into the agreement described in paragraph (1) not
14 later than 60 days after the date of the enactment
15 of this Act.

16 (b) STUDIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement be-
2 tween the Secretary and the National Academies of
3 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under this sec-
4 tion, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineer-
5 ing, and Medicine shall carry out epidemiological
6 studies of the short-term, long-term, primary, and
7 secondary health effects caused or sufficiently cor-
8 related to exposure to chemicals and radioactive ma-
9 terials from activities of the Department of Defense
10 in the communities of concern, including any rec-
11 ommendations. In carrying out such studies, the Na-
12 tional Academies may incorporate the research gen-
13 erated pursuant to funding opportunity number
14 EPA–G2019–ORD–A1.

15 (2) ELEMENTS.—The epidemiological studies
16 carried out under paragraph (1) and the rec-
17 ommendations developed under such paragraph shall
18 include the following:

19 (A) A list of known contaminants and their
20 locations that have been left by the Department
21 of Defense in the communities of concern.

22 (B) For each contaminant under subpara-
23 graph (A), an epidemiological study that—

1 (i) estimates the disease burden of
2 current and past residents of Vieques,
3 Puerto Rico, from such contaminants;

4 (ii) incorporates historical estimates of
5 residents' groundwater exposure to con-
6 taminants of concern that—

7 (I) predate the completion of the
8 water-supply pipeline in 1978;

9 (II) include exposure to ground-
10 water from Atlantic Weapons Fleet
11 Weapons Training Area “Area of
12 Concern E” and any other exposures
13 that the National Academies deter-
14 mine necessary;

15 (III) consider differences between
16 the aquifers of Vieques; and

17 (IV) consider the differences be-
18 tween public and private wells, and
19 possible exposures from commercial or
20 agricultural uses; and

21 (iii) includes estimates of current resi-
22 dents' exposure to chemicals and radiation
23 which may affect the groundwater, food,
24 air, or soil, that—

1 (I) include current residents'
2 groundwater exposure in the event of
3 the water-supply pipeline being tempo-
4 rarily lost; and

5 (II) is based on the actual prac-
6 tices of residents in Vieques during
7 times of duress, for example the use
8 of wells for fresh water following Hur-
9 ricane Maria.

10 (C) An identification of Military Munitions
11 Response Program sites that have not fully in-
12 vestigated whether contaminants identified at
13 other sites are present or the degree of con-
14 tamination present.

15 (D) The production of separate, peer-re-
16 viewed quality research into adverse health out-
17 comes, including cancer, from exposure to
18 drinking water contaminated with methyl tert-
19 butyl ether (MTBE).

20 (E) Any other factors the National Acad-
21 emies determine necessary.

22 (c) REPORT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
24 after the date of the execution of an agreement

1 under subsection (a), the National Academies of
2 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall—

3 (A) submit to the appropriate congress-
4 sional committees a report on the findings of
5 the National Academies under subsection (b);
6 and

7 (B) make available to the public on a pub-
8 licly accessible website a version of the report
9 that is suitable for public viewing.

10 (2) FORM.—The report submitted under para-
11 graph (1)(A) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

12 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees” means—

15 (A) the congressional defense committees;
16 and

17 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
18 of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
20 Senate.

21 (2) The term “communities of concern” means
22 Naval Station Roosevelt Roads and the former At-
23 lantic Fleet Weapons Training Area.

