

Hunters Point Shipyard Historical Radiological Assessment Fact Sheet No. 4

October 2003



The Navy has made a commitment to keep the local community, Hunters Point Shipyard tenants, and federal, state and local regulators informed during preparation of the Historical Radiological Assessment.

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy, as part of its Installation Restoration Program, is preparing the Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS) Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA). This fact sheet is the fourth in a continuing series to update the community on the progress made in creating the Draft Final HRA.

The HRA documents past radiological activities and investigations at HPS. The HRA report provides:

1. A baseline for investigating the remaining presence and extent of radiological materials,
2. Assessment of past and continuing radiological investigations, and
3. Recommendations for further actions.

This fact sheet also reports on activities being conducted

as a part of the Navy's continuing radiological investigation program. This issue focuses on cleanup activities scheduled for the northwest and central portions of a site in Parcel E called Installation Restoration (IR)-02.

HRA UPDATE

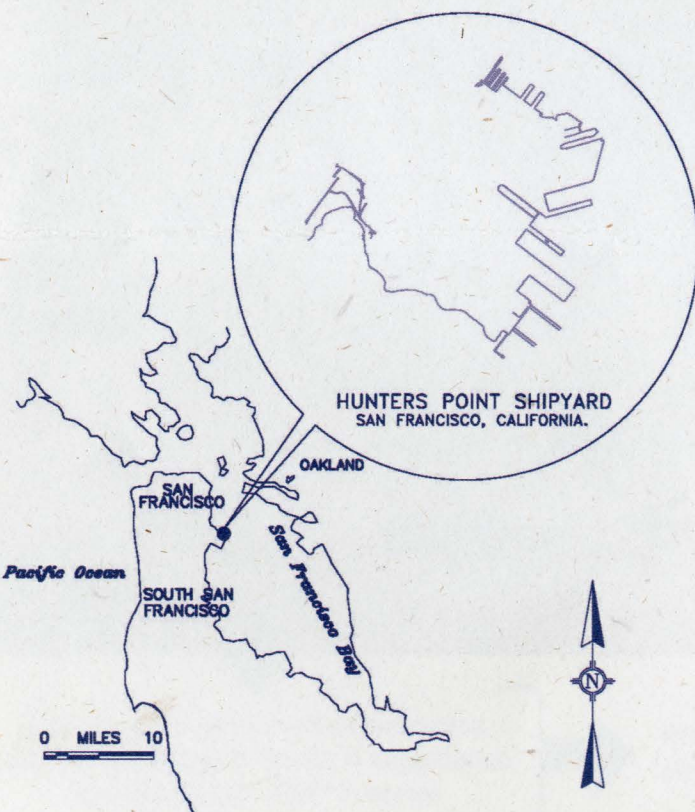
HRA Preparation – The Navy HRA Team is continuing its efforts to incorporate the results of months of research into an accurate and comprehensive HRA. This work has involved researching many archived documents and conducting extensive interviews. In early October 2003, information directly related to past radiological operations at HPS associated with Operation Crossroads and the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) was identified in the archives of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. These documents are currently being reviewed by the HRA Team.

HRA Schedule – The release date for the HRA has been extended to allow for the review of the archived documents. The HRA is scheduled for release in early 2004.

IR-02 NORTHWEST AND CENTRAL

IR-02 Northwest and Central, a fill area located in Parcel E, is about six acres in size (see map inside). The Navy conducted several radiological investigations in this area between 1988 and 1996. These investigations found radioluminescent devices (see box inside) on the surface and buried in the soil down to a depth of 10 feet. All devices found on the surface were removed during these investigations.

Commonly used on Navy ships, radioluminescent devices were removed during ship repair and maintenance work at HPS from the late 1930s through the 1960s. During that time, it was common practice to dispose of radioluminescent devices in municipal and government landfills.

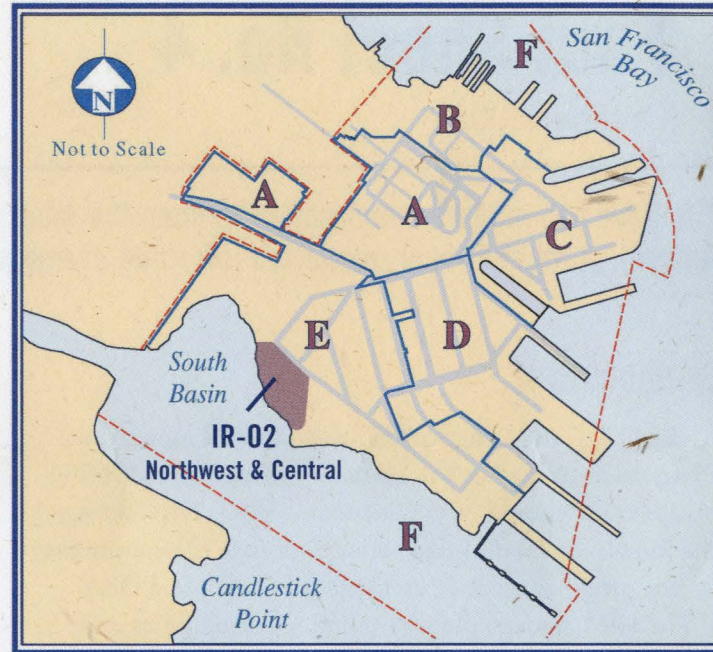


Keeping the Community Informed

WHAT'S BEING DONE

The Navy is planning to clean up the remaining radioluminescent devices in IR-02 Northwest and Central. This cleanup action is being taken to eliminate the potential future risk of low-level radiological materials migrating as the result of erosion, animal activity or future work activities at the site. The public and the environment are safe now and will continue to be safe during the cleanup work.

RADIOLUMINESCENT DEVICES – items such as gauges, dials, watches and ship's deck markers that contained a paint usually mixed with radium to make them visible in the dark.



WHAT'S PROPOSED

The cleanup action for IR-02 Northwest and Central is designed to excavate the area and separate radioluminescent devices and associated contaminated materials for disposal at a licensed off-site low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. The removal of the radioluminescent devices will be conducted under the Navy's Basewide Radiological Action Memorandum, and in a manner consistent with previous radiological cleanup work at HPS.

The focus of the cleanup action is the removal of radioluminescent devices and associated contaminated material as well as any debris encountered during excavation. While other contaminants are present in the soil, they will not be addressed during this cleanup action.

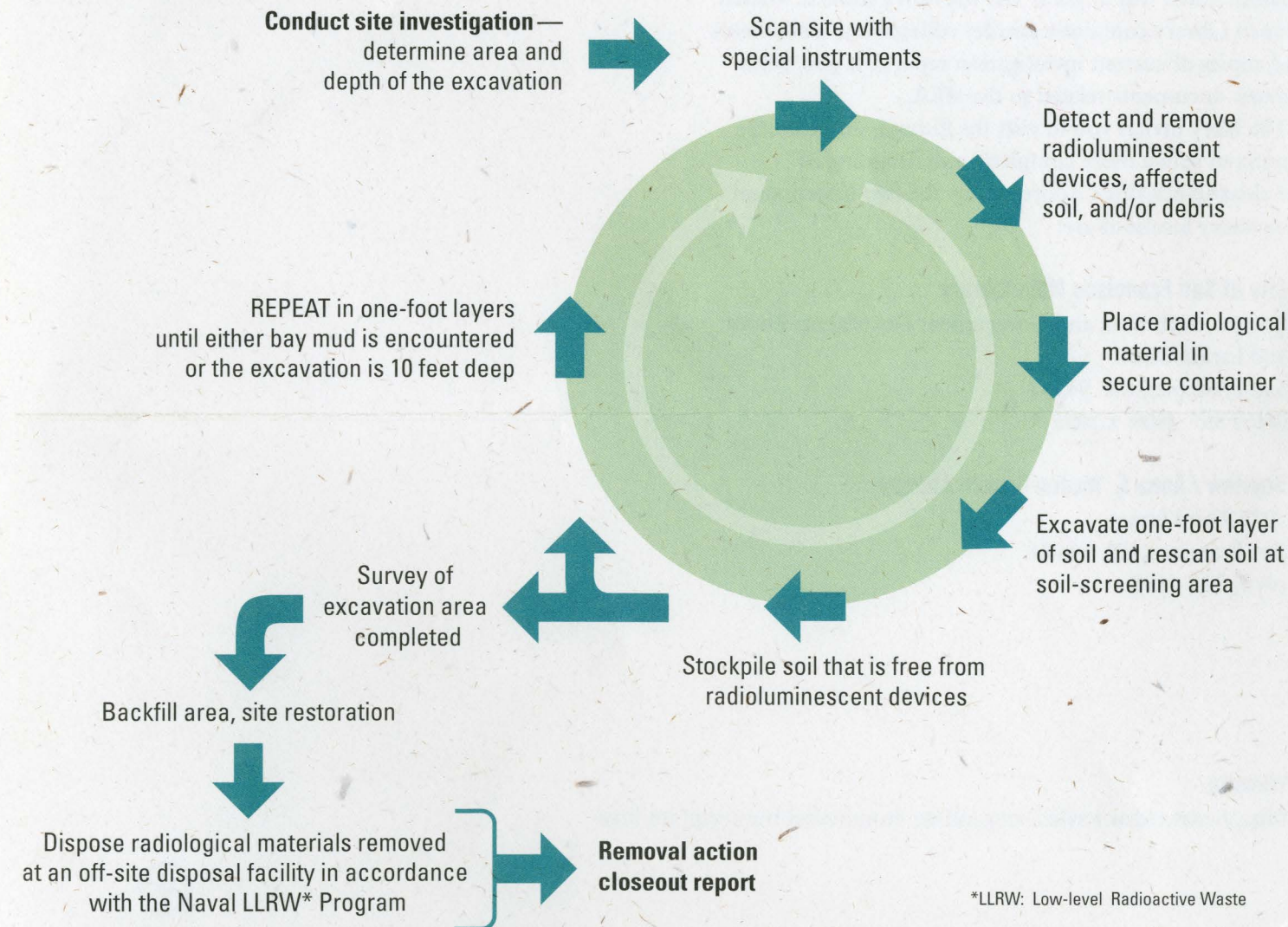
After the devices and affected soil are removed, the remaining soil will be put back and addressed as part of the larger CERCLA (Superfund) study of the entire IR-02 site.

All measures will be taken to protect the surrounding community and workers during the cleanup process. During excavation and backfilling, the soil will be kept moist to minimize dust. Stringent erosion controls will be used to prevent erosion during rainy conditions.

Work plans for this cleanup will be sent to the regulatory agencies and the public for review and comment in November 2003. The cleanup is expected to begin in early 2004.

The cleanup process is shown in the graphic below.

CLEANUP PROCESS



*LLRW: Low-level Radioactive Waste



Site IR-02, looking northwest toward San Francisco.

Keeping the Community Informed

WHAT'S NEXT

The Navy will continue to prioritize radiological surveys, investigations and cleanup actions at HPS. These priorities will be finalized based on the information that will be provided in the HRA.

The Navy will investigate any site where radiological operations may have been performed or radiological material may have been stored or disposed. It will ensure that all work is within current health and safety standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California's Department of Health Services.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Navy documents and other reference materials about HPS are available to the public at two different locations. The Main Library in downtown San Francisco contains a nearly complete record of all the documents related to the cleanup under way at HPS. The Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library contains a smaller collection of documents and copies of current investigation reports. It also holds historic documents related to the HRA.

The Navy invites you to visit the libraries and read the reports to gain a more complete understanding of the cleanup activities. Addresses for the two Information Repository locations are:

City of San Francisco Main Library

Science, Technical, and Government Documents Room
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4500 x 5075

Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library

5075 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
(415) 715-4100

Website:

<http://www.efdswnavyfac.navy.mil/environmental/hunterspoint.htm>

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