

# Hunters Point Shipyard Removal Actions at the Parcel E/E-2 Shoreline

Fact Sheet No. 7

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The Navy is committed to keeping the local community, shipyard tenants and federal, state and local regulators informed about radiological investigations and cleanup activities that result from conducting actions recommended in the Historical Radiological Assessment.

### Introduction

The U.S. Navy, as part of its Installation Restoration (IR) Program, is in the process of conducting actions recommended in the Historical Radiological Assessment for Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS). These actions will include investigation and cleanup of hazardous wastes and residual radioactive contamination at radiologically impacted sites at HPS. This fact sheet is seventh in a continuing series to update the community on radiological matters at HPS.

To implement the IR Program, HPS was divided into six parcels, Parcels A through F. In 2004, Parcel A was transferred to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and Parcel E was subdivided into two parcels, Parcels E and E-2. This fact sheet reports on removal activities that will



be conducted at four sites in Parcels E and E-2. All removal activities will be within radiologically impacted areas. For purposes of the actions, these areas are identified as:

- 1. Metal Debris Reef
- 2. Metal Slag Area
- 3. IR-02 Northwest and Central
- 4. PCB Hot Spot

All of the actions at these four sites are being conducted as "time-critical removal actions," or TCRAs, which allow for faster-than-usual cleanups. The Metal Debris Reef, Metal Slag Area and IR-02 Northwest and Central TCRAs are being conducted to remove radioactive materials. The PCB Hot Spot TCRA is being conducted to remove polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and associated petroleum contamination, in addition to radioactive materials.

The following provides an overview of the TCRAs for each site. A glossary is included on page 4 to assist with technical language. Detailed work plans for each of the TCRAs have been published for regulatory and public review. These work plans may be viewed at the information repository locations listed on the back page. The public is encouraged to review HPS cleanup documents and provide feedback. Contact information for Navy representatives is also provided on the back page.

# **TCRAs at Parcels E and E-2**

The TCRAs are being conducted to eliminate any potential future risk to people and to ensure that low-level radioactive materials, PCBs or petroleum-based materials do not move from the site to the surrounding environment. Such migration or release could occur as a result of erosion, weathering, seismic events or biological activity.

Strict safety measures will be followed during the TCRAs. These measures include installing security fencing, controlling dust, monitoring wind and weather conditions, monitoring air, controlling stormwater runoff and identifying subsurface

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#### **Locals Perform Site Work**

Navy contractors will employ up to 20 trained local workers through their work program with Young Community Developers (YCD). YCD is a local nonprofit community and economic development agency that helps match environmental restoration jobs with local community members. YCD staff will assist with excavation, backfilling and radiation screening activities.

utilities. A wildlife biologist will make sure that no "species of special status" live on the sites (see glossary on page 4). Every effort will be taken to ensure that the public and the environment remain safe during the cleanup process.

The results of the removal actions will be documented in a Removal Action Completion Report. These reports will be available for review at the information repositories listed on the back page.

# **PCB Hot Spot**

The PCB Hot Spot TCRA focuses on a 4-acre area within Parcel E-2 and a small section of Parcel E (see figure below). The site contains elevated levels of PCBs (associated with



oil, hydraulic fluid or other petroleum products) and elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH; fuels and oils). The TCRA will remove these materials to eliminate any potential future risk in areas that may be affected by erosion, weathering, seismic events or biological activity. It is estimated that 20,000 cubic yards of soil will be excavated during this TCRA. Site preparation began in February. The TCRA is scheduled to begin in May and site restoration is planned for August 2005.

All soil within the upper 3 feet of the site will be removed. PCB levels greater than 1 part per million and TPH levels greater than 3,500 parts per million will be removed. Soils below 3 feet will be removed if PCBs are present at levels greater than 100 parts per million or if TPH levels greater than 3,500 parts per million are found.

Because the PCB Hot Spot site is located within a radiologically impacted area, soils will be screened for radiation (radium-226, cesium-137 and strontium-90). An initial radiological screening will be done before the soil is excavated and a second screening of the soil will be done after material is removed from the excavation. Large debris will be separated and screened separately. Radioactively contaminated soil or debris will be separated and stored in special containers in controlled areas.

> All soil or debris with elevated levels of PCBs, TPH or radioactive materials will be disposed of off-site at appropriate disposal facilities.

#### **IR-02 Northwest and Central**

The IR-02 Northwest and Central TCRA focuses on a 3-acre site located in Parcel E (see figure at left). Previous radiological investigations at the site found the soil there contains radioluminescent devices, including items such as dials, gauges and markers that contain a paint, usually mixed with radium, to make them visible in the dark. The TCRA will eliminate any potential future risk to people and ensure that radioactive materials do not move from the site to the surrounding environment as a result of erosion, weathering, seismic events or biological activity. It is estimated that 44,000 cubic yards of soil will be excavated during this TCRA. Site preparation began in

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February. The TCRA will begin in May and site restoration is planned for September 2005.

The Navy estimates the radioactive materials (radium-226, cesium-137 and strontium-90) are mostly in the upper 6.5 feet of soil, but the excavation may continue to about 10 feet to ensure that all contaminated debris is removed.

An initial radiological screening will be done before the soil is excavated and a second screening of the excavation site will be done after material is removed. Large debris will be separated and screened separately. Contaminated materials will be separated and disposed of off-site at an appropriate facility.

The soil at the IR-02 Northwest and Central site is also known to be contaminated with chemicals including metals, volatile organic compounds, semivolatile organic compounds, pesticides, PCBs and petroleum hydrocarbons (see definitions on page 4). These materials will not be addressed under this TCRA but will be addressed later as part of the Parcel E Feasibility Study.

Soil and debris excavated from the site and found to be free of radioactive materials will be returned as fill for the deeper parts of the excavation. Clean fill soil will be used as backfill for the top 3 to 5 feet of the excavation site.

#### Metal Debris Reef & Metal Slag Areas

The Metal Debris Reef and the Metal Slag TCRA focuses on two separate sites. The Metal Debris Reef is an area of approximately 1.2 acres located on the southeast shoreline of Parcel E. The Metal Slag Area is approximately 0.9 acres located on the northwest shoreline of Parcel E-2 (see figure on page 2). Both of these areas are known to contain radioactive materials. While not a current issue, these materials could pose a potential future risk to people and the environment if exposed due to erosion, weathering, seismic events or biological activity. At the Metal Debris Reef area, as much as 8,500 cubic yards of metal slag and debris will be excavated during this TCRA. At the Metal Slag Area, as much as 5,500 cubic yards of metal slag will be removed. Site preparation began in March. The TCRA is scheduled to begin in June and site restoration is planned for September 2005.

The Metal Debris Reef was formed when materials were disposed of and burned at the nearby Open Burn Disposal Area. Slag and debris are present as deep as 12 feet. Most of the Metal Debris Reef is covered during high tide. The Metal Slag Area is composed of wastes from the metal foundry and the smelter used when the shipyard was active. As deep as 15 feet below ground surface, this waste includes industrial debris and metal slag. The area is partly covered at high tide. Both sites may contain radium-226, cesium-137 and strontium-90. The intent of the Metal Debris Reef and Metal Slag Area TCRA is to remove all materials from the two locations. The materials above the water will be screened for radioactive material before removal and after excavation. The materials below the water will be removed and dewatered before screening for radioactive material. All radioactive materials will be segregated and disposed of off-site at an appropriate facility.

The Metal Debris Reef will be filled in with clean sand and protected from erosion with layers of large rock. In the Metal Slag Area, a wetland will be constructed and landscaped with native vegetation to restore and improve the existing shoreline habitat.

The Navy has worked extensively with biologists and ecologists at the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as local experts, to avoid impacting endangered fish species in the San Francisco Bay. Based on research conducted by certified wildlife biologists, no endangered species have been seen the project area or nearby. However, the Navy's approach will be extremely considerate and conservative and will perform work as much as practical when endangered species are not likely to be present in the bay. This "in-water work window" is from June 1 to November 30. In addition, the Navy will install "silt curtains" in San Francisco Bay next to the work areas to keep materials from reaching the bay outside the work area during the excavation and backfilling.

#### **Trucks Through the Neighborhood**

From June to October 2005, as many as 25 to 30 truckloads of soil and/or debris may be moved from HPS each day between 7:30 AM and 4 PM. The haul route used will be from the HPS Main Gate at Innes Avenue, along Innes and Evans Avenues to Cesar Chavez Street, and onto Highway 101. After the trucks are loaded, they will be guided through a cleaning and check station to ensure the trucks are free from loose soil, the tires are clean and the truck beds are covered. All trucks will be screened to ensure that there is no residual radioactive contamination on the outside of the trucks. All material classified as radioactive waste will be packaged in lined containers with secured lids. Truckers will use all transportation safety precautions during this time. Every effort will be made to reduce the impact to the community.

# Keeping the Community Informed

# **Glossary and Definitions**

Hot spot – a specific site or area of contamination

HPS – Hunters Point Shipyard

IR – Installation Restoration

Metal reef – a partially submerged, reef-like formation composed of metal debris, metal slag and concrete debris

Metal scrap – discarded pieces of metal material

Metal slag – material remaining after metal has been melted at very high temperatures

mg/kg – milligrams per kilogram

PCBs- polychlorinated biphenyls

Radioactive material – a substance that contains or emits radiation

Radioluminescent devices – items such as dials, gauges and markers that contained a paint usually mixed with radium to make them visible in the dark

Semivolatile organic compound – organic compound that evaporates slowly at room temperature

Species of special status – a species that has been listed as "threatened" or "endangered" by the state or federal government; knowing which special status species occur within a given location helps to target the most meaningful areas for protection

TCRA – time-critical removal action; a short-term cleanup action taken to remove a potential health risk to people or the environment

Total petroleum hydrocarbons – fuels and oils

Volatile organic compound – organic compound that evaporates quickly at room temperature

YCD – Young Community Developers

### Where to Get Information

Navy documents and reference materials about HPS, including work plans for the sites described in this fact sheet, are available for the public at two different locations. The City of San Francisco Main Library contains a nearly complete record of all documents related to the investigation and cleanup actions under way at HPS.

The Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library contains a smaller collection of documents, copies of current investigation reports and the Historical Radiological Assessment for HPS.

The Navy invites you to visit the libraries and read the reports to gain a more complete understanding of investigation and cleanup activities. The two information repositories are located at:

#### City of San Francisco Main Library

Government Information Center, 5th floor 100 Larkin Street San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 557-4500

#### Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library

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

#### For More Information Contact:

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HPS Environmental Web Site: http://www.efdsw.navfac.navy.mil/environmental/hunterspoint.htm

