Message

From: LEE, LILY [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D6085A744F9347E6836C54C0E85B97B2-LLEE06]
Sent: 10/13/2016 12:37:03 AM
To: juanita.bacey@dtsc.ca.gov; brownell.amy@sfdph.org; Drew, Tamsen (ADM) [tamsen.drew@sfgov.org]; Robinson, Derek J CIV NAVFAC HQ, BRAC PMO [derek.j.robinson1@navy.mil]; Janda, Danielle L CIV [danielle.janda@navy.mil]; Bill Franklin (william.d.franklin@navy.mil) [william.d.franklin@navy.mil]
Subject: FYI - NRC Press release Hunters Pt Tetra Tech confirmatory order 10/11/2016
Attachments: NRC press release Tetra Tech final enforcement action 2016-10-11.pdf; Tetra Tech EC Confirmatory Order 1-2014-018_ML_.pdf

http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2016/16-029.i.pdf

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CONTACT: Diane Screnci, 610-337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610-337-5331

NRC Confirms Actions to Be Taken at New Jersey Firm to Address Violations at San Francisco Shipyard

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a confirmatory order to Tetra Tech EC Inc. of Morris Plains, N.J., confirming actions the company is required to implement under an agreement reached with the NRC. The actions are intended to address a violation involving falsified soil sample records by technicians at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in California and are in addition to steps already taken by the company.

The settlement with Tetra Tech was achieved under the NRC's alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process, which was initiated at the request of the company.
Tetra Tech was contracted by the Department of the Navy to assist with the regulatory free-release and closure of the radiologically-impacted buildings and sites at the shipyard. The NRC has jurisdiction over the northeast portion of the shipyard, but is not overseeing decommissioning of the site. NRC oversight involves ensuring that contractors with NRC service provider licenses, such as Tetra Tech, are conducting remediation activities safely.

The violation involves the failure by Tetra Tech to make surveys that were reasonable to evaluate concentrations and potential radiological hazards of residual radioactivity. Specifically, a radiation control technician and a radiation task supervisor deliberately falsified soil sample records by taking soil samples from areas not designated as part of the target area and by completing forms with inaccurate information on a number of occasions in late 2011 through mid-2012. The falsified records that were the subject of NRC's investigation were identified by the Navy prior to any buildings or land being released. Tetra Tech took actions to correct the issue and prevent recurrence, including re-sampling of suspect areas.

In July, NRC issued a notice of violation and proposed a $7,000 civil penalty. In response, Tetra Tech informed the agency that they were interested in the use of the ADR session to resolve the matter. ADR is a process in which a neutral mediator with no decision-making authority assists the parties in reaching an agreement or resolving any differences regarding a dispute.

Lily Lee
Cleanup Project Manager
Superfund Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-8-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Tel: 415-947-4187, Fax: 415-947-3518
www.epa.gov/region9/superfund