



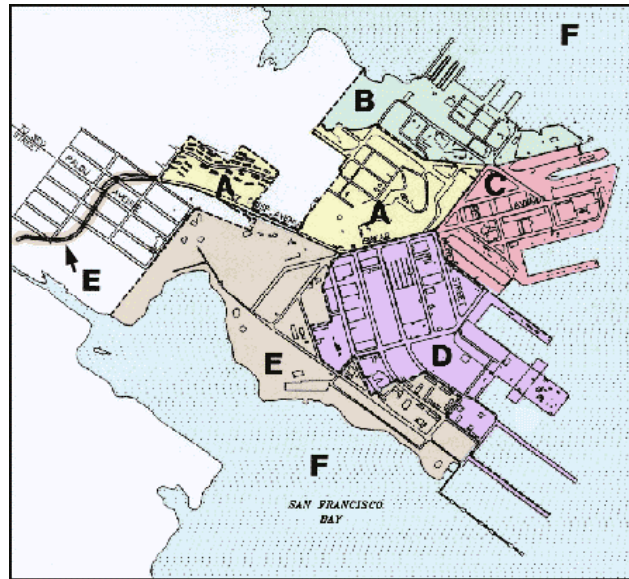
Community Window on the Hunters Point Shipyard

Five-Year Review Parcel B Record of Decision

June 2003

Summary of the Issue:

In 1997, the Navy and EPA signed a legally binding agreement that decided how the Navy would cleanup the contaminated soil and groundwater at Parcel B on the Hunters Point Shipyard. After five years, this agreement, known as the Record of Decision, is under review. As a requirement of the Superfund law that governs the cleanup of the Shipyard, the Navy's performance and the cleanup methods chosen in the Record of Decision will be analyzed to see if they have been effective thus far and to ensure that the health of the community is protected. **This is the first opportunity for you, the public, to communicate officially to the Navy on the cleanup of Parcel B since the Record of Decision was signed in 1997.**



Parcel B is located along the northern border of the Shipyard

What is a Record of Decision and Why is it Being Reviewed?

A Record of Decision (ROD) is a contract between the military, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the state regulatory authority (Cal-EPA) explaining the methods that will be used to clean up a contaminated site and why those alternatives were chosen.

According to Superfund, the law that governs military base cleanup, any cleanup actions that result in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at the site must be reviewed after five years. The purpose of a five-year review is to evaluate the performance of the chosen remedy and how well it has been implemented in order to determine if the remedy is or will be protective of human health and the environment. Since there is still contamination in the soil and groundwater at Parcel B, the Navy is now required to look back at the past five years and evaluate the effectiveness of their chosen cleanup methods.

How Does This Affect the Cleanup of Parcel B?

The five-year review process provides an opportunity for everyone, including the public, to take stock of what has happened on Parcel B since the ROD was signed. If it is determined in the review that the chosen remedy was inadequate or insufficient, the ROD may have to be officially altered with a ROD amendment.

Brief History of Parcel B

Parcel B is located along the northern border of the Shipyard and covers an area of approximately 63 acres. When the Shipyard was active, Parcel B was used for office and commercial buildings, light industrial production, machining and metal fabrication, fuel storage and distribution. There are also submarine pens and ship dry docks at Parcel B that were used for submarine and ship repair. As a result, the major contaminants that needed to be addressed at the time of the ROD were petroleum by-products from fuels, heavy metals like lead, nickel, arsenic and manganese, solvents like trichloroethene (TCE), PCBs and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).



Ship repair and parts manufacturing are examples of industrial activities conducted on Parcel B that used toxic chemicals and generated hazardous waste

Parcel B – 1997 to Present

The Record of Decision for Parcel B was signed in October 1997. Since then, there have been many unexpected findings and two official changes made to the ROD. The original ROD gave the following guidelines for the cleanup:

- Excavate contaminated soils to the groundwater level.
- Ensure that contamination levels pose no risk greater than what is required for unrestricted residential reuse of the property.
- Dispose of removed soils at an approved off-site location
- Place a deed notification on the property for future owners stating that soil below the groundwater may be contaminated
- Monitor the groundwater for up to 30 years to ensure that contaminants are not reaching the Bay nor are they volatilizing into gases and venting through the soil at harmful levels

Changes to the ROD

The Navy and the regulating agencies have agreed to two official changes to the ROD, called **Explanation of Significant Differences**, since the agreement was signed.

- August 1998 – After Arc Ecology pointed out that groundwater was as shallow as 3 feet in some areas of Parcel B, the ROD was changed to require excavation of contaminated soils to 10 feet below ground surface, rather than to groundwater
- May 2000 – Cleanup levels published by the EPA were changed. A new method of calculating the ambient level (or existing background level) of nickel provided a new cleanup goal for nickel, as well. The ROD was changed to incorporate these new cleanup levels.

Unexpected Findings

It is not unusual during the cleanup process for to discover unknown contamination or that the chosen cleanup plan doesn't work in certain areas. This is especially true at large military facilities where past uses and historical activities are often not well recorded. The following is a list of unexpected findings discovered at Parcel B since the cleanup began:

- The trichloroethene (TCE) contamination in the soil beneath building 123 could not be cleaned up by soil removal
- The extent of metals contamination above "ambient" levels was underestimated. The type of fill used for filling in this area of the base naturally contains high levels of certain metals. These are referred to as ambient levels and are used as the cleanup goals for those metals.
- A large pocket of unexpected debris – largely construction and sandblast waste– was located during excavation. The discovery of the debris pocket led to an abandonment of the cleanup site by the Navy, with contaminated soils left exposed to the open air. It was only after Arc Ecology, the Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates and others filed a lawsuit that the Navy returned to the site 19 months later.
- Contamination located behind the rock wall on the shoreline of Parcel B could not be removed

What Now?

The Five-Year Review process is an opportunity for those of us concerned about the cleanup of the Shipyard to make a list of everything that has gone well with the cleanup and everything that has gone wrong. It's a chance for us to tell the Navy and the EPA what we would change or put in a new cleanup contract. **The Five-Year Review will be available as of July 6, 2003. There will also be a 30-day formal comment period during which time you can send your comments to the Navy. The Navy will also be holding a public meeting to hear community comments and concerns about the Parcel B cleanup sometime in July.** If it is determined in reviewing the ROD that the chosen cleanup alternatives are inadequate, the ROD will need to be amended. The following is a list of issues that we think need to be addressed in the new ROD. You may have your own list of things you'd like to see in the new ROD.

Some Issues That Need Addressing in the New ROD

- According to the ROD, soil is to be cleaned up to a level that supports unrestricted residential reuse of the site. The land use plan that has since been adopted does not call for residential uses for all of Parcel B.
- Regulatory changes, such as new cleanup levels, should be adopted
- Petroleum contamination is not dealt with because it is not regulated under the Superfund law, however it can cause interference in sampling for other contaminants, particularly PAHs
- The institutional controls in the ROD are loosely described and there are currently no mechanisms for implementation
- Community protections, including truck traffic and dust produced during cleanup, the hours of operation, an emergency action plan

Where to Go for More Information

Stop by the Window office currently located at 5021 Third Street
Thursdays from 10AM—6PM, Fridays from 9:30AM-5PM

Contact: Lea Loizos, Arc Ecology Staff Scientist
(415) 671-2281 or (877) 946-3698 (877-WINDOW-8)
Or email: lealoizos@mindspring.com

Visit our website! <http://www.communitywindowontheshipyard.org>

- OR -

Arc Ecology

833 Market Street

Contact: Lea Loizos, Staff Scientist, (415) 495-1786 or email: lealoizos@mindspring.com

Hunters Point Shipyard Restoration Advisory Board

Meets the third Thursday of the month at Dago Mary's (at the Shipyard gate)

Contact: Lynn Brown, Community Co-Chair
(415) 285-4628 or email: l_brown123@hotmail.com

Citizens Advisory Committee to the Mayor

Meets monthly at the Southeast Facility, 1800 Oakdale Avenue

For meeting dates and times call (415) 822-4622 or email ctomp64169@aol.com

Community First Coalition

Meets every Friday at 2:30 at Business Development, Inc., 1790 Yosemite Street

Contact: Maurice Campbell, (415) 671-2150 or email: mecsoft@pacbell.net

This booklet was created as part of the **Community Window on the Shipyard**, a joint project of Arc Ecology, the Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates and the San Francisco Department of the Environment. The Community Window was created to improve Bayview Hunters Point Community participation in the decision-making around the cleanup of the Shipyard by providing a clearinghouse for information, regular community briefings on the status of the cleanup and access to technical experts and resources to help explain the cleanup process