

Hunters Point Shipyard Historical Radiological Assessment Fact Sheet No. 3

September 2003



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 Historical Radiological Assessment.

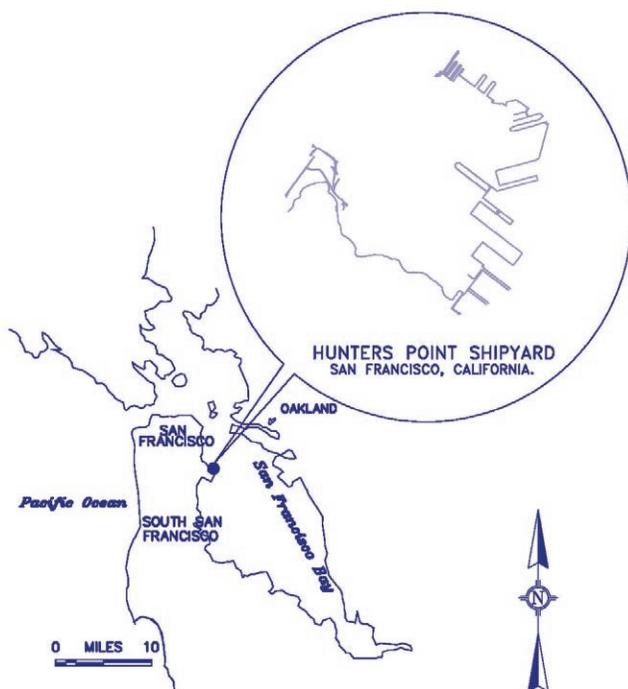
INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy, as part of its Installation Restoration Program, is preparing the Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS) Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA). This fact sheet is the third in a continuing series to update the community on the progress made in creating the Draft Final HRA.

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

1. A baseline for investigating the remaining presence and extent of radiological materials,
2. Assessment of past and continuing radiological investigations,
3. Recommendations for further actions.

This fact sheet also reports on activities being conducted as a part of the Navy's continuing radiological investigation program. This issue focuses on Building 366 in Parcel D — one of several buildings at HPS used by The Point artists.



**The Draft Final HRA will be
issued in November 2003.**

HRA PROGRESS

Historical Research – The Navy has been very successful in its outreach efforts to locate and obtain information for the HRA. The volume of information received or uncovered in this process has far exceeded what was originally expected. So far, the Navy has completed a detailed review of more than 4,000 historic records.

Interviews – The Navy placed notices in local newspapers seeking people with personal knowledge and experience of past activities at HPS. These notices generated over 200 responses. All respondents were screened to determine if the information they have was relevant to the HRA. Many individuals have been selected for in-depth interviews that will be completed before the Draft Final HRA is issued.

HRA Schedule – The Navy must carefully review all records and complete the interview process. So that there is enough time to finish this work, the Draft Final HRA will be issued to the public and regulatory agencies for review and comment in November 2003.

BUILDING 366

The continuing radiological investigation is focused on sites at HPS where radiological materials have been used in the past.

One of these sites is Building 366, the former Boat and Plastic Shop, now one of The Point artists' buildings. This building is a large metal warehouse-type structure (280 feet by 130 feet) located in Parcel D (see map on page 2).

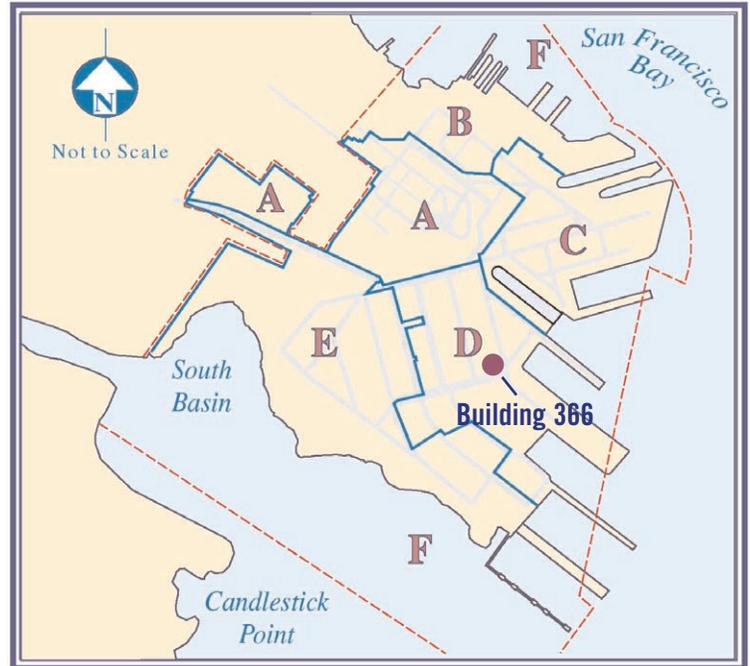
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Keeping the Community Informed

The Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) and Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS) used Building 366 in many different capacities, including:

- ◆ electronics work area
- ◆ stock and issue section
- ◆ radiological safety
- ◆ instruments evaluation section
- ◆ general and chemical research laboratories
- ◆ instrument calibration
- ◆ radiography shop
- ◆ equipment reconditioning (boat and plastic shop)
- ◆ radium paint activities

The building is currently leased by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA) and used as workspace by 29 artists.



Building 366.

Keeping the Community Informed

SURVEYS AND CLEANUP

Surveys – In 1955, when NRDL vacated Building 366, a survey found that radiological readings were within the health and safety standards at the time. In 2001, the building was resurveyed and found to be within current health and safety standards.

Based on additional NRDL information gathered from the HRA archive research, the Navy decided to conduct a complete radiological investigation of all of Building 366. The Navy met with the SFRA and artists to coordinate an investigation of their workspaces within the building. The Navy conducted this investigation from April through early June 2003.

The investigation included:

- ◆ all of the occupied floor areas
- ◆ all sinks and drains
- ◆ all roof vents
- ◆ the entire ventilation system
- ◆ the inside walls of the building

Findings – An inactive ventilation system was found to contain small amounts of cesium. Small amounts of cesium and radium were also found in several of the floor drains, as well as traces of alpha and gamma radiation (see Glossary for definitions) contained within some areas of the concrete floor. All detected radiation levels are within current health and safety standards. Because the levels are so low, the tenants have been and continue to be safe working there.

Cleanup – The Base Realignment and Closure Process (BRAC) requires that the Navy remove all radiological materials from HPS to a level to ensure long-term protectiveness of the public's health and the environment and to facilitate conveyance. The State of California Department of Health Services (Cal-DHS) will oversee the cleanup of Building 366. As part of this responsibility, Cal-DHS will also grant a final clearance that Building 366 is suitable for reuse and transfer to the City of San Francisco. This is a lengthy process that needs to be started soon so that the transfer of all buildings and property within Parcel D is not delayed. The Navy needs to start the Building 366 cleanup now in order to stay on schedule to ultimately convey this property in 2007.

The cleanup work will involve the removal of the ventilation system, floor drains and piping, and concrete floor

The POINT

Made up of over 300 fine arts professionals, The Point at HPS is America's largest artist colony. In 1976, Jacques Terzian, founder of The Point, saw the possibility of transforming unused shipyard buildings into affordable workspaces for artists. Today, with the anticipated transfer of HPS to the City of San Francisco, efforts are being made to ensure that the property will become an even more vital part of the City's fine arts community. The 29 artists who occupy Building 366 work largely in sculpture.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.zpub.com/sf/thepoint/>

surfaces. Once the work is complete, the building will no longer be in a useable condition. The Navy is working closely with the SFRA and The Point to find a new location for the affected tenants, and does not anticipate the need to relocate any other artists. The SFRA and The Point will continue to be informed as cleanup plans and schedules are developed. This cleanup action is another step in the process of ensuring the safety and future use of HPS.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Navy will continue to prioritize radiological surveys, investigations and cleanup actions at HPS. These priorities will be based on the information provided by the HRA. The Navy will investigate any site where radiological operations may have been performed or radiological material may have been stored or disposed. It will ensure that all work is within current health and safety standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California's Department of Health Services.

Keeping the Community Informed

Glossary and Definitions

Alpha radiation	Electrically-charged particles of energy released when naturally-occurring radioactive elements break down in the process of reaching a stable (ground) state.
Cesium	Naturally-occurring radioactive metallic element. Also produced by nuclear fission, including past atomic weapons tests.
Gamma radiation	Electromagnetic radiation similar to X-rays, but with more energy.
Radium	Naturally-occurring radioactive metallic element that was mixed with a paint-base in the 1940s to the 1960s and used to make ship dials, signs and deck markers visible in the dark.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Navy documents and other 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 cleanup underway 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 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

Science, Technical, and Government Documents Room
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4500 x5075

Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library

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

WEBSITE:

<http://www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/hunterspoint.htm>



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Keith Forman
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Phone: (619) 532-0913
Fax: (619) 532-0995
E-mail: formanks@efdswnavfac.navy.mil

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

