Alameda Point Focus

The Navy's Environmental Program Newsletter

www.bracpmo.navy.mil

Issue #9

Spring 2013

Introduction

The Navy is conducting environmental investigations and cleanup at former Naval Air Station Alameda, also called Alameda Point. The purpose of this work is to protect human health and the environment from contamination resulting from past activities at Alameda Point. The Navy conducts the environmental investigations and cleanup activities with oversight from the regulatory agencies, which include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the lead regulatory agency), the California EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (the lead state agency), and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Navy and regulatory agencies are committed to involving the public in the decision-making process. This newsletter provides updates on the cleanup work as well as additional information resources.

Progress Report: Status of the Navy's Cleanup Sites

The Navy follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to investigate and remediate non-petroleum sites at Alameda Point. See the CERCLA steps chart on page 4. This newsletter presents some of the significant investigation and cleanup accomplishments in 2012, and the milestones planned for 2013. See the map on page 6 for all site locations.

Accomplishments in 2012

The following milestone documents were completed:

- Two final Feasibility Study (FS) addendum documents – Operable Unit (OU)-2B and OU-2C
- Proposed Plan – OU-2C
- Record of Decision (ROD) – OU-2A
- Final Groundwater Remedial Design/Remedial Action Work Plan – Site 1
- 90% Remedial Design – Site 2
- Interim Remedial Action Completion Report (RACR) – Site 28
- Two final RACRs – Sites 8, and 16 (soil)
- Radiological clearance of former sewer line F, Buildings 7, 12, 66, 309, 310, the Building 114 courtyard, the seaplane ramp, and the former smelter area.

The following field activities were conducted:

- Remedial Action for groundwater – Site 1, OU-5/IR02 (Sites 25, 30, and 31)
- Sediment dredging – Sites 17 and 24
- Basewide groundwater monitoring – Sites 14, 26, 27 and 28
- Radiological characterization survey – Site 32
- Time-Critical Removal Action to address polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) – Site 33.

Site 1 Chemical Oxidation Treatment

Navy Project Manager Discusses a Site with Community Members During 2012 Site Tour

Community Involvement Items/Activities:

- Held six Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings
- Held one public meeting to gather input on the OU-2C Proposed Plan
- Conducted one site tour for more than 50 community members
- Maintained Navy website and information repositories
- Issued one newsletter and one fact sheet.
- RAB contributed to Site 2 Remedial Design by identifying specific native species with which to revegetate the soil cover.

Planned Activities For 2013

Documents

- Revised Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study – Site 32
- Final Focused Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan, and ROD Amendment – Site 1
- Two Proposed Plans: Site 1 and OU-2B
- Final Remedial Action Work Plan – OU-2A
- Final RODs – OU-2B and OU-2C
- Final Remedial Action Work Plan – Site 2
- Remedial Action Work Plan – Site 6
- Remedial Action Completion Report – Sites 7, 16 (groundwater), 17, and 34
- Remedial design/remedial action work plan – Site 34 and OU-3
- Radiological Services Work Plan for Decontaminating Buildings 5 and 400
- Final Survey Reports for Buildings 7, 44, 66, 113, 114, 346, 353, 497, Pier 3, and the Former Smelter Area (all unrestricted release)
- Basewide Groundwater Monitoring annual report - 2012
- Alameda Point Finding of Suitability to Transfer

Radiological Technician takes a measurement to detect surface contamination

Site 34 Overview

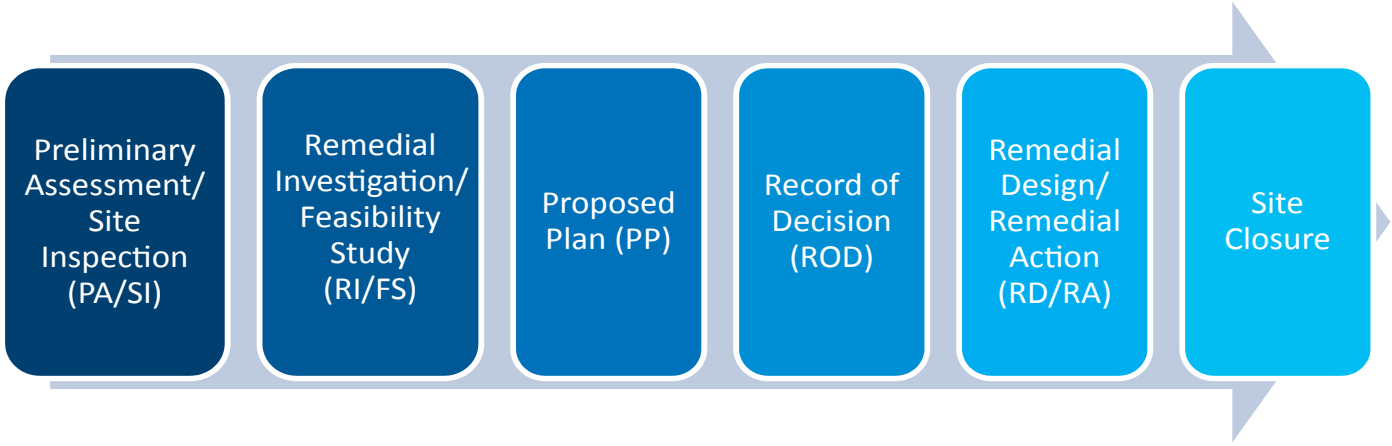
Field Activities

- Additional radiological investigation – Site 32
- Additional radiological investigation and decontamination – Buildings 5 and 400
- Remedial action to address metals, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds in soil – Site 34
- Radiological scan, placement of landfill cover, and revegetation – Site 2
- Remedial action to address solvents in groundwater – OU-2A
- Pre-design sampling to gather information to prepare the remedial design – OU-2B
- Remedial action for groundwater and soil remedies – Site 1
- Basewide Groundwater Monitoring

Community Involvement Items/Activities

- Six Restoration Advisory Board meetings
- Two Proposed Plan public meetings for Site 1 and OU-2B
- One newsletter
- Other fact sheets as necessary

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Process



UPDATE ON THE PETROLEUM PROGRAM

The petroleum program was created to investigate and address soil and groundwater contamination related to petroleum products, which are excluded from CERCLA regulations. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is the lead regulatory agency providing oversight and closure approval for petroleum sites.

The petroleum program at Alameda Point has 221 open petroleum features, which include both known and suspected petroleum releases:

- 3 Areas of Concern
- 70 Aboveground Storage Tanks
- 70 Underground Storage Tanks
- 21 Corrective Action Areas
- 5 Generator Accumulation Points
- 15 Oil/Water Separators
- 2 Waste Discharge Areas
- 28 Fuel Lines, and
- 7 Miscellaneous Sites

There are some petroleum sites at Alameda Point with ongoing treatment. One of the treatments that will be used for petroleum contamination at Alameda Point is air sparging along with soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE). AS/SVE will be used at Corrective Action Area 4C, 7, and at Building 410. AS is the process of pumping air underground to volatilize contamination below the water table which will enable SVE, the process of applying a vacuum to selected wells, to extract the vapors. (For more information about AS/SVE, see the U.S. EPA's Citizen's Guide at *http://www.clu-in.org/download/Citizens/a_citizens_guide_to_soil_vapor_extraction_and_air_sparging.pdf*)

Since 2011, the Navy has prepared 65 site closure summaries requesting closure of specific features. The Navy is working with the Water Board to review and close those sites. In 2011, the Navy and its contractor conducted a data gap investigation to evaluate various petroleum sites for potential closure. During the data gap investigation, field workers collected 663 soil samples and 209 groundwater samples to better assess 73 of the open petroleum features. Of those 73 features assessed, 32 are suitable for closure, 15 features need to have associated fuel lines evaluated, and 26 features need additional investigation. The Navy continues to make progress with the petroleum program and plans to conduct additional data gaps investigations, petroleum corrective actions, petroleum program groundwater monitoring, to submit closure requests, and receive additional site closures in 2013.

Dual Vacuum Extraction Well Installation at Building 410

ALAMEDA POINT TEAM MEMBER PROFILE: DEREK ROBINSON

The investigation and clean-up of Alameda Point is a large task, with numerous team members working together. We recently talked with one of the persons in charge of coordinating the cleanup activities at Alameda Point, Mr. Derek Robinson.

Derek Robinson

AP Times: You are the BRAC Environmental Coordinator. What are the responsibilities of that job?

Robinson: I have three primary responsibilities:

1) ensuring execution of the environmental clean-up program for the Former Naval Air Station Alameda,
2) coordinating and leading the BRAC Clean-up Team (BCT), consisting of regulatory agency members, local government representatives, and Navy, and
3) communicating with the Alameda community, media, and local organizations - including acting as the Navy Co-Chair for the Restoration Advisory Board community meetings.

AP Times: Where did you go to school, and what did you study?

Robinson: I attended the University of California, San Diego and earned a Bachelors of Science in chemical engineering with an emphasis in environmental studies and environmental chemistry.

AP Times: How would you characterize the status of cleanup at Alameda Point? Should the community expect to see their city begin redevelopment soon?

Robinson: The environmental program at Alameda Point is mature. Of the 34 IR sites at Alameda Point, by the end of 2013, I expect that all but one will have entered the clean-up phase.

AP Times: As BEC, you are also the RAB Co-Chair. Tell us about the RAB, and the part it plays in cleanup.

Robinson: The RAB plays a vital role in the community outreach aspect of our program and enables the Navy to receive direct feedback and preferences on clean-up activities. During these meetings, the Navy also communicates the restoration progress, responds to public inquiries, gives presentations, and addresses community concerns.

AP Times: What has been most challenging about the cleanup at Alameda Point?

Robinson: Balancing priorities and gaining acceptance of our actions is the most difficult aspect of this position. Protection of human health and the environment, community desires, regulatory agency guidance, budgetary constraints, and Navy policies all have to be captured and weighed within the framework of the CERCLA process. I truly believe that at the end of the day, the best path forward comes out this collaborative process.

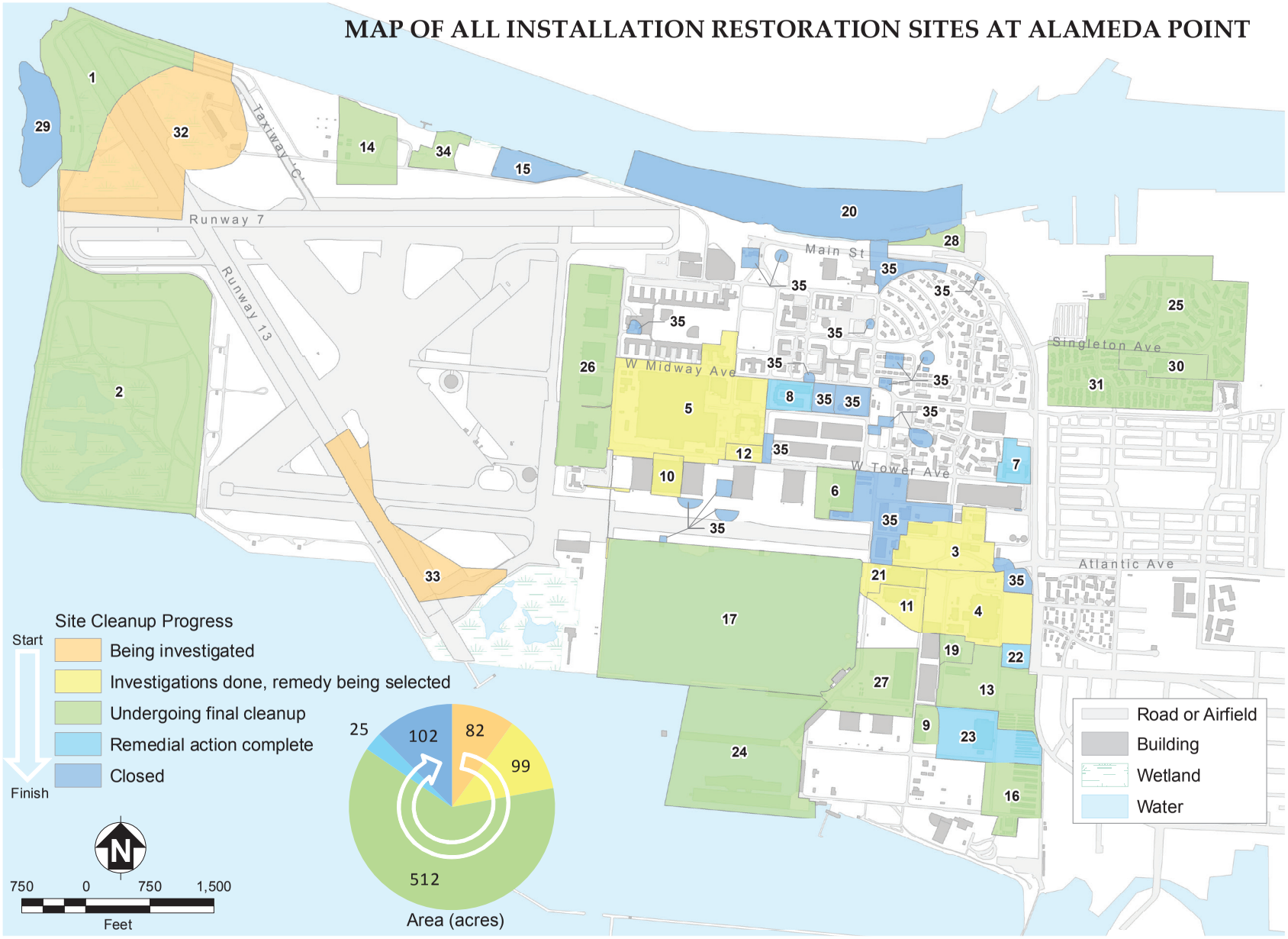
AP Times: What is the most rewarding part of your job as BEC at Alameda Point?

Robinson: The most rewarding part of my position will be to see a vibrant community at Alameda Point 10 years from now. In the meantime, I get a lot of satisfaction in finding creative ways to meet competing priorities.

AP Times: Your office is in San Diego, but you travel to Alameda often. What do you most enjoy about the time you spend in Alameda?

Robinson: Over the last 6 years, I have really fallen in love with the community and people of Alameda and can't wait to see them take advantage of the amazing resource the Navy will be transferring to them.

For Derek's contact information and to find out where you can learn more about the cleanup at Alameda Point, see page 7



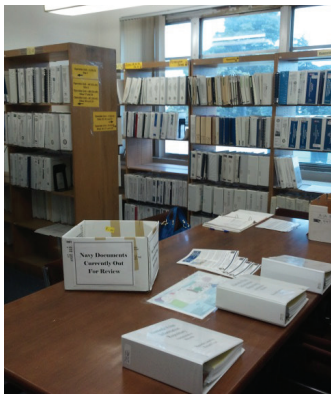
Alameda Point has 34 Installation Restoration (IR) sites. The 34 sites are grouped into 10 operable units (OU), and are in varying stages of investigation and cleanup. Currently 8 sites have reached closure or have the final remedy completed and are ready to close; 17 sites are undergoing active cleanup, where a final remedy has been selected and is being implemented, 7 sites are through investigation and the best remedy is still being selected with input from the public, and 2 sites are still under investigation.

How Do I Get More Information?

Visit the Navy's Website:
www.bracpmo.navy.mil
Click the "Prior BRAC Installations" drop-down menu
Select "Former NAS Alameda"

Visit the Information Repository, located at:
950 W. Mall Square - Building 1, Room 240, Alameda, CA, 94501

Attend a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting:
Currently scheduled for the second Thursday of every odd numbered month (January, March, May, July, September, and November). Meetings are 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 950 West Mall Square, Building 1, Room 140, Alameda, California 94510



Alameda Point Information Repository

Contact a Member of the BRAC Cleanup Team:

Mr. Derek Robinson
Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office West
1455 Frazee Road, Suite 900,
San Diego, CA 92108-4310
Phone: (619) 532-0951
E-mail: derek.j.robinson1@navy.mil

Ms. Xuan-Mai Tran
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-2,
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 972-3002
E-mail: tran.xuan-mai@epa.gov

Mr. Christopher Lichens
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-3
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 972-3149
E-mail: lichens.christopher@epa.gov

Mr. James Fyfe
Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
Phone: (510) 540-3850
E-mail: james.fyfe@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. John West
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400,
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 622-2438
E-mail: john.west@waterboards.ca.gov

Receive Newsletters and Mailings from the Navy

To be included in the Navy's mailing list for Alameda Point please complete and return this mailing coupon. The Navy mails newsletters one to two times a year, and periodically sends announcements and site specific information to the mailing list. In addition, the Navy sends monthly reminders about Restoration Advisory Board meetings to the email distribution list. You may choose to be on our hard copy mailing list, our email distribution list, or both. Use the mailing list coupon, or send an email with your full name and complete mailing or email address to Derek Robinson: derek.j.robinson1@navy.mil.

NAME _____

E-MAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

☐ **Please add me to the email mailing list**

☐ **Please add me to the hard copy mailing list**

Mr. Derek Robinson
Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator
1455 Frazee Rd., Suite 900
San Diego, CA 92108-4310