

**PUBLIC SUMMARY: Treasure Island Naval Station/Hunters Point Annex
Historical Radiological Assessment, Volume II, History
of the Use of Radioactive Materials, 1939 - 2003**

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The U.S. Department of the Navy performed a historical radiological assessment (HRA) at Hunters Point Shipyard, San Francisco, California (HPS), from 1998 to 2003. This document summarizes the Draft Final HRA.

To prepare the HRA, the Navy studied past radiological operations that introduced general radioactive material or “G-RAM” to HPS, including activities such as the handling and refurbishment of radioluminescent devices (such as gauges, dials, watches and ship’s deck markers), Operation Crossroads ship decontamination, radiological survey instrument development and calibration, and scientific research conducted by the Radiation Laboratory (“Rad Lab”) and its successor, the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL). The HRA discusses past uses of G-RAM; it also includes results of previous radiological investigations and recommends specific further actions at impacted sites. Key components of the Draft Final HRA are summarized below.

Hunters Point Shipyard Background: San Francisco Naval Shipyard, commonly referred to as Hunters Point Shipyard or “HPS,” is located on the shores of San Francisco Bay in southeastern San Francisco. The Navy operated HPS as a ship maintenance and repair facility from 1939 to 1974. When the Navy discontinued shipyard operations in 1974, many buildings and structures at the facility were leased to private and Navy-related groups for ship repair and other marine-related work and industrial operations. Some buildings were converted to artists’ studios. In 1986, the Navy resumed operation of HPS as an annex to Naval Station Treasure Island. Navy operations at the HPS ended in 1988.

Radiological operations were conducted during the years when HPS was active. These operations included handling and repairing radioluminescent devices, the development and calibration of radiation survey instruments, radiological experimentation, and decontaminating ships that were contaminated during atomic weapons testing for Operation Crossroads. Because of these activities, residual radioactive materials are present at HPS.

HPS was placed in the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program in 1991, to realign and transfer use of the facility in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner. In accordance with the Navy’s Installation Restoration Program, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, an HRA was prepared to present a complete and comprehensive history of the uses of radioactive materials at HPS. This report is Volume II of a two-volume set. Activities of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (1966 to 1995) are addressed in Volume I of the HRA, which was released in August 2000.

Intent of HRA: The HRA provides a baseline document for investigating the presence and extent of residual radioactive materials, an assessment of past and continuing radiological investigations, and recommendations for further actions at impacted sites. The findings of the HRA will be used to support cleanup plans as required by federal law (CERCLA). The HRA includes:

- historical information about radiological operations, investigations and surveys
- identification of potential, likely or known sources of radioactive materials, areas of use, and potential areas of residual contamination
- initial classification of an area as “impacted” or “non-impacted” by radiological operations
- assessments of the potential migration of contamination from impacted sites
- identification of sites that need further action
- recommendations for future actions necessary for unrestricted release of impacted sites

Conclusions of the HRA: Of the 882 sites investigated at HPS, 90 sites were identified as impacted to some degree. Of the 90 impacted sites, 26 have already been investigated with no radioactive materials found. Fifty-eight sites will require further investigation and/or cleanup. The California Department of Health Services and RASO have already released two of the remaining six sites for unrestricted use, and the other four sites are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, not the Navy.

The HRA concludes that:

- Surface soils, subsurface soils, structures and drainage systems at HPS could be impacted.
- People and the environment are safely protected from impacted media in their current, undisturbed state.
- None of the impacted sites requires emergency action or restricted access.
- Future investigations are anticipated to find only low levels of radioactive materials.

The public and the environment are and will continue to be protected from low-level radioactive materials that may be present at HPS.

Next Steps: The sites identified in the HRA as impacted will undergo a series of investigations or surveys. Some will require cleanup actions, some will not. During any investigation or cleanup action, the Navy will ensure that the public and the environment are safe. All work will follow current health and safety standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Health Services. These efforts will result in the thorough identification and removal of residual radioactive materials at HPS. As sites are surveyed and/or cleaned up, they will be

recategorized and moved through the radiological cleanup process until they can be released for unrestricted use. The public will be kept informed of this progress.

Information Repositories: A complete copy of the Draft Final HRA is available to members of the community at the following locations:

City of San Francisco Main Library
Science, Technical and Government Documents Room
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Telephone: 415-557-4500 x5075

Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library
5075 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
Telephone: 415-715-4100

Copies of the Draft Final HRA are also available to community members on request. For more information about radiological and other environmental investigation and cleanup activities at HPS, please contact Mr. Keith Forman of the Navy at (415) 308-1458 or keith.s.forman@navy.mil.