

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL STATION TREASURE ISLAND
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94130-5000

AUGUST 10, 1989

RELEASE # 14

Hunter's Point Annex Information Release

Environmental Clean-Up Process

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ON SANDBLAST PILE TO BE IMPLEMENTED

When the Navy took over Hunters Point Annex from Triple A Machine Shop, the Navy discovered a large (approximately 3,000 cubic yards) pile of sandblast waste. Laboratory testing determined this waste to be contaminated with heavy metals. The Navy immediately placed a protective tarp over the pile pending study of the most appropriate method to remove the pile.

The Navy, through its contractor Battelle National Laboratory, has conducted a laboratory pilot study using samples of the sandblast waste from the pile. This pilot study was the first stage in a demonstration project to evaluate the overall feasibility of using chemical fixation for treatment of sandblast waste. Chemical fixation is a process where the heavy metals presently loose in the sand are bound in a matrix with the sand. Once bound, the metals are prevented from escaping into the environment. Sandblast waste occurs in several large areas at Hunters Point Annex, including the Bayfill area and the Sub-Base area.

The Navy is pleased to announce that the results of this small scale testing indicate the chemical fixation process successfully renders the contaminated sandblast waste non-hazardous. The next step in this Demonstration Project is to field-test a portion of the sandblast pile. This testing is scheduled for mid-September. If the process is successful in the field, the remainder of the sandblast pile will be treated. Treatment of the sandblast pile is expected to take two weeks. After treatment, the sand will be removed as non-hazardous waste.

The site selected for the project area is located at the southern portion of Hunters Point Annex. It is more than one-quarter mile from the nearest building (i.e. no civilian tenants will be affected by this project) and more than one-half mile from the nearest residence. All treatment of the sand will be done on-site. On-site monitoring under the Navy's health and safety plan will ensure that contaminated sand does not leave the site.

The sand will be transported to an approved class III disposal site after treatment. Sand will not be transported off of Hunters Point Annex to the selected site until the California Department of Health Services, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the appropriate County Department of Public Health concur that the sand is non-hazardous, and acceptable for disposal at an approved disposal site. No contaminated material will leave Hunters Point Annex during this removal. A future Information Release will present final transportation and disposal plans.

This time-critical removal action is being done pursuant to a workplan and engineering evaluation/cost analysis document developed by the Navy. This document was previously submitted for regulatory review to the State of California Department of Health Services and other regulatory agencies. Copies of these draft documents have been placed in the Information Repositories and are available for public review. Written comments can be submitted to:

Mr. Randal Friedman, Code 022
Commander Naval Base San Francisco
Building 1, Treasure Island
San Francisco, CA 94130-5018

The Navy also considered three alternatives to this proposed action: 1) no action; (2) disposal in a Class I Landfill without treatment; 3) treatment and disposal at Hunters Point Annex. The no action alternative was rejected because it would leave the contaminated sand in place, posing a potential risk to human health and/or the environment. Disposal without treatment to a Class I landfill was rejected because of its high cost, and inconsistency with federal law favoring on-site treatment. Finally, treatment and disposal at Hunters Point Annex was rejected because the treated sand could not be placed in a properly engineered landfill.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NAMES PROJECT
MANAGER FOR HUNTERS POINT ANNEX

The last information release contained a listing of contacts for the environmental clean-up of Hunters Point Annex. Since the publication date, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has named a project manager for Hunters Point Annex. Technical questions regarding the environmental clean-up to the Environmental Protection Agency can now be addressed to Mr. Chuck Flippo, (415) 974-8910.

SITE HISTORY

Hunters Point Annex (formerly known as Hunters Point Naval Shipyard) was an active Naval Shipyard from 1941 until 1974 when it was placed in industrial reserve. In 1976, a major portion of the facility was leased to Triple A Machine Shop, which utilized the shipyard for commercial and Navy ship repair until late 1986. Currently, the Annex is under U.S. Navy administration. The Navy began investigation of potential hazardous waste contamination in 1984. A Confirmation Study in early 1987 confirmed the presence of toxic contaminants at eleven sites. In December 1989 the Navy began working with the State of California Department of Health Services on an overall program to remediate these and other potentially contaminated sites at Hunters Point Annex. In July 1989 the Environmental Protection Agency proposed inclusion of Hunters Point Annex on the National Priorities List.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on any item discussed in this Information Release, please contact Mr. Randal Friedman, Community Relations Director, at (415) 765-5613.

Copies of all documents and correspondence relating to the environmental clean-up are on file, and can be reviewed at the Information Repository located at:

San Francisco Public Library
Anna E. Waden Branch
5075 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
Telephone (415) 468-1323

A second Information Repository has been established at:

San Francisco Public Library
Main Library
Science, Technical and Governments Documents Room
Corner of Larkin and McAllister
San Francisco, CA 94120
Telephone (415) 468-1323

MAILING LIST CHANGES

If you would like to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please use the coupon below and mail to:

Randal Friedman, Code 022,
Commander Naval Base San Francisco,
Building 1, Treasure Island,
San Francisco, CA 94130-5018.

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