

Hunters Point Shipyard Parcel E Landfill Fire Update Fact Sheet No. 2

September 18, 2000



Navy is providing this update to keep the local community, Shipyard tenants, and Federal, State, and local officials informed of the status of actions being taken at the Parcel E Landfill on Hunters Point Shipyard. Navy will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available. This fact sheet contains information on the following issues:

- General Overview/Summary
- Soil and Surface Water Sample Results
- Air Sample Results
- Continued Air Monitoring
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Landfill Capping
- Emergency Response Plan

General Overview/Summary:

The landfill is still showing some evidence of possible subsurface smoldering. However, air, soil, and water monitoring indicate that the local community and the Shipyard tenants are not in danger from the smoldering areas. This finding is based on the test results from recent soil, surface water, and air sampling. Navy is taking immediate action to put out the remaining smoldering areas by capping the landfill. Navy is also updating its emergency response plan for the Shipyard to ensure that the community and the Shipyard tenants are informed in a timely manner.

Soil and Surface Water Sample Results:

On September 12, 2000, Navy received the results of four soil samples and two surface water samples that were collected on August 31, 2000. These samples were analyzed for a wide range of chemical compounds including metals and petroleum products. The results are consistent with previous sampling at the site that was con-

ducted from 1994 through 1999. There is nothing in any of the sampling results to indicate that the fire released any hazardous materials from the initial brush fire on the surface or from the subsurface smoldering areas. Navy will continue to evaluate these results in cooperation with the regulatory agencies.

On September 14, 2000, Navy received the results from the soil sample that was collected by the Federal Fire Department on August 24, 2000. The sample was analyzed in the same way as the six samples discussed above. This soil sample contained elevated levels of oil and associated by-products caused by the burning of oil. However, the levels of oil detected and the combustion of this oil during the fire would not create any byproducts that pose a health risk to the nearby residents or the Shipyard tenants. Air samples verified this fact.

Air Sample Results:

The results indicate that the local community and the Shipyard tenants are not at risk from the smoldering areas. On September 11, 2000, Navy received the results from the air sample that was collected on September 1, 2000. All test results were below safety levels established by regulatory agencies, with the exception of benzene, which was detected at a slightly elevated level but at a level that is routinely detected throughout the State of California. Benzene is commonly found in gasoline and is released in the air by automobile exhaust, which is the likely cause of its detection here. Navy is continuing to evaluate these results with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Continued Air Monitoring:

Navy has established six air monitoring stations around the landfill. These stations are taking continuous air samples 24 hours a day. The initial test results from these samples will be available later this week. Navy has provided a sampling plan to the regulatory agencies that discusses the chemicals to be analyzed and the sampling frequency. Navy's analysis will identify all of the constituents that may be associated with the landfill or may be a product of the fire at the landfill. This sampling is being conducted every day. Results from the tests will be made available through the Navy Public Affairs Officer and in future fact sheets.

Groundwater Monitoring:

Navy has prepared a groundwater monitoring plan to determine whether the fire had any effect on groundwater. Navy began sampling the wells in the landfill area on September 13, 2000. Results will be made available through the Navy Public Affairs Officer and in future fact sheets.

Landfill Capping:

Navy is working with a highly qualified environmental contractor and a landfill expert who Navy hired to assist in extinguishing the fire and developing a permanent solu-

tion. An EPA project manager and a representative of EPA's Emergency Response Office have also been participating. These advisors recommend cutting off the oxygen supply as the safest and most effective way to put out the fire in the last smoldering areas. On the basis of these expert recommendations, Navy will cap the burn area. Work is underway and will take place over the next few weeks. Field crews began clearing the site on September 15, 2000. Additional progress updates will be provided through the Navy Public Affairs Officer and in future fact sheets.

Emergency Response Plan:

Navy is updating its emergency response plan to ensure the timely notification of the local community, Shipyard tenants, and Federal, State, and local authorities in the event of future emergencies. Navy is working with local community groups, Federal and State agencies, and Shipyard tenants to develop the best plan possible. Additional updates on the progress of this plan will be provided in future fact sheets. If you have concerns or would like to participate in this process, please phone or email the Navy Public Affairs Officer or the BRAC Environmental Coordinator listed below.

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