

# Hunters Point Shipyard

## Historical Radiological Assessment

### Metal Debris Reef and Metal Slag Area



Fact Sheet No. 6 March 2004

The Navy has made a commitment to keep the local community, Hunters Point Shipyard tenants, and federal, state and local regulators informed during preparation of the Final Historical Radiological Assessment.

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy, as part of its Installation Restoration Program, has prepared the Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS) Draft Final Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA). This HRA fact sheet is the sixth in a continuing series to update the community on radiological matters at HPS.

The HRA documents past radiological activities and investigations at HPS. The HRA provides:

1. A baseline document for investigating the presence and extent of residual radioactive materials,
2. Assessment of past and continuing radiological investigations, and
3. Recommendations for future actions at each impacted site.

This fact sheet also reports on activities being conducted as part of the Navy's continuing radiological investigation program. This issue focuses on investigation activities scheduled for two sites located in Parcel E – the Metal Debris Reef and the Metal Slag Area. The Metal Debris Reef is located in the southeastern portion of a site called Installation Restoration (IR)-02. The Metal Slag Area is located in the southwestern portion of a site called IR-01/21 (see map page 2). Definitions are provided on page 3.

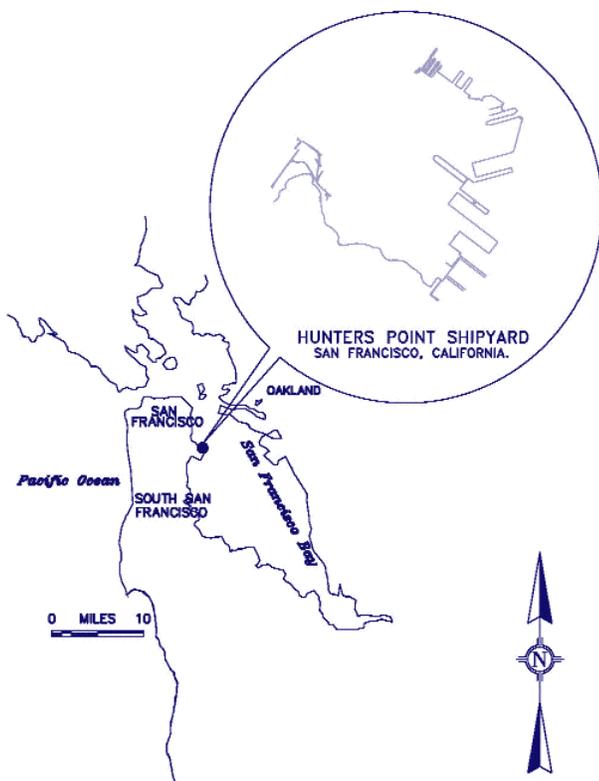
### HRA UPDATE

**HRA Finalization Schedule** – The Navy is committed to producing an accurate and comprehensive HRA. After months of researching historical documents and conducting in-depth interviews, the Draft Final HRA was released for public and regulatory review in February 2004. Comments can be mailed to Mr. Keith Forman to the address on the back page and postmarked no later than **April 27, 2004**, to be considered. Comments may also be sent in an e-mail to [keith.s.forman@navy.mil](mailto:keith.s.forman@navy.mil) as late as midnight (PST) on **April 27, 2004**.

A formal Response to Comments document will be released within 45 days of the closing of the comment period and made available at the two Information Repository locations (see back page). The Final HRA is scheduled for release in late summer 2004.

### METAL DEBRIS REEF AND METAL SLAG AREA

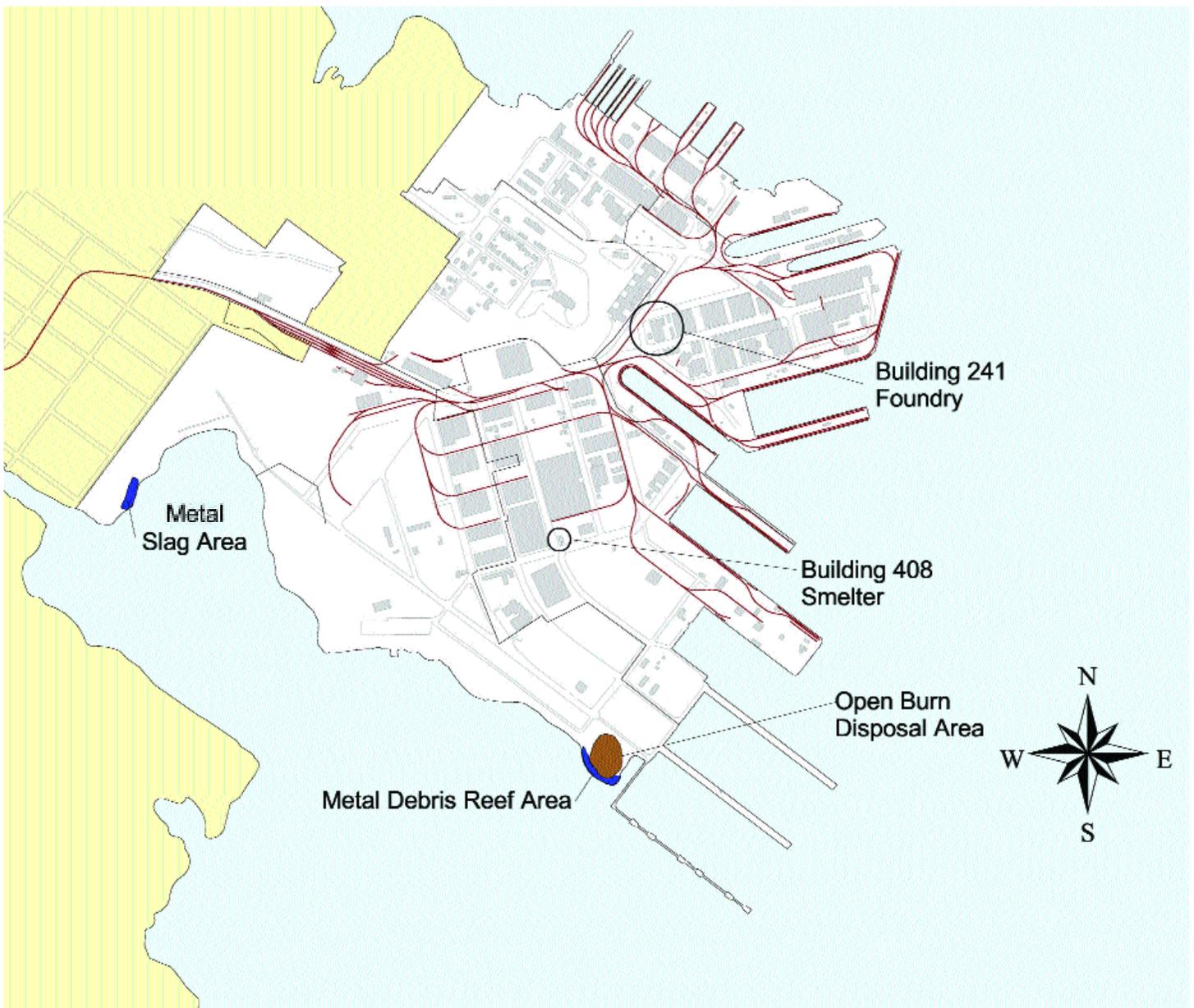
Radiological investigations at HPS focus on sites where radioactive materials have been used, stored or disposed of in the past. During radiological surface investigations conducted in 1991 and in 2001, low-level radioactive materials were identified at two sites in Parcel E, the Metal Debris Reef and the Metal Slag Area. The public and the environment are safe from low-level radioactive materials found at both sites.



# Keeping the Community Informed



**Metal Debris Reef** – The Metal Debris Reef, an area located in the southeast portion of Parcel E, is about 28,000 square feet in size and with an average thickness of five feet. The reef consists of concrete debris, metal scrap and metal slag. The reef formed from materials that were burned at the nearby Open Burn Disposal Area and from materials that were disposed of from the metal foundry (Building 241) and the smelter (Building 408) when the shipyard was active. The Metal Debris Reef is shown in the photograph at left.



# Keeping the Community Informed

**Metal Slag Area** – The Metal Slag Area, located in the south-west portion of Parcel E, is about 21,000 square feet in size and with an average thickness of five feet. The slag area is composed of wastes disposed of from Building 241 and Building 408. These discarded wastes included industrial debris and metal slag. The Metal Slag Area is shown in the photograph at right.



the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The site characterization will determine the specific levels (how much) and extent (how far, how deep and what kind) of radioactive materials that are present at the Metal Debris Reef and Metal Slag Area. This step is important because the information collected will be used to create a safe and thorough cleanup plan for both sites.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE

The Navy will perform a cleanup action for the Metal Debris Reef and Metal Slag Area to remove the slag, debris and radioactive materials from the sites. These materials are being removed as a first step toward preparing the sites for reuse as open space and to eliminate any potential future risk due to the presence of radioactive materials in areas that may be affected by wind, erosion and tidal action. The public and the environment are, and will continue to be, safe during the investigation and cleanup processes.

Before the cleanup action begins, a site characterization must be conducted. This step is described below.

## Site Characterization

Radiological characterization activities at HPS follow a strict process designed to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. This process is overseen by

The site characterization process will involve:

1. understanding the underwater shape and physical features of the Metal Debris Reef and the Metal Slag Area, and
2. sampling sediments beneath the metal slag and debris to see what types of materials may be present.

## DEFINITIONS

**EPA** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

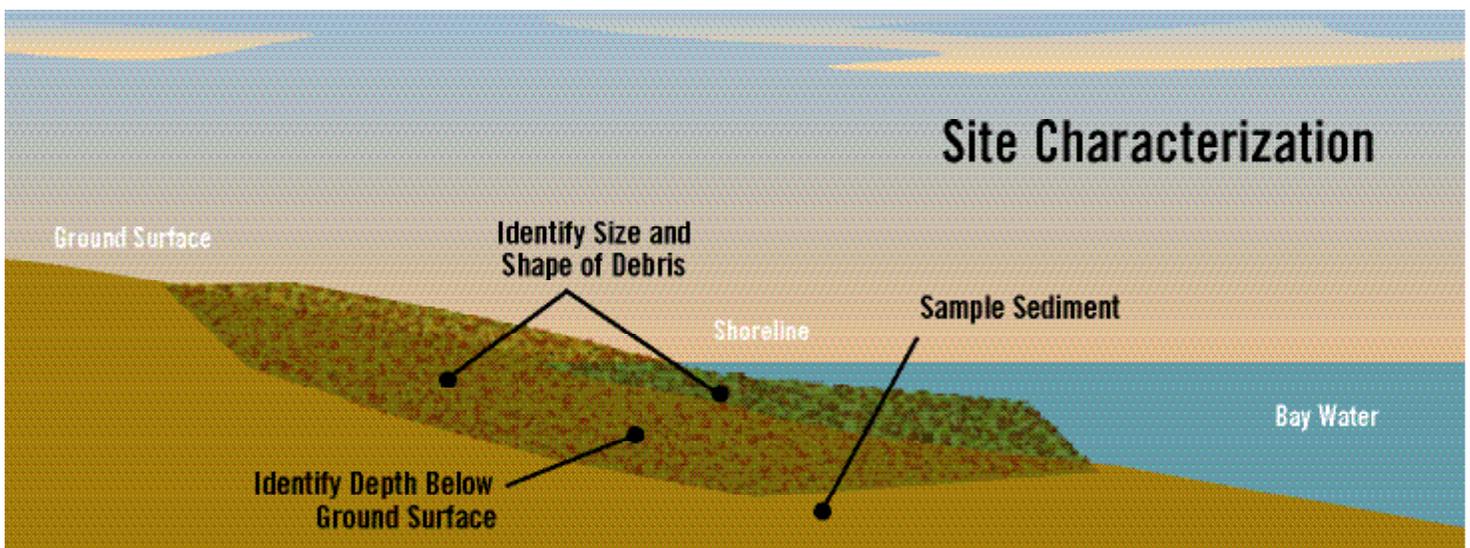
**HPS** – Hunters Point Shipyard.

**HRA** – Historical Radiological Assessment.

**Metal Reef** – A partially submerged, reef-like formation composed of metal scrap, metal slag and concrete debris.

**Metal Scrap** – Discarded pieces of metal material.

**Metal Slag** – Material remaining after metal has been burned at very high temperatures.



# Keeping the Community Informed

## Why Clean It Up?

To date, only low-level radioactive materials have been found at Hunters Point Shipyard. The Navy will continue to remove radioactive materials from the shipyard for two reasons:

1. To ensure the long-term protection of the public's health and the environment, and
2. To facilitate the transfer of the property.

## WHAT'S NEXT

After the Metal Debris Reef and Metal Slag Area have been characterized, work plans for the cleanup action will be created by the Navy and presented to the regulatory agencies and the public for review and comment.

The Navy will also continue to prioritize radiological surveys, investigations and cleanup actions at HPS based on the information provided in the HRA. Just like at the Metal Debris Reef and Metal Slag Area, any site where radiological operations may have been performed or radioactive materials may have been stored or disposed of will be investigated.

The Navy will ensure that all work follows current health and safety standards established by EPA. The public will be kept apprised of radiological actions as information is available.

## WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

The Draft Final HRA and Navy documents and reference materials about HPS are available to the public at two different locations. The Main Library in downtown San Francisco contains a nearly complete record of all the documents related to the investigation and cleanup actions under way at HPS. The Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch

Library contains a smaller collection of documents and copies of current investigation reports. It also holds historic documents related to the HRA. The Draft Final HRA is also posted on the Navy's Hunters Point Shipyard Web site.

The Navy invites you to visit the libraries and read the reports to gain a more complete understanding of the cleanup activities. Addresses for the two Information Repository locations are:

### City of San Francisco Main Library

Government Information Center, 5th floor  
100 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 557-4500

### Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library

5075 Third Street  
San Francisco, CA 94124  
(415) 715-4100

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Keith Forman  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest Division  
BRAC Operations  
1230 Columbia Street, Suite 1100  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: (415) 308-1458  
Fax: (619) 532-0995  
E-mail: keith.s.forman@navy.mil

Mr. Lee Saunders  
Environmental Public Affairs Officer  
Phone: (619) 532-3100  
Fax: (619) 532-1190  
E-mail: lee.saunders@navy.mil

**HPS ENVIRONMENTAL WEB SITE:** <http://www.efds.w.navfac.navy.mil/environmental/hunterspoint.htm>

