Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund Site | Meeting with OLEM and community members
Internal EPA Pre-Briefing Material, August 20, 2021

The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund site (HPNS)

- **History** - From 1939 to 1975, this was a naval shipyard; from 1946 to 1969, the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory and its predecessors operated here. The Navy's activities contaminated soil, groundwater, and the nearby bay. In 1988, the former shipyard entered the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. In 1989, EPA listed HPNS on the NPL. While contamination varies greatly across the site, it includes a wide range of chemicals, metals, and radionuclides.
- **Lead agency** - The Navy is the lead agency for HPNS. The Navy is responsible to perform environmental investigation and cleanup work, as well as community outreach and involvement. EPA plays an oversight role to ensure the Navy follows Superfund law, regulations, and policies.
- **Radiological data fraud** – For much of the past radiological cleanup work, the Navy contracted with Tetra Tech EC Inc., LLC (TtEC) a subsidiary of Tetra Tech Inc. In 2012, the Navy noticed irregularities in TtEC samples, prompting a review. By 2016, additional concerns surfaced about TtEC's work, such as whistleblowers who captured media attention. The Navy, EPA, and the state investigated and concluded there were widespread patterns of potential data falsification, manipulation, and other quality concerns. In 2018, two TtEC employees were sentenced to prison for falsifying data. In 2019, the Navy began planning for radiological retesting in areas where appropriate.
- **Numerous active lawsuits** – The Navy is suing Tetra Tech under the False Claims Act. Tetra Tech is suing the Navy and EPA about the radiological rework. The developers recently settled with homeowners. The San Francisco police officers (tenants on HPNS) have sued Tetra Tech and the Navy. The Bonner & Bonner law firm represents community members in a lawsuit against Tetra Tech "for putting their lives in greater danger for cancer and other deadly diseases."
- **Ongoing cleanup work/radiological retesting** – The Navy is performing multiple remediation projects, as well as maintenance and monitoring. In September 2020, the Navy began radiological soil retesting on Parcel G. Radiological retesting (and possibly addressing radiological contamination) in soil and buildings will occur across most of the property over the next 5 years.
- **Parcel A (newly constructed housing and redevelopment area)** – Parcel A is no longer part of the Superfund site and a no-action Record of Decision was issued in 1999. EPA believes Parcel A is suitable for residential use ([HYPERLINK "https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100022040.pdf"]), and over 400 new condos/townhouses are occupied.

Radiological Remediation Goals (Cleanup Levels) for Current, Onsite Buildings

- **History** – The remediation goals (RGs) were determined decades ago, based on technology limitations at the time. These are used throughout Department of Defense cleanup work.
- **Residential Reuse/RESRAD BUILD and BPRG Calculator** – Any transferred buildings should be safe for residential use. As part of the 2018 Five-Year Review, EPA asked the Navy to use new science and evaluate the protectiveness of the remediation goals by using site-specific risk assessments models. The Navy uses its RESRAD BUILD tool and EPA has been using EPA's Building Preliminary Remediation Goal Calculator (BPRG). Each tool models risk differently, using different assumptions.
- **The Superfund law was written to be conservative/protective –** to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. Therefore, we use protective assumptions that might not be used in non-

Superfund Department of Defense cleanup work. We have been working with the Navy to use the right assumptions or verify those assumptions while performing the work.

Background on the Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) community

- **History** – Bayview and Hunters Point are two major neighborhoods in the southeastern corner of San Francisco. Efforts spurred from World War II (WWII) dramatically increased the population in San Francisco, especially Black Americans living in BVHP. Redlining, racist housing practices, and displacement in the San Francisco city center greatly increased the Black population within BVHP.
- **Demographics** – Since the 1800s, BVHP has been one of the most ethnically diverse areas in San Francisco. Some residents are second and third generation, and BVHP has high homeownership rates. Over the last three decades, the population has grown and shifted the demographic makeup. New development will continue to increase population and shift the demographic makeup of BVHP.
  - While BVHP has been the historically Black community in San Francisco, the population has dramatically declined in the past 30 years. The 10-year Census reported Blacks comprised 63% of the population in 1990 and 33% in 2000.
  - The Asian population has dramatically increased since 1990.
  - According to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey, the site's ZIP code includes about 36,000 people in 11,000 households. BVHP diversity continues in languages, race, and ethnicity.

Racial Make-up*	Languages Spoken at Home
Asian/Pacific Islander (38%)	English (44%)
Black (27%)	Chinese (27%)
Other race or two+ (22%)	Spanish (20%)
White (12%)	Other Asian/Pacific Islander (7%)
American Indian (<1%)	*Latino population is 25% of total

- **Environmental burdens** – Much of the land in BVHP is zoned for industrial use, which includes warehouse distribution, light and heavy industrial offices, and research and development. A fossil fuel-fired power plant operated in BVHP from 1929 until 2006. Compared to rest of San Francisco, BVHP has high PM2.5 concentrations and traffic density, as well as disproportionate number of hazardous/solid waste generators/facilities and Brownfields sites.
- **Redevelopment** – There is a *robust* redevelopment plan for HPNS to build much needed housing and small business infrastructure. Over 400 households have moved into newly constructed units on a land parcel that is no longer part of the Superfund site. The development plan includes a robust community benefits package to support jobs, education, affordable housing, and new park space.
- **Community groups and leaders** – There are *many* community-based groups within the BVHP community. Here are community-based groups who have reached out to EPA over the past year: **The Mayor's Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee** (HPS CAC) who advise the City on the cleanup and redevelopment of the former shipyard; the **BVHP EJ Task Force**, a community-led multi-stakeholder effort and part of the growing Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods (IVAN) Network seeking to help community members address environmental pollution problems; **Hunters**

Point Shipyard Artists of about 300 local artists who have working studios on the HPNS; and **SF Shipyard residents group** who act as a liaison between Parcel A residents and the Navy. We also regularly communicate with the **San Francisco District 10 Supervisor**.