



Meeting Summary

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Community Informational Meeting

April 27, 2011

MEETING TIME/DATE: Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Hunters Point Shipyard
Building 101 Auditorium
San Francisco, CA 94124

MEETING TOPIC: Update of Environmental Field Activities and Community Involvement Plan

I. Welcome / Introductions

Marc Ellen Hamel (Shipyard artist) introduced herself and welcomed participants to the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS) Community Meeting. Francesca Fambrough (Shipyard Trust for the Arts [STAR]) introduced Keith Forman (U.S. Navy) and Melanie Kito (U.S. Navy). In addition, the regulatory agency representatives attending the meeting introduced themselves: Mark Ripperda (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]), Jackie Lane (EPA), and Ryan Mia (California Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC]).

II. Meeting Ground Rules

Mr. Forman introduced Yolanda Jones (Yolanda's Construction Administration and Traffic Control [YCAT]) as the meeting facilitator. Ms. Jones reviewed the ground rules for the meeting. Ms. Jones said there will be time for everyone to ask questions during the breakout sessions and at the end of the meeting. If the questions require a long or detailed response, then it will be recorded as an action item so that the topic can be adequately addressed in the future. She recommended that attendees focus their discussion on actual work currently underway at HPNS, rather than past work or planned work. She also encouraged discussion about the Community Involvement Plan (CIP). One attendee, Eileen Downey, sent an e-mail in advance of the meeting with questions for the Navy.

III. Update of Environmental Field Activities and Community Involvement Plan

Mr. Forman reviewed the agenda, and said the topics for tonight's meeting are 1) an update on the Navy's environmental field activities, and 2) an overview of the CIP and other opportunities for public participation at HPNS. He also noted the Navy and regulatory agency members would like to get input and have open discussion with community members during the open house portion of the agenda. Mr. Forman and Ms. Kito presented the following material concerning ongoing field activities and the CIP.

Field Activities

There are four ongoing cleanup activities at HPNS being highlighted during this meeting:

1. Sites 7 and 18
2. Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Hot Spot Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA)
3. Sanitary Sewer, Storm Drain Removal and Building Surveys for Low Level Radiation
4. Pier Removal Project

Sites 7 and 18

Sites 7 and 18 are located within Parcel B, immediately adjacent to the HPNS base entrance. Sites 7 and 18 were formed when the Navy expanded the size of HPNS by adding soil to the bay. The soil was made up of rock from the hillside as well as construction debris. The cleanup at these sites includes a shoreline barrier called a "revetment" followed by the construction of a soil or asphalt cover over the sites. The Navy recently completed the revetment. The large quantity of material needed to build the revetment was brought in by barge. A photo of the revetment was reviewed, and it was noted that the yellow line in the photograph is a turbidity curtain. The turbidity curtain has a screen that collects sediment that may get stirred up during construction. This curtain helped protect sea life during construction of the revetment.

The second part of the cleanup at Sites 7 and 18 is the soil cover. The project was delayed earlier this year due to heavy rains. Work resumed in April 2011. The Navy is bringing in material for the cover by barge. Last fall, 8,300 cubic yards of soil was brought in. An additional 76,000 cubic yards of soil will be barged in to complete the cover. That amount of soil is equivalent to filling 1 ¼ football fields 1 foot high. The soil cover will take about six weeks to complete, and it should be done by the end of June 2011. A small portion of Site 7 will be covered with asphalt instead of soil, and that work will be completed by the end of summer. Part of the project is to plant wildflowers and install a fence around the area. However, encouraging flower growth has been difficult because birds are eating the seeds. The Navy will continue to water the wild flowers until they are established.

PCB Hot Spot TCRA

Ms. Kito stated there is an ongoing TCRA at a PCB hot spot at Parcel E-2. This hot spot was caused by placement of refrigerators and other "junk" in Parcel E-2 to help control erosion in the area. These refrigerators and other items contained PCBs, which was commonly used in old electrical equipment. The TCRA includes removing the large debris and the contaminated soil beneath the equipment and along the shoreline at Parcel E-2, and disposing of it at an appropriate facility off-site. Soil will be brought in (about 10 percent of it by barge) to backfill the soil excavation. So far about 6,000 cubic yards of soil (equivalent to 400 truck loads) has been excavated at the site. About 34,000 additional cubic yards of soil needs to be excavated. After excavation and backfill is complete, the area will be restored. This includes removing rock and concrete debris along the shoreline, and planting grass and wildflowers. The schedule depends on the weather, but the goal is to finish by late 2011.

Sanitary Sewer, Storm Drain Removal and Building Surveys for Low Level Radiation

Ms. Kito said the Navy has conducted multiple investigations over several years to investigate the possible presence of radiological contamination. Buildings or structures that had any type of known radiation impact were investigated. Typically the radiation is from glow-in-the-dark paint, which was used on ships and submarines so sailors could read the instruments while in

the dark. No significant radiological contamination has been found to date; anything that has been found is very low-level. Workers wear dosimeters (instruments that detect radiological exposure) but none of them have recorded impact to the worker from radiological exposure. In order to investigate the sewers and storm drains, the pipes must be removed. Because they must be removed, regardless of whether a pipe is found to be radiologically impacted, it will be replaced. In addition to the removal of the piping, the soil around the pipes is investigated for radiological impact. If there are any detections of radiological impact, the soil is also removed.

In addition to sewers and storm drains, the wall surfaces inside potentially radiologically impacted buildings were surveyed. Building 103, where local artists used to work, was listed as potentially radiologically impacted. That means there could be radiological contamination present based on the historical use of the building. Building 103 was historically a sailor decontamination area following work on potentially radiologically impacted ships. The building has been cleared and in August 2010 was given free release. This free release means that there is no alpha, beta, or gamma radiation inside Building 103. Radiation was found underneath Building 103 as a result of storm drains and has been addressed.

In total, twenty-one buildings have been cleared, mostly on Parcels B and G. There are another 40 to 50 buildings remaining that need to go through the investigation and clearing process. About one third of all storm drain and sewer lines at HPNS have been removed; only 5 percent of the piping investigated so far has contained radiation, and the radiation was detected at low levels. All work is overseen by both state and federal agencies. When the work is completed, state and federal agencies visit the site and perform an independent radiological test to make sure the area is free from radiological impact. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District oversees cleanup activities and makes sure activities are not causing air quality problems.

Pier Removal Project

The pier removal project has been initiated because the piers are weathered and falling into the San Francisco Bay. The U.S. Coast Guard sent notice to the Navy that wooden pieces of the piers have been falling off and causing a navigational hazard. The pier materials may contain low level radiation from some of the common practices in the 1950s and 1960s. Demolition activities began in March 2011. Ms. Kito showed photographs of the demolition and removal. During the project, water quality in the San Francisco Bay is monitored. In addition, there is a boom to catch floating debris. The amount of material removed from the piers would cover 1 football field approximately 2 feet high. The Navy expects to complete the work in September 2011. A final report describing the work will be released in early 2012.

As a summary to the field activities update, Ms. Kito noted the Navy is taking many safety and environmental protection measures to protect the community members near the sites, the workers who are performing the cleanup, and the environment around the sites. Those measures include:

- Cleanup at HPNS fully complies with state and federal regulations
- Dust control measures are implemented and air is monitored
- Trucks have a 15 mph speed limit and 5 mph speed limit in work areas
- Trucks are loaded on plastic and brushed off at the excavation area
- Trucks are tarped during transport (and no longer operate prior to 7 am)
- Radiologically impacted soil is loaded directly into bins with locking covers

Community Involvement Plan

Mr. Forman explained that the official public comment period for the draft CIP just closed. However, as is consistent with past Navy practice, if comments are still sent, they will be reviewed and addressed. Mr. Forman reviewed the Navy's goals in conducting community involvement activities, including transparency; getting information out early and making sure it is easy to understand (including translating it as needed); sharing how community input is used in making decisions; and responding to the community's concerns.

Mr. Forman reviewed some of the planned activities, as listed in the draft CIP. Regarding translating materials, Mr. Forman noted new signage for HPNS has been ordered and fact sheets are being prepared in several languages. Another planned activity is hiring of a Community Involvement Manager (CIM). This person will be a Navy staff member located in the Bay Area, available to the community to answer questions. This will mimic the practice at Fort Ord. Other activities include community meetings; currently the Navy is experimenting with different types and formats for community meetings. The Navy would also like to schedule bus tours of HPNS this summer.

The Navy will host the next community meeting on May 25, 2011, to be held at the Bayview YMCA. The May 25, 2011 community meeting will include more detailed information regarding the pier removal and the PCB hot spot, which were discussed tonight. The June 22, 2011, community meeting will be tentatively held at the Bayview Opera House.

IV. Open House Session

This meeting included an open house session where participants visited three tables to talk with representatives, including the regulators who are working on the projects. The topics for the three tables included: "Community Involvement Plan," "2011 Environmental Field Activities," and "Meet the Regulators." A representative from each table was responsible for summarizing the comments and action items obtained during the open house. Mr. Forman stated at the end of the meeting there will be an open forum to allow participants to ask questions or make comments.

TABLE 1: Community Involvement Plan

- The discussion at this table did not include the CIP.
- Questions were raised by attendees regarding Building 103.
- Questions were raised by attendees regarding information on Navy carriers sunk near the Farallon Islands in 1951.
- The representative was asked and said that Arc Ecology (located at 1331 Evans, San Francisco) provides scientific analysis of Navy documents for HPNS. The representative offered that there is a technical assistance grant that Arc Ecology uses to provide these services. All the Navy's technical cleanup documents are available upon request, and Arc Ecology is available to help members of the public write letters if they want to comment.
- There was a question about how local truckers can find out when contractors are going to issue requests for proposal (RFPs) for trucking activities.

- This weekend is Spring Open Studio, which is why there are not more artists in attendance at this community meeting.

TABLE 2: 2011 Environmental Field Activities

- The radiological contract is not a Navy contract. It is an Army contract.
- Questions were raised regarding radiological disposal activities at HPNS.
- Questions were asked about what PCBs were originally used for.
- An attendee asked what the main contaminant is at HPNS.
- Questions were asked regarding the disposal of higher radiological contaminants.
- One attendee asked if the wildflowers plants on top of the landfill are native wildflowers.

TABLE 3: Meet the Regulators

Mark Ripperda (EPA) answered questions from two attendees, Celeste Chin (Shipyards Artist) and Ms. Fambrough (STAR). Mr. Ripperda went over the discussion that took place at the Meet the Regulators table:

- 1) **Ms. Chin and Ms. Fambrough:** Asked about airborne asbestos.

Mr. Ripperda's Response: Asbestos naturally occurs in the soil all over the community because of the presence of serpentine rock. There are air monitors set up within the HPNS base and are checked daily for elevated levels of airborne asbestos.

- 2) **Ms. Chin:** Is there asbestos in the air?

Mr. Ripperda's Response: There is but it is at levels below what EPA considers a public health issue.

- 3) **Ms. Chin:** Asked about water trucks and noted that she sees them on the base but asked why the Navy does not spray around Building 101.

Mr. Ripperda's Response: It is likely that she did not see trucks at Building 101 because there was no construction work around Building 101 and dust suppression via water trucks was not needed.

- 4) **Ms. Chin:** Asked about fires on HPNS.

Mr. Ripperda's Response: Those fires occurred from smoldering debris in the landfill area during 2000. Those fires did not migrate out of the landfill area nor travel via sanitary and storm sewers to other parts of the base.

- 5) **Ms. Chin:** Asked questions regarding the history of radiological waste at HPNS and if there was a threat to her since she works on the base.

Mr. Ripperda's Response: He reviewed the history with her about how ships were decontaminated at HPNS and that the Navy thought it sent the radiologically impacted material on the ship that was sunk off the Farallon Islands. He stated that remaining potential radiologically impacted material on the base was from dials or glow-in-the-dark paint. However, the Navy compiled a complete radiologically impacted material history of

the base, trying to look at all possible locations where radiologically impacted material might be found. The amount of materials the Navy has discovered is small and is at low levels. He added that the populations on the base were some distance away from the areas that were historically affected by radiologically impacted material.

V. Open Forum

- 1) **Question:** Did the Navy take out asbestos?

Answer: Yes. It is a health and safety requirement.

- 2) **Question:** Is there an estimate of time for Building 101 to be made more habitable again?

Answer: We cannot provide that information at this time.

- 3) **Question:** Was the ground floor removed at Building 101?

Answer: Portions of the floor were removed.

- 4) **Question:** What was found in the area 226?

Answer: 3.1 grams (highest) picoCurie/gram of soil, radium 226; 1,485 picoCurie/gram of soil cleanup goal 2,400 years.

- 5) **Question:** After they took 3.1 out they had to test samples?

Answer: About 1 foot deep, 10x10 – ½ 1 long.

- 6) **Question:** Alpha, Beta, and/or Gamma Radiation were present?

Answer: There are different kinds of radioactive contamination. There is some that can hurt humans via air. The Navy tested for all of the different kinds of radiation. There is not enough to be harmful to human health.

- 7) **Question:** What about the sewer and storm drains?

Answer: Some of the contaminants went down the drain into the sewer (pipes). The pipes in the shower area were removed to be tested. Not much radiation was found.

- 8) **Question:** What about the disposal at the Farallon Islands in 1951?

Answer: U.S.S. Independence was filled with radioactive waste, and sunk 2,700 feet deep, 25-26 miles off the coast in a naturally occurring underwater trench.

Comment: Community should note that Arc Ecology is available to answer your questions and provide information. It is now located at 1331 Evans, San Francisco, CA 94124.

VI. Comment Cards

The following comments were provided on comment cards:

Ms. Fambrough:

1. "Please send me the PowerPoint presentations from April 27, 2011 meeting."

VII. Action Items

1. Mr. RyanMiya (DTSC) will e-mail the free release letter and technical report to Ms. Downey for Building 103 per her emailed request.
2. Ms. Jones (YCAT) will follow up with information on how truckers can find out when contractors are putting out RFPs that call for truckers.