



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS)

Radiological Data Evaluation



DATA EVALUATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

What did Tetra Tech EC (TtEC) do wrong and how will it be prevented from occurring again?

Data analysis indicated that some former TtEC personnel falsified radiological data samples. The Navy discovered this as part of its normal review procedures and will continue to conduct quality assurance checks on contractor work. For additional quality assurance, a third-party contractor has been hired to monitor proper collection and documentation of all future radiological soil samples. The Navy has completed evaluation of suspect data and is working with its regulatory team to take appropriate action.

How will the Navy determine if soil and building data has been falsified?

A team of experts has reviewed over 900,000 data results and data from building scans. Through statistical and logic tests, irregularities were identified and additional actions will be taken, including resampling. Irregularities are the result of many factors, one of which may be falsification.

What is the extent of the problem; how many areas will be resampled and buildings rescanned?

The data evaluation indicates wide-spread potential data falsification. Portions of Buildings 146, 439, 130, and 351A were re-surveyed in 2015 and a plan was developed to re-survey sections of Buildings 271 and 406 in 2016 with concurrence from federal and California state regulators. Building sections were re-surveyed as a quality control measure to verify that past work was performed adequately.

Results from the re-survey of Buildings 146, 439, 130, and 351A indicate that the measured radiological activity was below regulatory levels and presents no health concerns to the public or environment.

Low level radiological concentrations were detected as a result of the re-surveys of Buildings 271 and 406. These levels were between 0.001 millirem per year (mrem/y) and 0.087 mrem/y above background and present no health concerns to the public or environment. Additional sampling efforts are underway.

Is the Navy conducting groundwater or soil sampling?

Groundwater is being monitored by a separate contract and results do not indicate radiological contamination. The current data evaluation focuses on soil samples and building scans. The Navy plans to collect new, independent data to validate the site is safe.

Will the Navy fund independent technical experts to validate the process and results?

A small group of firms with extensive radiological experience, capabilities, and expertise has been hired to perform a full review of past radiological work completed by TtEC. A third-party contractor has also been hired to evaluate that soil samples are collected and properly documented. To confirm the review findings, two national laboratories will provide independent review of all results and reports.

What is involved in the data evaluation process and how long will it take?

The process involves running statistical tests on all of the radiological data collected by TtEC, conducting a thorough review of reports, collecting verification sampling and resurveying, and reporting results. The data evaluation is expected to be complete as soon as possible, including database evaluation, surveys and sampling verification, and results reports.

Why did it take so long to start the data evaluation process? Where can I review the results?

Since the discovery of the fraudulent sampling activities, the Navy has consistently taken action in consultation with regulatory agencies to ensure the public's safety. Allegations from former TtEC employees prompted the Navy and regulatory agencies to conduct a thorough review of all radiological sites remediated by TtEC. This extensive review process will be completed as soon as possible.

The Navy will prepare a report with the results of the data evaluation and verification sampling. The report will be posted on the HPNS website at www.bracpmo.navy.mil/hpnsrc and will be available for the public to access. We anticipate a report on the initial findings during the spring of 2018.

Will the Navy be resampling the entire shipyard?

Based on our evaluation, over 2 million data points were reviewed. The Navy evaluation has identified the potential for falsification. As a result, additional investigation will occur. Areas that were not sampled by TtEC are not in question and, therefore, do not require evaluation or resampling.

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