



FACT SHEET: CLEANUP STARTS AT NORTHWEST SEAPLANE LAGOON

Former Naval Air Station Alameda



Alameda, California

December 2011

PROJECT CONTACTS

If you have any questions or concerns about environmental activities, please feel free to contact any of the project representatives:

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INTRODUCTION

The Navy has an ongoing cleanup program at sites throughout the former Naval Air Station (NAS) Alameda, also known as Alameda Point, in Alameda, California. This Fact Sheet provides information on one of these cleanup sites, including a description of the actions that will be taken to complete the cleanup.

The Navy is continuing with the cleanup for Installation Restoration (IR) Site 17, also known as Seaplane Lagoon (SPL). The cleanup will consist of removing sediments within the northwest (NW) corner of SPL that contain chemicals that may be harmful to human health or the environment. The sediments will be removed by dredging, which will begin in mid-to-late January 2012. The cleanup is being conducted in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The sediment cleanup for SPL consists of the following: 1) dredging sediments in the NW corner of SPL; 2) conducting post-cleanup sampling to confirm the effectiveness of the cleanup; 3) dewatering the dredged sediments; 4) sampling the dewatered sediments to determine their waste characteristics; and 5) properly disposing of the sediments based on their waste characteristics.

SITE HISTORY

Former NAS Alameda was an active military installation from the 1930s to 1997, and primarily provided facilities and support for fleet aviation activities. IR Site 17 is located in the south central portion of Alameda Point. The interior of SPL, which covers an area of approximately 110 acres, was historically dredged to create an area of open water for seaplanes. SPL, which is directly connected to the San Francisco Bay and tidally influenced, is currently between approximately 12 and 20 feet deep.

From the 1940s to 1975, industrial wastewater from maintenance operations and storm water generated at the former NAS Alameda were discharged directly into a network of sewer drains and pipes and carried into SPL via sewer outfalls.

Regulatory Agencies Concur on Cleanup Plan for Seaplane Lagoon

The Navy and its cleanup partners, the U.S. EPA, Cal/EPA DTSC, and Water Board, concurred on the cleanup plan presented in the Record of Decision.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS AND CLEANUP

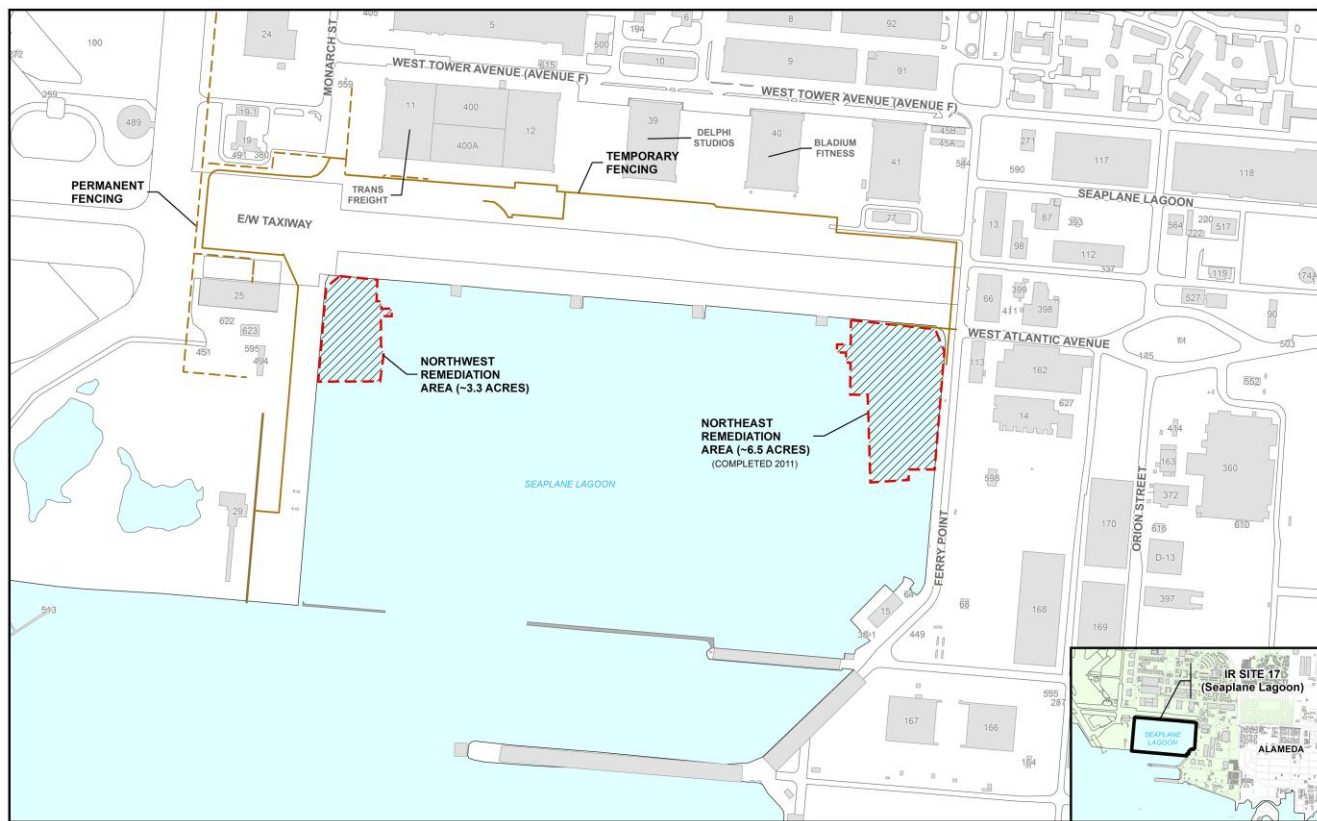
Results of past investigations and risk assessments conducted for SPL are documented in the Record of Decision. Certain chemicals in sediments pose a potentially unacceptable risk to human health and/or ecological receptors. Cadmium, chromium, lead, PCBs, and DDx (the pesticides dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane [DDT]), dichlorodiphenyl-dichloroethane [DDD], and dichlorodiphenyl-dichloroethene [DDE]) in SPL sediments are responsible for potentially unacceptable risk. Radium is present within the footprint of the planned chemical cleanup and will be removed with these chemicals.

Previous dredging of the northeast corner of SPL was completed in early May 2011. This cleanup removed approximately 52,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment (approximately a football field piled 29 feet high with sediment).

SITE CLEANUP

An area in the NW corner of SPL contains chemicals in sediment at concentrations exceeding the risk-based cleanup goals. The cleanup area is approximately 3.3 acres in size, with planned sediment removal by dredging to a depth of about 5 feet. This will produce approximately 27,000 cy of sediment, which would be equal to a football field piled about 15 feet high with sediment.

The dredging area will be surrounded by a turbidity curtain to prevent the release of suspended sediment. Sediment will then be dredged from the NW corner of SPL. First stage dewatering will take place on a barge with the collected water transferred to holding tanks on land. The sediment will then be transferred to a dewatering pad, where final dewatering will take place.



SPL Cleanup Areas

When sufficiently dry, dredged sediment will be screened and sampled to determine its waste characteristics, and then disposed of properly. Before and after dredging, a bathymetric survey will be completed to confirm that the specified cleanup area is completely dredged, and post-dredge sediment sampling will be conducted to ensure that the remedy has been successful.

Wastewater that accumulates during the cleanup will be contained in temporary holding tanks and then processed using an on-site wastewater treatment system. Treated water will be sampled to confirm that it is safe and will then be utilized on land to control dust during cleanup activities or discharged to SPL.

During all phases of the IR Site 17 cleanup, health and safety protocols will be in place to protect workers and the community. Water quality will be monitored in SPL to ensure that the dredging operations do not adversely impact water outside the contained dredging area. Dust controls will be implemented and air monitoring will be conducted to ensure that no dust is generated that could impact site workers or off-site receptors. The work area will be secured with fencing or the turbidity curtain for the offshore work area. Public water craft are prohibited from entering the offshore work area during the dredging operations. Entry to and exit from the site will be strictly controlled to ensure no unauthorized entry and that all workers are free of contamination prior to entering the surrounding community.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND TRAFFIC IMPACTS

The IR Site 17 sediment dredging will begin in mid-to-late January 2012 and is scheduled to be completed by March 15, 2012. Remaining clean-up actions will take approximately one year to complete, through December 2012. To support the IR Site 17 cleanup and in consultation with the regulatory agencies, initial construction activities for the northwest area cleanup began in September 2011. These activities included adjusting the site perimeter fence and site support area for this cleanup, installing storm water controls, and construction of the northwest dewatering pad, which is required prior to the start of the sediment cleanup.

During the cleanup at IR Site 17, road closings are not expected. The Navy will coordinate with any affected tenant throughout the duration of the cleanup. Relatively significant traffic may be associated with the IR Site 17 cleanup at particular stages of the project, including during waste management and disposal between March and September 2012 when numerous truck trips will likely be required to transport and dispose of project waste.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Documents that detail activities associated with this remedial action, including the Feasibility Study (FS), Record of Decision (ROD), and Remedial Design (RD), are available at the following locations:

Alameda Public Library
1550 Oak Street
Alameda, California 94501

Alameda Point, Former NAS Alameda
950 West Mall Square, Suite 240
Alameda, California 94501

This fact sheet is prepared in accordance with the NCP, 40 CFR 300.435(c)(3).

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