Tetra Tech Radiation cleanup at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard
USEPA, Region 9

The Navy is the lead agency responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS). EPA and its state regulatory agency partners oversee and enforce Navy compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (commonly called the Superfund law) to ensure the cleanup at HPNS protects human health and the environment. As part of that role, both EPA and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have independently scanned for radionuclides at HPNS.

In 2012, the Navy's internal quality control review of work by its contractor, Tetra Tech, discovered discrepancies from the results they would have expected in some HPNS soil samples. Subsequently, Tetra Tech conducted an investigation, resampled the areas of concern, and excavated soil that had levels of contamination above health-based cleanup goals. Tetra Tech summarized their actions in a report dated April 2014.

EPA—along with CDPH and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)—reviewed the sampling results in the April 2014 report carefully. No cleanup decisions had been made using the questionable data and future cleanup decisions will be based on the corrected data. No harm had come to the public's health or the environment based on the earlier inaccurate testing.

Multiple agencies play different roles related to radiation at HPNS. For example, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and CDPH oversee the licensing of radiation cleanup service providers, such as Tetra Tech. After concluding its investigation of Tetra Tech at HPNS, NRC recently issued a notice of apparent violation and is considering escalated enforcement action.

EPA will continue to closely review information about any new allegations that come to light and to monitor the actions of the Navy and other agencies with regard to work by Tetra Tech to inform any further EPA action.

For more information on the HPNS investigation and cleanup, contact Derek Robinson, BRAC Environmental Coordinator: 619-524-6026, derek.j.robinson1@navy.mil.

For more information about Tetra Tech's NRC license, contact Diane Screnci, NRC public affairs officer: 610-337-5330.

For more information about USEPA's role overseeing the cleanup, contact Lily Lee, cleanup project manager: 415-947-4187, lee.lily@epa.gov

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