Moffett Federal Airfield Superfund Site

U.S. Department of the Navy, Engineering Field Activity, West

Moffett Field, California **April 1997**

NAVY COMPLETES DESIGN FOR WEST-SIDE AQUIFERS TREATMENT SYSTEM

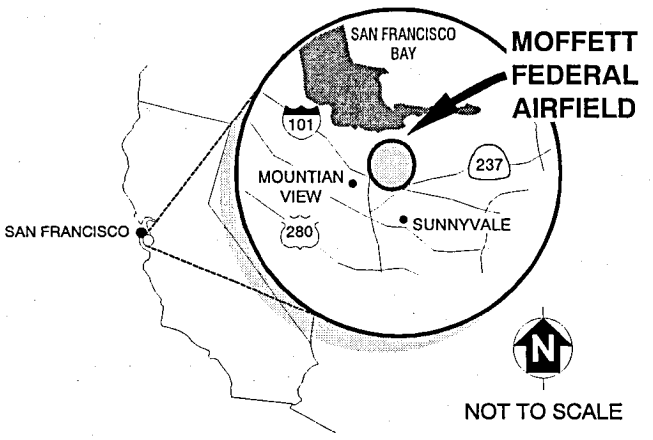
INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy is pleased to announce that a final engineering design to pump and treat contaminated groundwater from the west-side aquifers at Moffett Federal Airfield (MFA) is complete. This action is required according to the record of decision (ROD) for the adjoining Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) superfund site.

The ROD for the MEW site encompasses several areas including the groundwater on the western side of MFA. The west-side aquifers treatment system will treat contaminated groundwater from aquifers to a depth of about 60 feet on the western side of MFA. Volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination from the former location of a dry cleaning shop at Building 88 and fuel-related contamination from past fuel operations at Site 9 have mixed with a VOC plume originating from the MEW site located directly south of MFA, across U.S. Highway 101 (Figure 1).

As the lead federal agency, the Navy is responsible for planning and carrying out cleanup actions at contaminated sites that resulted from Navy operations at MFA. The Navy has conducted environmental investigations of the groundwater on the western side of MFA in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Environmental Protection Agency (including the Regional Water Quality Control Board [RWQCB] and the Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC]), and the MEW companies. The Navy is issuing this fact sheet as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund).

The community has also had the opportunity to be involved in the decision making process for the MEW site. A proposed plan was sent to all interested members of the community and made available at the Mountain View Public Library. A public meeting was held on December 14, 1988, to present the alternatives being considered for the cleanup of the MEW site and



LOCATION MAP

solicit community input on those alternatives. The public comment period ran from November 21, 1988 to January 23, 1989. The final remedy and the basis for selecting it are documented in the ROD prepared in accordance with federal law. The ROD for the MEW site was signed by EPA in May 1989.

SUMMARY OF THE GROUNDWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

Groundwater will be pumped from both the shallow and deep aquifers by eight extraction wells to a central treatment system. During the first step of the treatment process, the water will be filtered to remove silt and other particulates. The water will then be treated by an advanced oxidation process that involves two powerful oxidants, hydrogen peroxide (a common household product) and ozone (a water disinfectant). These two chemicals combine to create an environment that quickly destroys the contaminants. In the last step of the process, the water passes through an air stripper to remove any contaminants that resisted the oxidation step (Figure 2).

The Navy investigated many water reuse options for the treated water including NASA's cooling towers, the Moffett Field golf course, Space Camp at NASA Ames, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Moffett Field Fire Department, aircraft washing facility at MFA, and the Palo Alto and Sunnyvale Regional Water Quality Control Plants. None of these reuse options were feasible. At this stage of the west-side aquifer treatment system (WATS) design,

interim discharge from the WATS to the Moffett Field storm drain system under the current general industrial discharge permit is the most viable alternative. The Navy is continuing to investigate discharge alternatives that have the highest beneficial use to the environment and the people of the State of California.

The storm drain directs water to the stormwater retention ponds on the northern end of the base, where the water either evaporates or percolates into the ground. Treated water will meet the stormwater permit requirements approved by the RWQCB. The water will also be tested to ensure that it is not harmful to fish.

SCHEDULE

MILESTONE	DATE
Construction of groundwater treatment system	Summer 1997
Startup of groundwater treatment system	Fall 1997

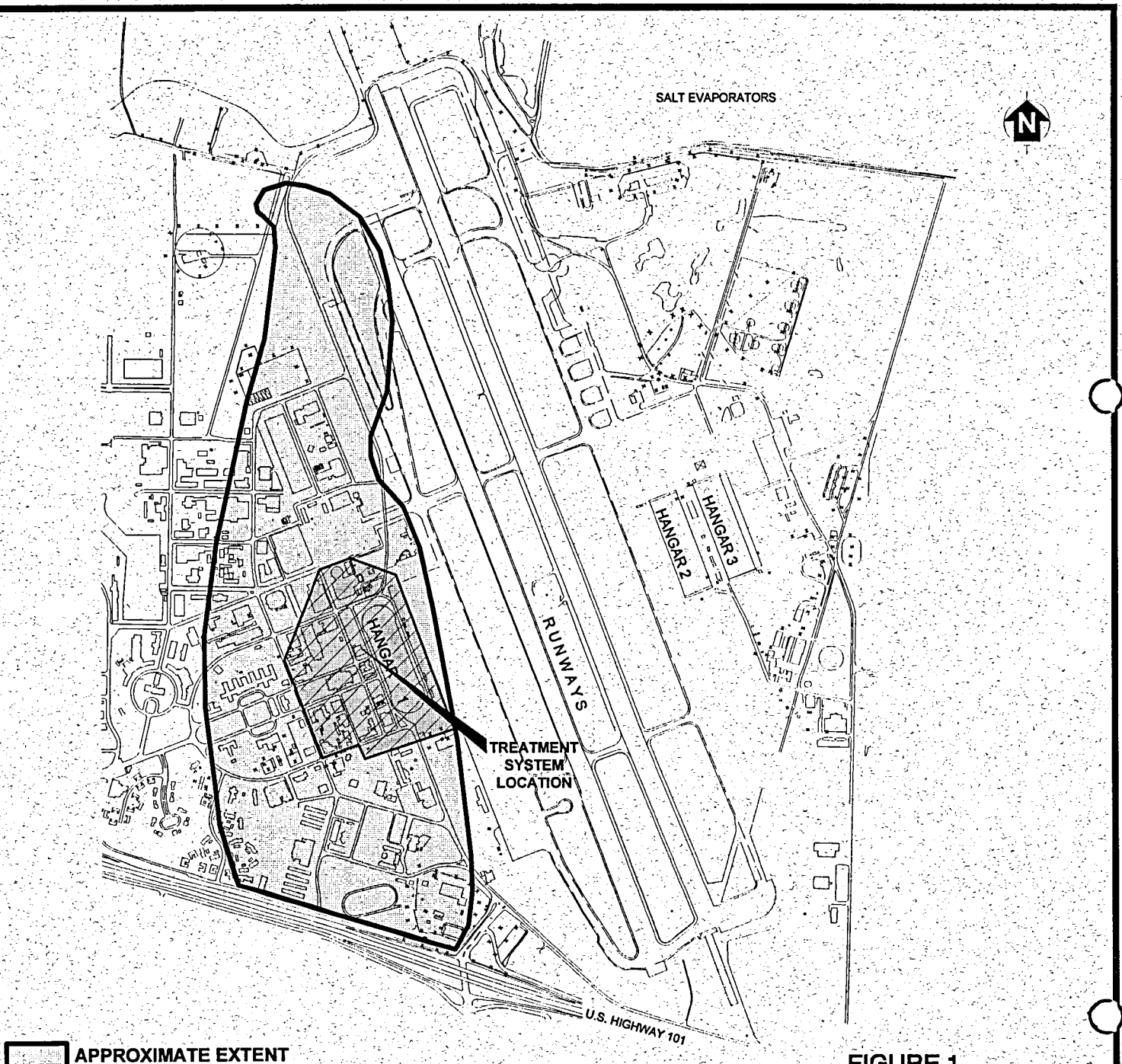


FIGURE 1
WEST-SIDE AQUIFERS
TREATMENT SYSTEM LOCATION

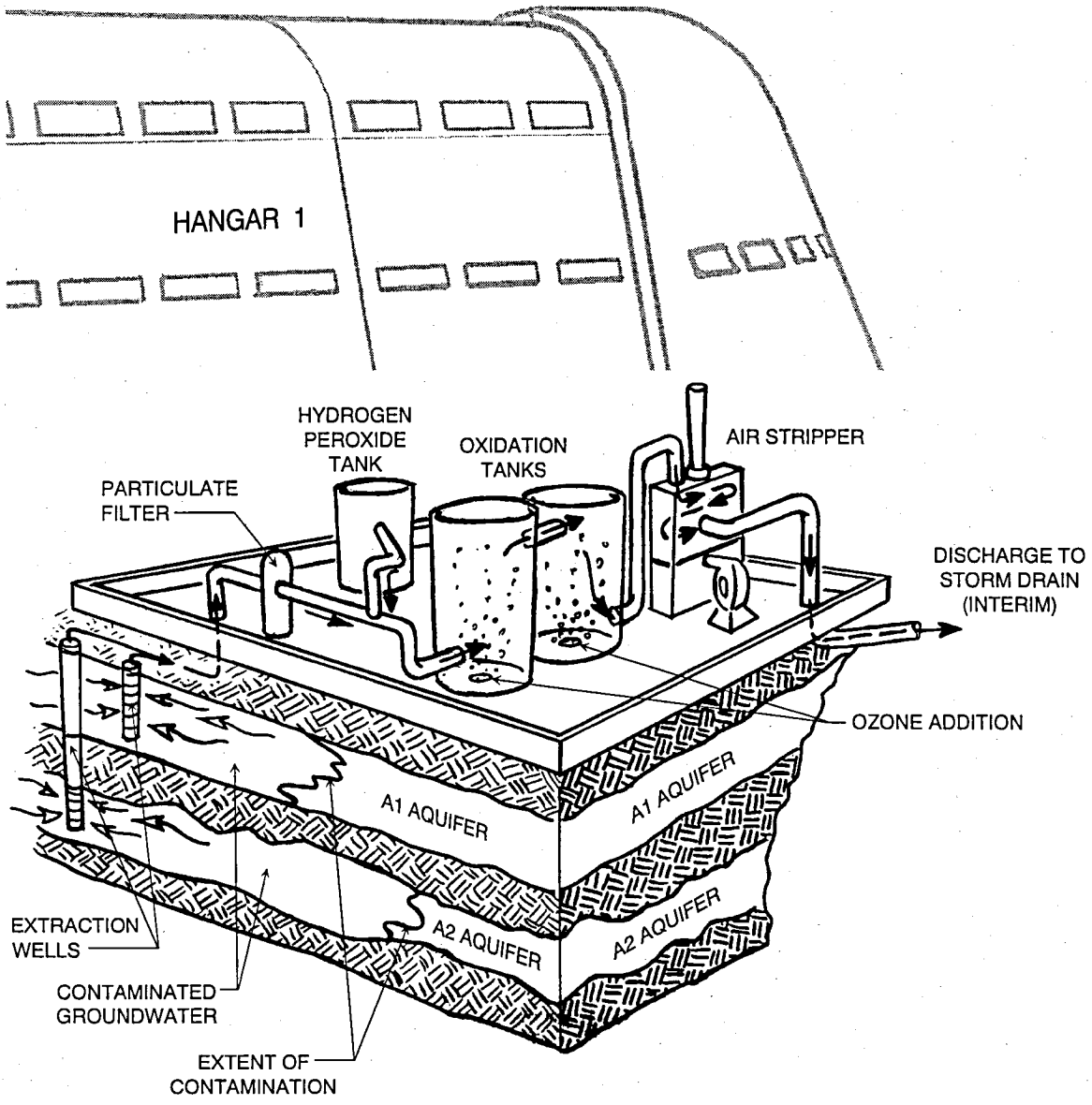


FIGURE 2
WEST-SIDE AQUIFERS
TREATMENT SYSTEM
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT

MAILING LIST

If you would like to be included on the Navy's mailing list for the Moffett Field Superfund Site, please fill out, detach, and mail this form to Mr. Don Chuck at the address below.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Navy Environmental Office
Mr. Don Chuck
P.O. Box 68
Moffett Field, California 94035

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Navy invites the public to become involved in the Installation Restoration Program at Moffett Federal Airfield.

All site-related documents are available for review from Mr. Don Chuck at the address below and the Pioneer Room in the City of Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, California, 94043. Hours are 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Telephone: (415) 903-6890.

If you have any questions about Moffett Federal Airfield please contact:

Mr. Don Chuck
Navy Environmental Office
P.O. Box 68
Building 107
Moffett Field, California 94035
phone: (415) 603-9834
fax: (415) 603-9838
e-mail: dmchuck@efawest.navfac.navy.mil

Mr. Hubert Chan
Department of the Navy
Engineering Field Activity West
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
900 Commodore Drive, Building 210
San Bruno, California 94066-5006
phone: (415) 244-2562
fax: (415) 244-2635
e-mail: hhschan@efawest.navfac.navy.mil

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use,
$300

INSIDE
Design Fact Sheet
MFA West-Side Aquifers

Printed on Recycled Paper