



HUNTERS POINT NAVAL SHIPYARD - PARCEL A-1 RADIATION SURVEY REQUEST

July 5th, 2018

BACKGROUND

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (Hunters Point) was in use from 1939 to 1974 by the Navy. Activities resulted in hazardous materials being deposited, including some radioactive contaminants. A federal program to oversee the cleanup and transfer of military installations to civilian use was initiated at Hunters Point in 1988. In 1989, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) placed Hunters Point on the Superfund National Priorities List. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has served as the lead state agency reviewing Superfund cleanup activities and receives funding from the Navy for this work. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has been involved, through a contract with DTSC, in the review and oversight of the remedial activities for radiological contaminants at Hunters Point. The site is comprised of multiple parcels and the clean-up plan depended on the uses that had occurred on each parcel. Parcel A had been primarily used for residential purposes as well as some offices and storage.

Parcel A was removed from the Superfund list in 1999. Although it had been determined that there was no potential for radiological contamination, U.S. EPA, conducted a radiological survey of Parcel A in 2002. Scanning results did not find radiation levels above those attributable to naturally occurring sources. In 2004, the Navy conducted a comprehensive review of the historical uses of radiological operations at Hunters Point. The comprehensive review confirmed that Parcel A had not been used for purposes that might pose a risk to human health or the environment. Based on these results, the parcel was determined to be non-impacted and was approved for transfer. Parcel A, which is comprised of two non-contiguous portions (A-1 and A-2, see map), was officially transferred to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency in December 2004, and has since had residential development (townhomes and condominiums) on Parcel A-1. Home construction began in 2012 and the first homeowners moved into the SF Shipyard development in 2014.

Beginning in 2012, the Navy identified problems with data from Hunters Point areas (but not on Parcel A) and former employees of a contractor who had conducted testing and remediation work on other parcels made allegations of falsification of test data by the contractor. Two former contractor employees were convicted over fraudulent data collection activities. Parcel A was not implicated in these allegations or potential fraudulent data activities. In 2018, however, former workers made new allegations of potential falsification of data on, or adjacent to, Parcel A. Out of a desire to address any potential questions, U.S. EPA, the Navy and the City and County of San Francisco requested CDPH to perform a radiological gamma scanning survey of Parcel A-1.

SURVEY GOALS AND SCOPE

The development of this site included considerable dirt removal followed by additions of asphalt streets, concrete sidewalks, planting boxes, and newly landscaped areas with planting beds and



grassy spaces covering much of the hilltop. CDPH reviewed the current condition of the site. The potential for radiation exposure pathways to humans are limited by this development. The environment pathways for radiation exposure are normally ingestion, inhalation, and direct radiation. Just as clothing blocks radiation from the sun, concrete, gravel and soil block all but very powerful radiation. Therefore, the radiological gamma scan survey will focus on outdoor publicly accessible areas of uncovered ground and those hardscaped areas with limited cover. That is where the potential risk of radiological exposure is most likely. Gamma radiation scans are the best way to determine if there is any direct exposure to humans and the environment beyond normal background levels nearly universally present in dirt everywhere.

In the event that a radiation measurement significantly higher than normal levels for this area (aka “background”) is found, the location will be documented and investigated further by conducting supplemental static measurements to obtain additional data. Confirmed elevated levels will result in notification of the involved agencies and coordination regarding a response action, if necessary (see also Work Plan).

RESPONSIBILITIES

CDPH has responsibility for conducting the radiological gamma scan survey as described, and will be lead on communicating with the public about the work plan.

The Navy will provide funding for this project. Once CDPH’s scan is complete, CDPH will present results, including any elevated radiological readings to the Navy, U.S. EPA, and DTSC.

San Francisco is the lead agency for the Parcel A-1 property and is responsible for communications with residents there.

TIMELINE

Public release of CDPH Work Plan	July 6
CDPH field work	begin July 16 / end up to 30 days later
Final Data analysis and reporting	Fall 2018

