

ALAMEDA POINT FOCUS

Issue #4



BRAC
PMO WEST

Fall 2005/Winter 2006

Introduction

This newsletter provides interested community members with information about the U.S. Department of the Navy's (Navy) environmental activities at Alameda Point in Alameda, California.

Environmental activities began at Alameda Point in the early 1980s and continue today. These activities include investigations, remedial actions, and site restoration.

Your input is important for the program's success! Please give us a call if you have questions, want more information, or would like to have us make a brief presentation about plans for Alameda Point at your next community group event. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please fill out the mailing coupon at the back of this newsletter. The Navy welcomes the opportunity to share information about the ongoing environmental activities at Alameda Point with as many community members as possible. Looking forward to hearing from – and working with – you.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Macchiarella
Alameda BRAC Environmental Coordinator
(619) 532-0907
thomas.macchiarella@navy.mil

New Technology Used To Clean Up Groundwater Faster

An innovative heating technology used at IR Site 5 has removed over 3,000 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from groundwater in four months, effectively reducing groundwater contamination significantly.

"It would have taken several years to remove this much mass using a more conventional treatment such as pumping and treating of groundwater," said Thomas Macchiarella, the Navy's program manager for cleanup operations at Alameda Point.



Western View of Full Scale Six Phase Heating System at Alameda Point

The technology is especially effective in treating dense non-aqueous phase liquids, which are pockets of heavy solvents that sink to the bottom of groundwater tables, making them difficult to locate and even harder to cleanup.

The promising new technology, known as six-phase heating, used large-scale electrodes to heat groundwater to about 200 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the desired temperature was achieved, it was maintained for a period of weeks. The high temperature vaporized pockets of heavy VOCs, making them easier to remove through an on-site vacuum system. VOCs were then moved off-site for disposal at an appropriate facility.

Construction of the full scale six phase heating system took approximately 9 months once the final design was completed. The six-phase heating system was applied to a 15,000 square foot portion of groundwater at IR Site 5 from July 2004 to November 2004. Weekly monitoring showed the average plume temperature increased with the use of electrodes from 72 degrees to about 200 degrees Fahrenheit within a 12-week period.

Mass removal rates peaked at approximately 75 pounds of VOCs per day in late September. Groundwater concentrations were reduced by 5,000 percent (from 54,000 micrograms per liter to less than 100 micrograms per liter at the end of the active heating period).

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This full scale use of six-phase heating technology at IR Site 5 was the largest application of its type to date. Previous applications used only three phases of power and not six.

Macchiarella states that “This project proves the technology can be scaled up for balanced and effective heating of a large area. Six-phase heating worked quite well at Site 5, and we’re looking into implementing it at a few other similar sites at Alameda Point.”

Alameda Point Member Profile - Thomas Macchiarella



Thomas Macchiarella, the Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator for Alameda Point, has a wide range of experience in the environmental field. In his current position, he is responsible for all technical and administrative functions related to the investigation and cleanup of Alameda Point. He is also responsible for ensuring that community members are informed of the ongoing activities at Alameda Point. Thomas had this same role at

Department of Defense Housing Facility in Novato, California and the Long Beach Naval Complex.

Thomas is a native Californian and was born and raised in the South Bay Area. Although he has relocated to San Diego for his job, he still considers the Bay Area his home and enjoys the opportunity to travel to the Bay Area regularly for his job.

Thomas has a wife and four children – a three year old and a set of triplets who are almost two years old. In his spare time, he enjoys working on his house and taking care of his children. An avid surfer, Thomas is taking a “hiatus from surfing until my kids can join me.”

Thomas holds a bachelor of science in environmental engineering from the California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and a masters of science in civil and environmental engineering from San Diego State University.

Thomas welcomes public input on environmental activities at Alameda Point. You can reach him by telephone or email: (619) 532-0907 or thomas.macchiarella@navy.mil

Study of Homegrown Produce at Alameda Point

A recent EPA vegetation study concluded that plants grown in home and community gardens on Alameda Point are safe for human consumption.



During the week long study, samples of fruits, root vegetables, roots, and soil were collected and analyzed for traces of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are prevalent in the fill material used to create Alameda Point. PAHs are a black, tarry substance that are the byproduct of incomplete combustion.

No PAHs were detected in any of the vegetation, even though very low measurement units were used. In the past, several Alameda Point residents have expressed concern about possible chemical exposure through the consumption of homegrown produce. These concerns prompted the EPA to initiate and fund the study.

A presentation about the study was given to the Alameda Point Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at the May 2005 meeting.



Installation Restoration Site 29 Update – No Further Action for former Skeet Range

The Navy has finished all environmental investigation and risk assessment work for Site 29 and has concluded that no further work is necessary.

The former skeet range is located at the northwestern corner of Alameda Point and consists of two main shooting ranges that were actively used for 30 years until their closure in 1993. These past shooting activities left a variety of lead shot and clay target fragments in the offshore sediment adjacent to the skeet range. This material is concentrated in an offshore area extending out to about 1,000 feet from the shoreline and up to 10 to 20 feet below the water. The adjacent shoreline beach areas are being investigated as part of Site 1.

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Based on these historical activities, the Navy and the regulatory agencies determined that environmental investigations were needed to evaluate the possible adverse effects to humans and wildlife from the exposure to lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the offshore area.

From 1996 to 2001, environmental investigations were conducted to determine the nature and extent of contamination, the density of lead shot present in sediment, and if lead from the shot was dissolving into the surrounding sediment and becoming biologically available to fish and wildlife. Additionally, a human health risk assessment and an ecological risk assessment were conducted to determine if the site posed any type of health risk to humans and wildlife.

Environmental investigation results indicated that the maximum lead concentration in surface sediments was below conservative ecological screening levels and lead is not dissolving in quantities that would cause adverse ecological impacts. Additionally, the majority of the lead shot present at the site is buried at depths greater than 1/2 an inch.

The ecological risk assessment findings indicated that there are no unacceptable ecological risks in sediments offshore of the former skeet range and that the ecological community is not impacted.

The human health risk assessment results indicated that there are no complete pathways in which humans would be exposed to site-related contaminants of concern.

These conclusions lead the Navy to find that potential current and future risks associated with the skeet range are insignificant. Thus, the Navy – together with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) – recommended in the Proposed Plan that no further action was warranted at the site. The proposed plan was distributed to the public in February 2005 for review and comment and a public meeting was held on March 7, 2005 to discuss the information in the plan. Comments received are included in the Record of Decision, which was agreed to and signed by representative from all the agencies listed above on September 30, 2005.



Clay target remnants from Site 29

RAB Gets a Firsthand View of Alameda Point

Alameda RAB members showed their dedication to their advisory roles by attending a Saturday basewide tour. The tour provided RAB members with an opportunity to see some of the Installation Restoration sites up close, and this viewpoint will assist them in understanding the conditions and landscape of the sites when reviewing documents or hearing presentations.

The tour was held on Saturday, September 10, 2005. Nine RAB members and four regulatory agency representatives attended, along with several Navy project managers and consultant support staff.

The group boarded a private bus and stopped at six sites across the installation. Navy project managers described the sites and gave an overview of previous investigations and work being conducted or planned. Part of the tour included walking around Site 1 along the western bayside to view the rip rap area scheduled for further investigation and discuss the former skeet range activities at the site and Site 2, the West Beach Landfill and Wetlands, where they saw some of the wetlands and the North Pond.



The RAB members, Navy, and regulators during the Fall 2005 tour



RAB members talk about environmental cleanup at the RAB tour

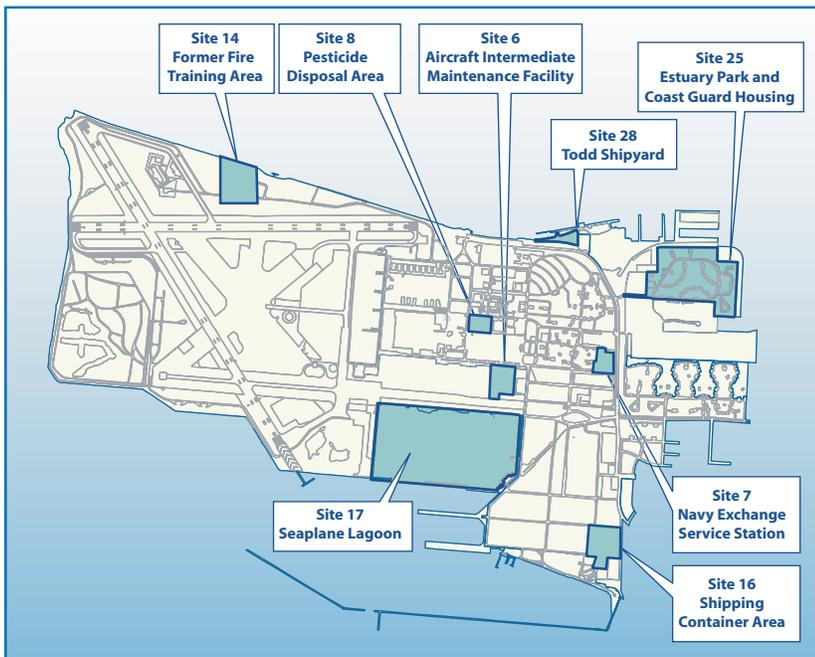


Proposed Plans Available for Public Comment

A **proposed plan (PP)** is a short document that lists the different cleanup alternatives considered for a site and highlights the one the Navy believes is the best choice. Data collected during the environmental study phase is used as a basis in the PP to propose a remedy for pollution in soil, groundwater, sediment or other media.

In the near future, the following PPs will be available for public comment during a 30-day review period. The Navy welcomes public interest and input.

- Site 14 - March/April 2006
- Site 17, Seaplane Lagoon – February/March 2006
- Site 25, Estuary Park and Coast Guard Housing – Soil – April/May 2006
- Site 25, Operable Unit 5 and FISCA IR-02 - March/April 2006
- Site 28, Todd Shipyard – March/April 2006
- Operable Unit 1 (Sites 6, 7, 8, and 16) April/May 2006



Information Repositories

The Navy maintains two information repositories for Alameda Point that contain project documents and other reference materials related to the investigation and cleanup program. You are encouraged to review the documents to gain a more complete understanding of the environmental work. The repositories are updated as new information becomes available.

Alameda Point

950 West Mall Square
Building 1, Rooms 240 and 241
Alameda, CA
(510) 749-5952

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Alameda Free Library

2200 A Central Avenue
Alameda, CA
(510) 747-7777

Hours:

Monday and Wednesday
9:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday/Thursday/Friday/
Saturday
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Update on the Petroleum Program

Did you know...

- 52 tons of petroleum have been removed from Alameda Point since 2002.
- In the six month period preceding November, 2005, 12 tons of petroleum have been removed from Alameda Point.



For More Information

The Navy welcomes your input. If you have questions or concerns or want more information, or if you wish to be added to the Alameda Point mailing list, please contact:

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Navy RAB Co-Chair
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To be included in the Navy's mailing list for Alameda Point or to make inquiries regarding the RAB, please complete and return the form below.

Upcoming RAB Meetings

The RAB consists of representatives of the community who advise the Navy as well as state and federal regulators on environmental cleanup issues and strategies for Alameda Point. You are invited to attend all of the monthly RAB meetings to learn more about cleanup activities at Alameda Point. The RAB meetings are held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the City of Alameda offices, 950 West Mall Square, Building 1, Room 140. See you there!

For a current schedule, see our website at:

www.navybracpmo.org

or

www.navybracpmo.org/bracbases/california/nas_alameda



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NAME _____

PHONE (optional) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE ADD ME TO THE MAILING LIST

Cleanup is a Cooperative Effort

Environmental investigation and cleanup work underway at Alameda Point relies on a cooperative effort between the Navy and state and federal regulatory agencies. Representatives from these groups make up the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team, commonly referred to as the BCT.

The BCT is composed of the following agencies:

Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office West

A division of the Navy that is responsible for environmental investigation and cleanup pertaining to past disposal of hazardous wastes at Alameda Point. Point of Contact: Thomas Macchiarella, (619) 532-0907 or thomas.macchiarella@navy.mil.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA, a federal agency, is the lead regulatory agency responsible for providing technical review and oversight of environmental investigations, cleanup efforts and the community relations program. Point of Contact: Anna Marie Cook, (415) 972-3029 or cook.anna-marie@epa.gov.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control

Part of the California Environmental Protection Agency, DTSC works in coordination with the EPA to provide technical oversight for environmental investigation and cleanup efforts. Point of contact: Marcia Liao, (510) 540-3767 or mliao@dtsc.ca.gov.

The BCT also works with other federal and state agencies, including the Water Board, which oversees groundwater and petroleum-based contamination issues, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Members and Associates of the Alameda Point BCT. From left to right: Thomas Macchiarella (Navy), Claudia Richardson (Navy), Greg Lorton (Navy), Judy Huang (Water Board), Anna-Marie Cook (US EPA), Mary Parker (Navy), Marica Liao (DTSC), John Kaiser (Water Board).

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