Message

From: LEE, LILY [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D6085A744F9347E6836C54C0E85B97B2-LLEE06]
Sent: 5/13/2015 10:22:33 PM
To: Harris-Bishop, Rusty [Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Skadowski, Suzanne [Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Chesnutt, John [Chesnutt.John@epa.gov]; Lane, Jackie [Lane.Jackie@epa.gov]
Subject: Revised draft Q&A's re radiation scan speed issue - NBC 11 news - Regulators Question Hunters Point Radiation Testing
Attachments: Q&A's Hunters Point Scan Speed Radiation 5-13-2015.docx

Thank you to Jackie for helpful comments. Attached is revised version.

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From: LEE, LILY
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Skadowski, Suzanne; Chesnutt, John; Lane, Jackie
Subject: Attached draft Q&A's re radiation scan speed issue - Last NIght's ABC 11 news - Regulators Question Hunters Point Radiation Testing

Here is a compilation of Q&A's with

1 - new items about the scan speed issues
2 - updates of previous Q&A's re radiation more broadly
3 – repeats of previous Q&A's that still seemed potentially relevant

Please give me any comments/edits. Thanks!

- Lily

http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/

I cut & pasted part of the material below:

Regulators Question Hunters Point Radiation Testing

State health regulators delay the development of 22 Hunters Point buildings because they can't be certain that the contractor performed radiation tests properly

By **Vicky Nguyen, Liz Wagner** and **Felipe Escamilla**

State health regulators are questioning the radiation testing of huge areas of a former naval shipyard in the south eastern part of San Francisco, the NBC Bay Area Investigative Unit has learned.

In an unprecedented move last fall, the California Department of Public Health suspended unrestricted release recommendations for nearly two dozen buildings on the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. The buildings are currently on government-owned land that will be eventually transferred to private ownership after radiation cleanup. The recommendations act as the state's approvals that any radiation which may have existed on a site has been cleaned up, doesn't pose a health threat and can be turned over for redevelopment.

- Former Contractors Claim Hunters Point Cleanup is Botched

The 800-acre shipyard and federal Superfund sitevwsoalphabetic/Hunters+Point+Naval+Shipyard?OpenDocument once housed the Navy's Nuclear Radiological Defense Lab (NRDL), where ships exposed to atomic weapons tests were decontaminated and radiation experiments were performed on animals. For the past decade the shipyard has undergone a massive cleanup. It will eventually make way for one of the largest new developments in the Bay Area, complete with shops, parks and thousands of housing units.

The Navy contracted Tetra Tech to test for the presence of radiation—and get rid of it. The company's work has cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. But last year's move by state regulators calls into question whether the company's work can be trusted.

The health department originally granted the unrestricted release of 22 buildings on four large parcels of the shipyard beginning in 2009. The buildings are spread across parcels B, C, E and G. According to Navy documents some of the buildings in question were once part of the NRDL and contained elevated levels of radium and cesium—radioactive elements that have been linked to cancer if people are exposed to them in high levels over time.

Last summer, the Navy discovered Tetra Tech did not perform radiation tests correctly. According to internal state emails obtained through a public records request, regulators said the final radiological "scans were collected too fast." The tests were supposed to confirm that any radiological contamination once present on a site no longer exists.

"This is the final proof in the process," said Tracy Ikenberry, a health physicist with three decades of radiological remediation experience.

His firm, Dade Moeller, located in southern Washington, has performed radiation scans and cleanup work at contaminated sites across the country. He said a building or piece of land cannot be released for redevelopment if final radiological scans are performed too quickly.

"It gets more and more difficult the faster a scan is made to detect any radioactivity that may be left behind," Ikenberry said.

NBC Bay Area first revealed concerns about Tetra Tech last May, when two former employees spoke out alleging they were fired after raising safety concerns. They filed a lawsuit against the company in 2012. The case was recently settled, according to a California Superior Court document filed earlier this month.

Susan Andrews, a radiation safety worker, claimed Tetra Tech decreased the sensitivity of the monitors used to detect radiation. She said the company allowed truckloads of potentially contaminated dirt to be hauled away from Hunters Point and through the city of San Francisco without being properly contained.

"I was worried about the wrong being done to the city of San Francisco," Andrews said in an interview last May.