Meeting Summary
Hunters Point Naval Shipyard
Community Informational Meeting
February 22, 2012

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HUNTERS POINT
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A

MEETING TIME/DATE: Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION:: Bayview Hunters Point YMCA
1601 Lane Street, San Francisco, CA 94124

MEETING TOPIC Update on Parcel E-2 Cleanup: Hot Spot Removal and Ship Shielding Area Cleanup Project

I. Welcome/Introductions

Matt Robinson/CirclePoint (Community Involvement Manager) introduced himself and explained the agenda and format of the community meeting for the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS). Mr. Robinson explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on cleanup activities at Parcel E-2, which includes the Hot Spot Removal and Ship Shielding Area Cleanup Projects and to obtain input from the community during the Open Forum. Mr. Robinson introduced Keith Forman/U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) (Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] Environmental Coordinator), Melanie Kito/Navy (Lead Remedial Project Manager), and Lara Urizar/Navy (Remedial Project Manager).

II. Meeting Format and Ground Rules

Mr. Robinson described the meeting format and ground rules. He stated that the general presentation will take about 40 minutes and a 20-minute open house will follow the presentation. At the open house, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback at each of the three open house topic tables. Participants will receive a 5-minute notice before the open house session is over and the meeting continues. Mr. Robinson noted that when the meeting continues, a representative from each open house topic table will report the action items and community comments to the larger group. He added that the community will have time to ask questions before the meeting ends.

Mr. Forman noted that he and Mr. Robinson will be at the community involvement open house topic table.

III. Update on Parcel E-2 Cleanup: PCB Hot Spot Removal and Ship Shielding Area Cleanup Project

Mr. Forman explained that the reason for the meeting was to provide the community with an update on the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) Hot Spot Removal and the Ship Shielding Area Cleanup Project at HPNS, which is located near the landfill area and along the shoreline area in Parcel E-2. Mr. Forman noted that the HPNS site is located within the City of San Francisco and includes about 48 acres of shoreline and lowland coastal areas. The shipyard is divided into different parcels, which are shaped based on the needs of the city, the needs of the Navy, or if regulators decide to divide the boundaries at certain locations. Mr. Forman used a map to point

out the Yosemite Slough and the shoreline area and noted that Parcel E-2 is in the southwest portion of the shipyard where the former landfill for HPNS is located. He added that much of Parcel E-2 was created between the early 1940s and late 1960s using fill material to extend the shoreline farther into the bay. The fill material was comprised of soil, crushed bedrock, dredged sediments, and construction debris.

Ms. Urizar introduced herself and spoke about the history of Parcel E-2. She presented five pictures of the area between 1946 and 1974 and described the gradual changes as the area was filled in over time.

Ms. Urizar described the cleanup accomplishments in 2011. She stated that the Navy completed hot spot excavations because of PCB, petroleum, solvents, and lead in soil on Parcel E-2. She noted that a lot of the time PCBs and petroleum were comingled and located together in the excavations. The excavation process required removing approximately 2,500 truckloads of contaminated soil, mostly along the shoreline and from some inland areas. The excavations extended down to about 12 feet below ground surface. The excavations were then backfilled with clean backfill material. Following excavation along the shoreline area, the Navy placed large rocks along the shoreline to prevent erosion. The work began in August of 2010 and excavation finished in January 2011.

Ms. Urizar presented several "before and after" pictures of PCB Hot Spot Areas that have been excavated. She pointed out the turbidity curtain that was installed along the shoreline to prevent sediments from migrating into San Francisco Bay during construction activities in the area. She noted that the work done in the shoreline area was accomplished by excavating and backfilling during low tide conditions. The areas were excavated in 20- to 25-square-foot sections. The Navy took confirmation soil samples during excavation activities to determine how deep they need to excavate and to confirm that the hot spot had been removed.

- Question from Ms. Marie Harrison: Did the Navy use soil that was used to cover the landfill fire to fill in the excavations?

  Ms. Urizar: The fire was contained to the landfill area and the soil from that area was not reused to backfill the excavations. In addition, the Navy did not excavate into the landfill during the hot spot excavations.

- Question from Mr. J.V. McCarthy: What was the maximum depth of the area that the fill went into starting at 1946?

  Ms. Urizar: *Suggest discussing this after the presentation since it's not directly related to the hot spot excavation project. [The maximum depth of fill is thirty-four feet].*

Ms. Urizar continued with the presentation and explained that the Navy did most of the excavating along the shoreline with long-range excavators. She explained that following radiological screening, the Navy used concrete debris from along the shoreline to prevent erosion along the shoreline.

- Question from Dr. Raymond Tompkins: Did the cleanup actions extend into Parcel F?

  Ms. Urizar: The Navy only investigated areas within Parcel E-2.

- Question from Mr. Sudeep Rao: Were GPS points used to determine the excavation lines?

  Ms .Urizar: There are GPS points that coordinate with the excavation boundaries. We also surveyed before and after the cleanup.

Ms. Urizar showed a picture of one of the PCB Hot Spot Areas where the Navy removed soil contaminated with lead at levels over 100,000 parts per million as a result of old battery disposal in this area. Mr. Forman added that visiting this area was included on the bus tour. The Navy showed a picture of old batteries that were removed from the excavation because they were the source of the lead contamination in this area.

- Question from Dr. Tompkins: Could these be submarine batteries from Parcel B?

  Mr. Forman: The batteries found were typical batteries and could have been used anywhere on the Shipyard. There is nothing unique about batteries used on submarines, including the diesel submarines that were serviced at Hunters Point.

- Question from Dr. Tompkins: Is there a potential that the acid from the batteries has leached into groundwater?

  Mr. Forman: We have done extensive groundwater testing in this area and there is no indication of an irregular pH (indicating acid may be present) in groundwater.

Ms. Urizar concluded the presentation by noting that radiological screening was conducted on all excavated soil and a total of 37 radiological items were encountered (including items like deck markers). These items were properly transported and disposed of at an offsite landfill.

Ms. Kito introduced herself and provided an overview of activities planned for 2012 which will include survey and excavation at the experimental ship shielding range, a methane survey, and issuing the Record of Decision (ROD) for Parcel E-2.

Ms. Kito explained that the experimental ship shielding range (Ship Shielding Area) was constructed for radiological testing to support the U.S. military action in World War II. She pointed out on a map the location of the range and noted the site is currently an open field on the Panhandle Area of Parcel E-2, and that all former buildings or structures on the site were previously removed. The Navy used this area to experiment with radiological isotopes and made attempts to measure the thickness of armory used on ships. The Navy will conduct an investigation, survey the Ship Shielding Area and remove the existing soil berm in this area.

Ms. Kito explained that different types of radiation come from different radioisotopes that have different half-lifes. Based on historical information cobalt-60 was the radiological isotope used at this location, and based on its half-life [5.3 years]and resulting rate at which it decays, the Navy is not expecting to find remaining radiological isotopes at the site. However, even though the radiation is likely gone, the Navy is still going to investigate to confirm this.

In addition to the ship shielding range investigation, the Navy will also be conducting a methane survey across Parcel E-2, except for the landfill area which already has a methane gas collection system in place. Methane is generated when wood debris and naturally occurring materials from the bay decompose over time. The Navy plans to collect samples to evaluate whether methane is being generated outside the boundaries of the landfill.

- Question from Ms. Harrison: What is the methane control system, what does it look like and how does it work?

  Ms. Kito: There are two different types of methane extraction systems: active and passive systems. Really old landfills such as the one on Parcel E-2 contain mostly materials that are already decayed, so they use a passive system. In a passive system, a trench is dug and the methane is collected before it is filtered and released into the environment. Newer landfills use active systems that pump out the methane and store it because there is so much methane it can often be used to create energy.

Mr. Forman explained that there is an upcoming meeting on April 11, 2012 to discuss the Draft ROD for Parcel E-2, which will be released in March 2012. The Navy is currently preparing responses to the public comments that they received on the Parcel E-2 Proposed Plan. These responses to comments will be documented in the responsiveness summary, which will be included in the ROD. He noted that the Navy posts documents and the presentation on the website at www.bracpmo.navy.mil. Documents can also be found at the San Francisco Main Library and Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Office Trailer. Materials will also be available at the Anna E. Waden Branch Library when it reopens.

IV. Open House Tables

Mr. Robinson wrapped up the presentation and invited participants to view materials and ask questions at the open house tables. He noted there were 2 topic-specific tables and one general table: Table 1: HPNS Community Involvement for 2012, Table 2: Cleanup at Parcel E-2, and Table 3: Meet the Regulators. All attendees were encouraged to walk around and talk to the Navy and other agency representatives at the tables and to get information or ask questions about specific interests or concerns. Community comments from all the tables were summarized and reported back to the group later in the meeting.

V. Summary of Community Comments from Open House Tables and During Open Forum

Mr. Robinson facilitated a brief discussion where a representative from each Open House table reported back on questions and comments they heard during the Open House. Meeting participants also were allowed to ask questions during this time instead of holding comments until the Open Forum agenda item. Below is a summary of the discussions held during the meeting and the questions asked during the Open Forum.

- Question from Mr. Lance Burton: When will cleanup at HPNS be completed?

  Mr. Forman: The San Francisco Chronicle recently published a headline that said 2017, but that has changed since DoD began reprogramming budgets and phasing larger cleanup projects, such as many of the projects at HPNS. Mr. Forman noted that the latest date is 2021 for Parcel E, but the majority of HPNS will be cleaned up well before then.

- Question from Ms. Española Jackson: How much money is HPNS asking for this year?

  Mr. Forman: HPNS is one of the few bases that got all of their requested funding of $59.4 million this year. That is enough to cover the projects for this year. The Navy can only do so much work on HPNS at one time; we are limited by the amounts of space at HPNS. If there are too many contractors onsite and not enough room for everyone then there becomes a safety issue. It's important

to note many other bases in California did not get all the funding they requested and for the 6th year in a row HPNS is fully funded.

- Question (no name give): The Navy needs to get information out to those who aren't here today – especially seniors who don't feel safe going to meetings at night.

  Mr. Forman: The Navy is continuing to look for ways to get out into the community. Matt and I are available to provide presentations to neighborhood groups upon request. There is also a list online of events that the Navy will attend. In addition, there will be community meetings throughout the year.

- Question from Dr. Tompkins: Last meeting I asked for a printed copy of the presentation, but I have not received one.

  Mr. Forman: We do have some copies for the presenters, but we encourage people to go to the website to download a copy. Otherwise, we are generating a lot of paper waste. If you have trouble using the website, we will be happy to provide instructions.

- Question (no name given): A lot of seniors can't come to the meeting, but they love reading the materials since many of them worked in the former shipyard. It's also an opportunity for them to share the history of the shipyard to the children. At the next meeting please bring as much information as possible so I can take it to the church (Cornerstone and St. John's Missionary Baptist Church). Many people aren't computer savvy and need to have handouts**.**

  Mr. Forman: Mr. Robinson will work with you and get you what you need. Matt has met with the church representatives before, but if there are others we need to contact, we can go to the church groups and have a small group meeting and discuss the topics you want to discuss.

- Question (no name given): One participant asked how the Navy knows for sure that the concrete is clean enough to reuse along the shoreline?

  Ms. Urizar: If it looks clean and the radiological readings indicate that it has not been impacted, then the Navy reused the concrete onsite. The contamination that the Navy was investigating was located below the surface and they do not have a reason to suspect it on the ground surface or in the concrete.

- Question from Mr. McCarthy: What is the E-2 site going to become after redevelopment?

  Ms. Urizar: There will be a small portion of mixed-use but mostly it will be open space.

- Question from Ms. Jackson: Why did the Navy only dig 3 feet and how do you know that is enough?

  Ms. Urizar: We took core samples down to depths of 10to 12 feet so we know how deep the contaminants went, and it really only went 3 feet. The previous 2005 excavation that had PCBs required a deeper excavation since that is where the source area was located.

- Question from Ms. Jackson: Why didn't you go 30-40 feet?

  Ms. Urizar: We didn't need to go that deep because PCB contamination did not go that deep. The contamination was closer to the surface. The Navy collected samples at the bottom of the excavation to make sure it was all removed.

- Question from Ms. Jackson: How can the rocks from the shoreline that were tested be clean with all the oil and different sediments that are washing up from the San Francisco Bay?

  Mr. Forman: *Everything was tested prior to being reused onsite.*

- Question (no name given): Where did the contaminants from the sandblasting and nuclear materials from the submarines go?

  Mr. Forman: The contaminated sandblast grit from Operation Crossroads ships was drummed and stored in a rad storage area on Parcel E; eventually it was taken off base for disposal, including an area in the open ocean off of Farallon Islands. Nuclear materials are only found on nuclear submarines, and those type submarines were serviced at the Navy Nuclear Shipyard at Mare Island, not at HPNS.

- Question from Mr. Rao: There is a need to get the community more involved in doing the cleanup work; some sort of mentoring program needs to be set up between the Navy and community members.

  Ms. Kito: The Navy works with Young Community Developers (YCD) and City Build in a mentoring program that provides jobs at HPNS. The Navy also has internship programs at their offices in San Diego, California.

- Question from Dr. Tompkins: When you scan for contaminants are you running a full spectrum analysis or just looking for a specific contaminant? It seems like there may be other possible contaminants that you're not finding.

  Ms. Urizar: *Previous investigations in this area did a full spectrum analysis so the Navy knew what contaminants of concern to look for on the site. All cleanup activities at the cleanup sites are reviewed and signed off by regulators and supported by the City.*

Amy Brownell introduced herself as the representative from the City of San Francisco and stated she has reviewed all the reports. She added that the City of San Francisco is coordinating with the Navy and regulators concerning future reuse plans. Also, the project funding is moving forward even without the redevelopment agency.

Action Items

1. The Navy will post this meeting's presentation to the HPNS website.
2. The Navy will contact local churches to provide them with project informational materials to distribute.

Comments Cards

Mr. J.V. McCarthy submitted a comment card following the community meeting. He requested information on the maximum depth of the fill placed on Parcel E-2 in 1946. He would also like to know if the fill used on Parcel E-2 (beginning in 1946) was sandblast spoils used in decontamination activities associated with "Operation Crossroads." He also asks how the Navy could confirm or deny the use of the sandblast spoils as fill materials at HPNS.

Future Agenda Topics

Following the community meeting, the Navy collected future agenda topic cards from the community. Three people would like air quality/dust control activities and the quality of cleanup at HPNS put on the agenda for future meetings. In addition, two people would like to see future agenda items include public health issues and the schedule and status of the cleanup efforts. Another community member requested more information on jobs and the economy with respect to HPNS and a presentation on fill materials and sandblast spoils.