Desk Statement – Radiation at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS) is a former military base in San Francisco, California. It was used by the Navy as a naval submarine and ship repair facility from 1945 until 1974 and was also the site of the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory from 1948 to 1969. In 1989, EPA placed the Shipyard on its National Priority List, which is a list of federal Superfund sites in the United States.

The Navy is the lead agency responsible for the investigation and cleanup of HPNS. Please contact William Franklin, Public Affairs Officer from the Navy at (619) 524-5433 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:william.d.franklin@navy.mil"] for more information. EPA as lead regulatory agency and its State regulatory agencies 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. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) oversee the licensing of radiation cleanup service providers, such as Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

NRC, after concluding its investigation of Tetra Tech at HPNS, recently issued a notice of apparent violation, and is considering escalated enforcement action. For more information related to Tetra Tech's NRC license, contact Diane Screnci at 610-337-5330. In addition, several other enforcement regulatory agencies have been investigating Tetra Tech practices at HPNS and continue to investigate any new allegations that arise.

The Navy's internal quality control review discovered discrepancies in the soil samples in 2012 and required an investigation, resampling, and new excavations at that time. EPA—along with CDPH and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)—reviewed these results carefully. No cleanup decisions were made using questionable data, and no harm has come to the public's health or the environment. Future cleanup decisions will be based on corrected data.

The Navy's internal quality control review also discovered in 2014 that Tetra Tech scanned some buildings for radiation more quickly than its protocols required. Under oversight by CDPH, DTSC, and EPA, Tetra Tech rescanned many buildings using much more stringent protocols. Agencies are now reviewing the results to ensure that they meet health and safety requirements.

For further questions to EPA, call Michele Huitric, EPA Press Officer, at 415-972-3165.