



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS)

Radiological Data Evaluation



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Am I at risk from radiation exposure? What about my child or my grandparents?

Radiation is present naturally in the Earth's environment and we all experience some exposure on a daily basis regardless of location or lifestyle. The radiation exposures that the Navy is investigating are less than, or similar to, the amount of radiation received by the average person on an average day. Calculated limits at HPNS are protective of individuals of all ages and genders.

Is this project safe?

Yes, the Navy is committed to ensuring public safety. The Navy wants to make sure areas with potentially fraudulent radiological testing meet health protective standards; therefore, additional radiological sampling and testing are being conducted. The Navy will confirm that the entire property is safe before transferring it to the City of San Francisco.

How often is the air monitored and where can I see results from air monitoring stations?

For all active construction projects, air monitoring stations are placed both downwind and upwind of cleanup activities. Air monitoring stations collect data on dust and chemicals in the air. Soils are screened in the field for airborne contaminants. In addition to the samples collected by the Navy, regulatory agencies also collect on-site air samples as an additional verification step. Results from air monitoring stations may be found on the Navy's website and on California Department of Toxic Substances Control website.

Will soil excavation expose the community to radiological contamination?

Prior to soil excavations at HPNS, samples are collected at different depths to determine the levels of contaminated materials in soil and to determine soil handling procedures.

Where are you disposing of radiological waste found during cleanup?

California does not allow radiological waste to be disposed of within the state. Radiological waste from HPNS is typically shipped to Utah for disposal at a landfill specifically designed to safely hold radiological waste.

What type of safety measures are taken during radiological cleanup to ensure public safety?

The Navy implements several on-site controls and procedures at HPNS to ensure public safety. Examples include: (a) the establishment of radiologically controlled areas; (b) daily monitoring of air quality; and (c) implementation of the Basewide Dust Control Plan to contain contamination within radiologically controlled areas. In addition, regulatory agencies and the California Department of Public Health collect their own confirmation samples from radiological cleanup sites for independent verification and site workers follow health and safety plans specific to their tasks.

Who sets the radiation protection standards?

Radiation protection standards are established by many federal and state agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Public Health. The Navy works with all of these agencies and others to ensure compliance with all radiation protection requirements. Dr. Kathryn Higley, the Navy's Community Technical Liaison can help answer your questions about radiation protection standards.

Are there resources for health testing of former workers? What about family members or neighbors?

Dr. Kathryn Higley is the Head of the School of Nuclear Science and Engineering at Oregon State University. As a Certified Health Physicist, she holds degrees in Radiological Health Sciences. The Navy has contracted with Dr. Higley to serve as a Community Technical Liaison to answer your radiological health and safety questions at (541) 737-7063 or kathryn.higley@oregonstate.edu. If you have immediate health concerns, please talk to your physician.

Reference fact sheets may be found on the Navy's website at www.bracpmo.navy.mil/hpnsrc

[Understanding Radiation \(February 2017\)](#)

[Radiological Data Review Fact Sheet \(February 2017\)](#)

[Radiological Data Review Fact Sheet Update #2 \(September 2017\)](#)

[Radiological Data Fact Sheet Update #3 \(January 2018\)](#)

[Dust Control During Cleanup at HPNS \(April 2016\)](#)

[Air Monitoring at Parcel E-2 \(July 2017\)](#)