



FACT SHEET

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

Parcel B Radiological Object Recovery

December 2023



This fact sheet discusses information about the recent recovery of a small glass object in a secured area on Parcel B at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS).

Radiological Retesting at HPNS

In late 2017, Navy completed an evaluation of past radiological data in identified areas at HPNS and determined this data to be unreliable. Since 2020, the Navy has been collecting new radiological data in those identified areas to ensure cleanup is protective of public health and the environment. The data includes soil samples from trench excavations, soil borings, and former building areas. Retesting fieldwork at Parcel B began in August 2022 and is ongoing. To date, approximately 30% of the trenches in Parcel B have been excavated and sampled.

Recovery at Parcel B

On April 17, 2023, a routine surface scan of excavated material from Trench Unit 45B was conducted on radiological screening yard (RSY) pad ESU TU-45B. No irregular readings were found and the data entered a detailed review process per the approved Parcel B Work Plan. On November 6, 2023, results of the data analysis resulted in the determination that further investigation of ESU TU-45B was necessary. A field investigation was promptly conducted. A mobile radiation detection system identified an elevated reading in one location on the RSY pad. In compliance with established work plans, the location was marked off for further investigation.

What was discovered?

Upon investigation, a small piece of glass, approximately 3/16 inch in diameter (about the size of a green pea), was found approximately 6-inches below the surface in loose soil on the RSY pad. Static gamma counts and dose-rate readings were collected before the item was bagged, labeled, and taken for further analysis. Laboratory analysis of the pea-sized object identified low level radium-226 activity.

Is the community at risk?

No. The glass object was found in a radiologically-controlled area at HPNS that is not accessible to the public. The relative dose of radiation from the glass object is low and it does not pose a risk to members of the community. The Navy's health and safety protocols ensured worker safety during recovery and removal of the radiological object.

How can you get answers to your radiological health and safety questions?

Dr. Kathryn Higley is an internationally recognized expert in radiological health and safety. She is a resource to the community for radiological health and safety information, especially as it relates to HPNS. Dr. Higley is available to members of the community by phone (541-737-0675), email (kathryn.higley@oregonstate.edu), or during office hours (scan QR code to register).

This image shows the location of the glass object in loose soil using static gamma count equipment. It is located on an RSY pad within a restricted area on Parcel B.

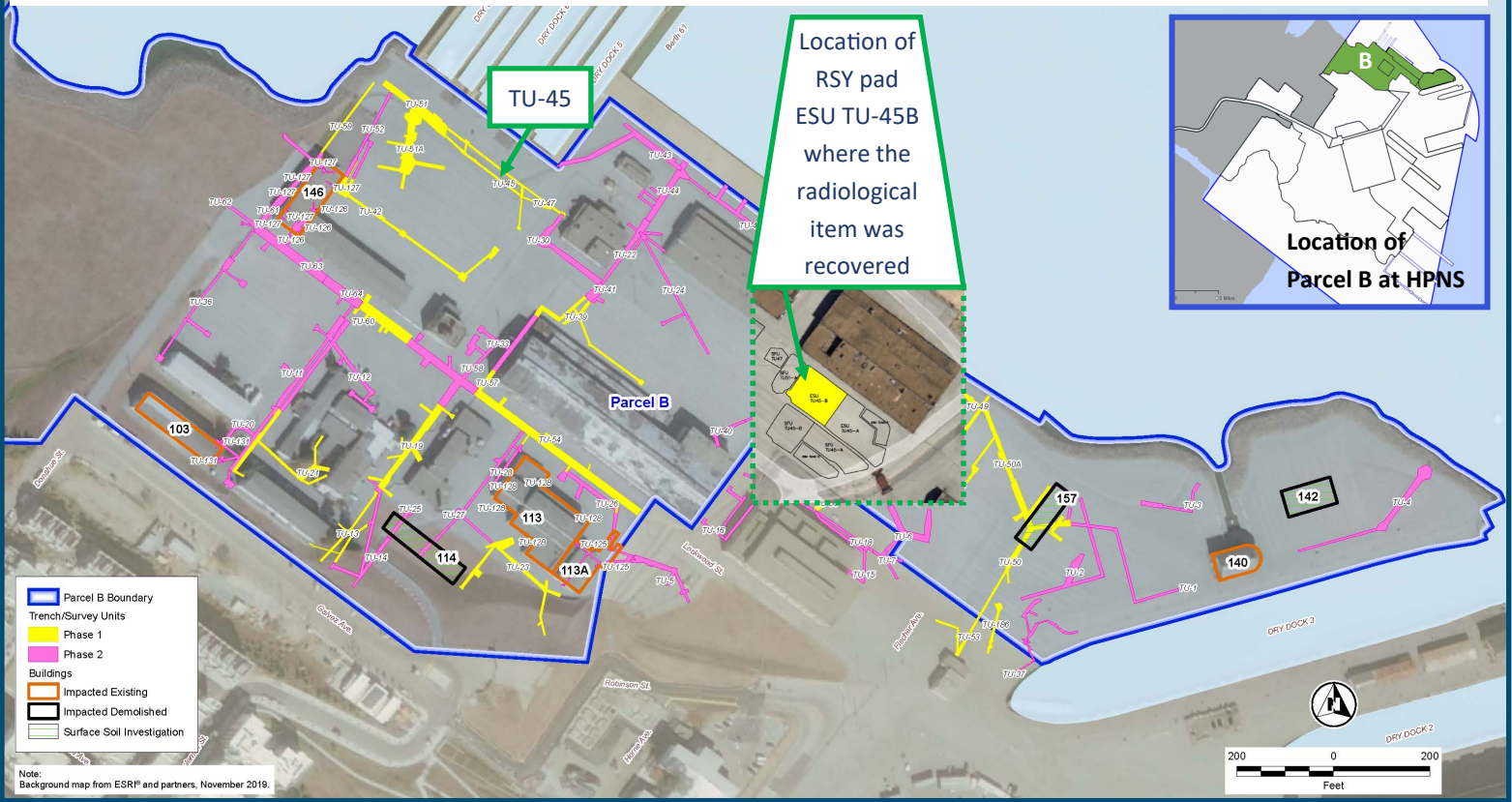


Scan the QR code for HPNS resources.



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- Link to the Navy website
- Register for guided bus tours
- Sign up for Technical Advisor office hours

Map of Radiological Retesting Trench Units at HPNS Parcel B



Note: Background map from ESRP and partners, November 2019.



Static Gamma Count at Surface



Excavation and Investigation



Glass Object Recovered

What is radium?

Radium is a chemical element with the symbol “Ra” and atomic number 88. It is included in the Periodic Table of Elements in the alkaline earth metals group. It is naturally present in the environment in small amounts in rocks and soil and is also present in man-made sources. During the early 1900s through mid-century, it was common practice to add radium to paint to make items glow in the dark.

Before the effects of radiation exposure were well understood, radium was used in everyday items, including toys, nightlights, wristwatch dials, and clock faces.

How did glass object get onto HPNS property?

Radioluminescent (glow-in-the-dark) items that were typically used by the Navy included switches, volt meters, deck markers, and safety ropes. While ships were in dry dock at HPNS, these types of items were removed and/or replaced during normal ship maintenance activities.

有关海军在猎人角海军造船厂的清理活动方案的更多信息，
请拨打 (833) 350-6222 并留言。

Para más información sobre el programa de limpieza
de la Marina en Hunters Point Naval Shipyard,
favor de dejar un mensaje en (833) 202-5888.