



FACT SHEET

FORMER MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD

Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis/ Interim Remedial Action Plan for the Munitions Non-Time-Critical Removal Action at the Production Manufacturing Area and South Shore Area

March 2011

The Department of the Navy proposes to perform a non-time-critical removal action (NTCRA) to address potential buried munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) at the Production Manufacturing Area (PMA) and South Shore Area (SSA) located on the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINS) in Vallejo, California (Figure 1). The potential presence of buried MEC is related to the historical uses of the PMA and SSA including production, storage, handling, and disposal of munitions.

The Navy plans to conduct the NTCRA as described in the Draft Final Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis/Interim Remedial Action Plan (EECA/IRAP). This fact sheet provides information regarding the EECA/IRAP and describes opportunities for the community to provide comments regarding the proposed NTCRA.

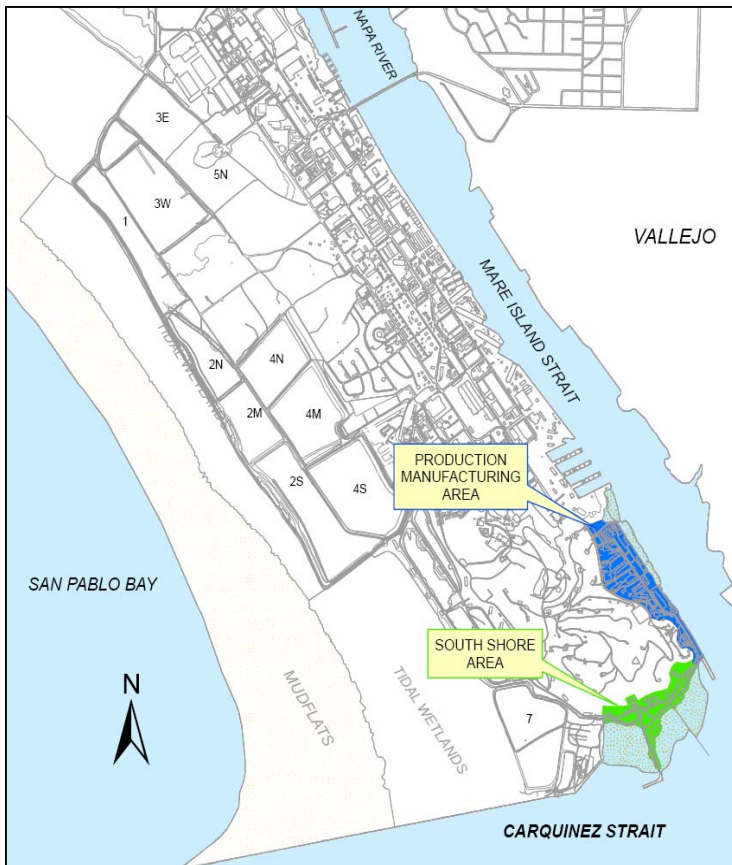


Figure 1
Production Manufacturing Area and South Shore Area

What is the Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis/Interim Remedial Action Plan?

The EECA/IRAP documents the Navy's plan to conduct a NTCRA at the PMA and SSA. It provides the site conditions, current hazards to human health and the environment, extent of potential contamination requiring removal, development of objectives for a removal action, and evaluates the removal action alternatives suitable for cleaning up the contamination.

The NTCRA objective is to reduce the threat to human health, welfare, and the environment posed by hazards from potential buried MEC. The EECA/IRAP includes a discussion of the alternatives evaluated to accomplish this objective, and describes the preferred removal action alternative based on a comparison of the relative effectiveness, implementability, and cost for each of the alternatives.

The Draft Final EECA/IRAP has been reviewed by the California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). You are invited to review the document and provide written comments to the Navy or DTSC, as well as attend a public meeting (see shaded box below).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

We encourage your review and public comment on the Draft Final Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis/Interim Remedial Action Plan. A 30-day public comment period will run from March 7 until April 4, 2011. Written comments may be submitted to the Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator or the DTSC Remedial Project Manager (see contact information on the last page). All comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on April 4, 2011.

The Navy and DTSC will present the project to interested community members and provide an opportunity for public questions/comments at the March Restoration Advisory Board Meeting.

Date: March 24, 2011

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Mare Island Conference Center
375 G Street, Vallejo, California 94592

All comments received from the public will be reviewed and considered. The final document will be placed in the information repositories listed on the next page of this fact sheet.

What is the Non-Time-Critical Removal Action?

A digital geophysical mapping survey of the sites was performed in 2006 to identify locations with magnetic characteristics potentially representing buried MEC, including the 20-millimeter diameter anti-aircraft projectile (Figure 2) that represents the smallest MEC item likely to be encountered. The survey identified many locations representing buried metallic objects which could contain MEC.

The NTCRA involves excavation and removal of potential MEC at locations identified by the geophysical survey within areas considered most likely to contain additional munitions as well as a portion of the locations within the remaining open areas. This action is intended to significantly reduce the potential to contact buried MEC which may remain and could pose a threat at the PMA and SSA.

What is the History of the Site?

The PMA and SSA are located on the southern end of Mare Island (see Figure 1). The sites are currently restricted from public use and remain the property of the Navy.

The southern portion of Mare Island, otherwise known as the ordnance facility, served a critical role as a munitions storage and projection facility from 1857 until 1975. In the early years the ordnance facility was used to store and process the ammunition used aboard Naval ships. Black powder munitions were emptied and refilled while ships were undergoing repair at MINS. Facilities for loading gun-cotton were constructed in the 1890s and the loading of projectiles with ammonium picrate (Explosive D) was implemented by the beginning of World War I. Ammunition manufacturing operations were initiated in 1936.

Many of the existing PMA production buildings were constructed during the period between 1936 and the beginning of World War I. Ordnance was received, maintained, refurbished, removed from military use, subjected to quality assurance testing, and loaded on and off ships at the PMA and SSA portions of the ordnance facility.

A wide variety of buried munitions items have been detected and removed from portions of the PMA and SSA, including propellants, munitions items filled with high explosives, small arms ammunition, fuzes, primers, and minor to medium caliber gun ammunition. Based on this history the potential exists for munitions items to still be present at the sites.



Figure 2
20-millimeter, 1.1-inch, and 40-millimeter Projectiles

What is the Intended Reuse of the PMA and SSA?

Potential future reuses for the sites include a regional park, recreational area and wildlife preserve, wetlands/open space, and light/industrial commercial uses.

How will Munitions be Removed and When Will it Happen?

Locations containing potential MEC will be excavated to a minimum depth of 4 feet below ground surface and 2-foot radius laterally. If MEC is encountered, the excavation will be expanded laterally to include the surrounding locations containing potential munitions items within a 25-foot radius. The field work is expected to commence during the spring/fall of 2012.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In compliance with the CEQA, DTSC has prepared a Draft Initial Study to evaluate environmental impacts from the proposed NTCRA. DTSC has concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and intends to issue a CEQA Negative Declaration.

Mare Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

The RAB is composed of members of the community who work with the Navy and regulatory agencies to provide input on the environmental restoration activities at the former MINS. Regular meetings are held to discuss the progress of the Environmental Cleanup Program. It is a great opportunity to find out what's going on and to have your voice heard.

RAB meetings are generally held at 7:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of every month at the Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street in Vallejo. For more information, contact Janet Lear at (619) 532-0976 or send an email to janet.lear@navy.mil. Myrna Hayes, the RAB Community Co-Chair may also be contacted at (707) 557-9816 or by email at myrnahay@pacbell.net.

Where to find the document

The Draft Final Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis/ Interim Remedial Action Plan for the Munitions Non-Time-Critical Removal Action at the Production Manufacturing Area and South Shore Area, is available for review at the following locations:

JFK Library
505 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, California 94590
Phone (707) 553-5568

DTSC
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
Phone (510) 540-3800
(By appointment only)

Comments

The public may submit written comments to the following Navy or DTSC representatives:

Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator

BRAC Program Management Office West
Attn: Janet Lear
1455 Frazee Rd, Suite 900
San Diego, California 92108-4310
Phone (619) 532-0976
janet.lear@navy.mil

DTSC Public Participation Specialist

Wayne Hagen
Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
Phone (510) 540-3911
whagen@dtsc.ca.gov

Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Base Realignment & Closure Program Management Office West
1455 Frazee Rd, Suite 900
San Diego, California 92108-4310

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