



FACT SHEET

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS)

Air Monitoring at Parcel C: Plutonium-239

December 2025



This fact sheet summarizes the November 2024 air monitoring result for plutonium-239 (Pu-239) collected during radiological retesting fieldwork at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS) Parcel C.

At a Glance

What Happened

One air-monitoring filter collected in November 2024 showed a result for Pu-239 above the project's Action Level at MSC02 (see map below) — the only Pu-239 exceedance among more than 200 samples collected since July 2023. A follow-up analysis of the same filter showed no exceedance of the Pu-239 Action Level. The result could not be attributed to ongoing field work, and it was an isolated result.

Health Context

The potential dose was approximately 0.4 millirem (mrem) if someone were to stand at the sampling location for one week. The potential dose is reduced significantly as someone is farther away from the sampling location.

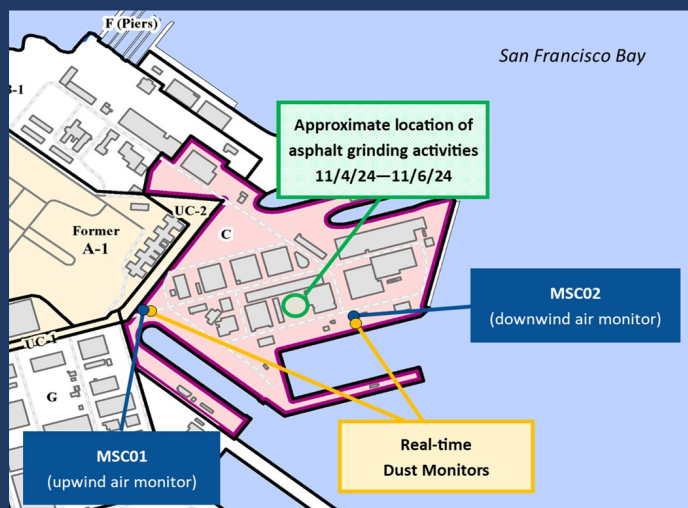
Independent Review

An independent audit by the Department of Defense Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOD ELAP) was necessary to verify laboratory procedures met all standards.

Ongoing Monitoring

Air sampling and real-time dust monitoring continue at HPNS Parcel C. No further Pu-239 Action Level exceedances have been reported.

Location of Parcel C Air Monitors and Fieldwork, November 2024



The HPNS Action Level

The HPNS Action Level is a benchmark for evaluating dust control measures at the site. It represents an air concentration that assumes continuous breathing at that location for an entire year.

The Action Level (10 mrem annual dose limit) is set at 20% of the 50 mrem regulatory limit used to protect the public. A result above the Action Level does not represent a health risk; it triggers a review of dust control protocols by contractors. Air filters are pre-screened on site to check for elevated radiation levels before being sent to a certified laboratory for analysis.

About the Result

Although this single laboratory result exceeded the project Action Level, the measured concentration corresponds to a maximum potential dose of 0.4 mrem — far below health-based limits and does not represent a risk to the community.

This Pu-239 result was the only exceedance among more than 200 air-filter samples analyzed since July 2023. A subsequent analysis of the same sample did not result in an exceedance of the Pu-239 Action Level. The Navy reviewed the two results in coordination with laboratory experts to determine which analysis was correct. Based on that review, both results are considered valid and are included in the Parcel C Quarterly Air Monitoring Report (October—December 2024).

Air Monitoring During Fieldwork

The Navy monitors air quality at HPNS to protect workers and nearby residents during cleanup activities. Monitoring includes both real-time dust measurement and air samples from upwind and downwind of active work areas.

During the week of the November 2024 result, real-time PM10 monitoring at stations MSC01 and MSC02 showed no dust exceedances, and on-site sampling and survey of the air filter did not indicate any elevated radionuclides.

Understanding Plutonium

Plutonium (Pu) is a silvery-gray, man-made radioactive metal. The most common forms are Pu-238, Pu-239, and Pu-240. Because microscopic Pu particles have been dispersed worldwide from historical atmospheric nuclear testing, trace amounts are found almost everywhere, including at HPNS.

How Pu-239 Affects Public Health

Pu-239 can pose a health risk if inhaled or ingested. To protect public health, regulatory agencies - including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - set very strict exposure limits.

At HPNS, the Action Level is 10 mrem per year, which is lower than established health-protective standards.

The Parcel C result represented an estimated dose of about 0.4 mrem - a very small fraction of everyday background radiation and not considered a health risk.

How to Learn More

Contact Navy Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

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Contact the Community Technical Advisor

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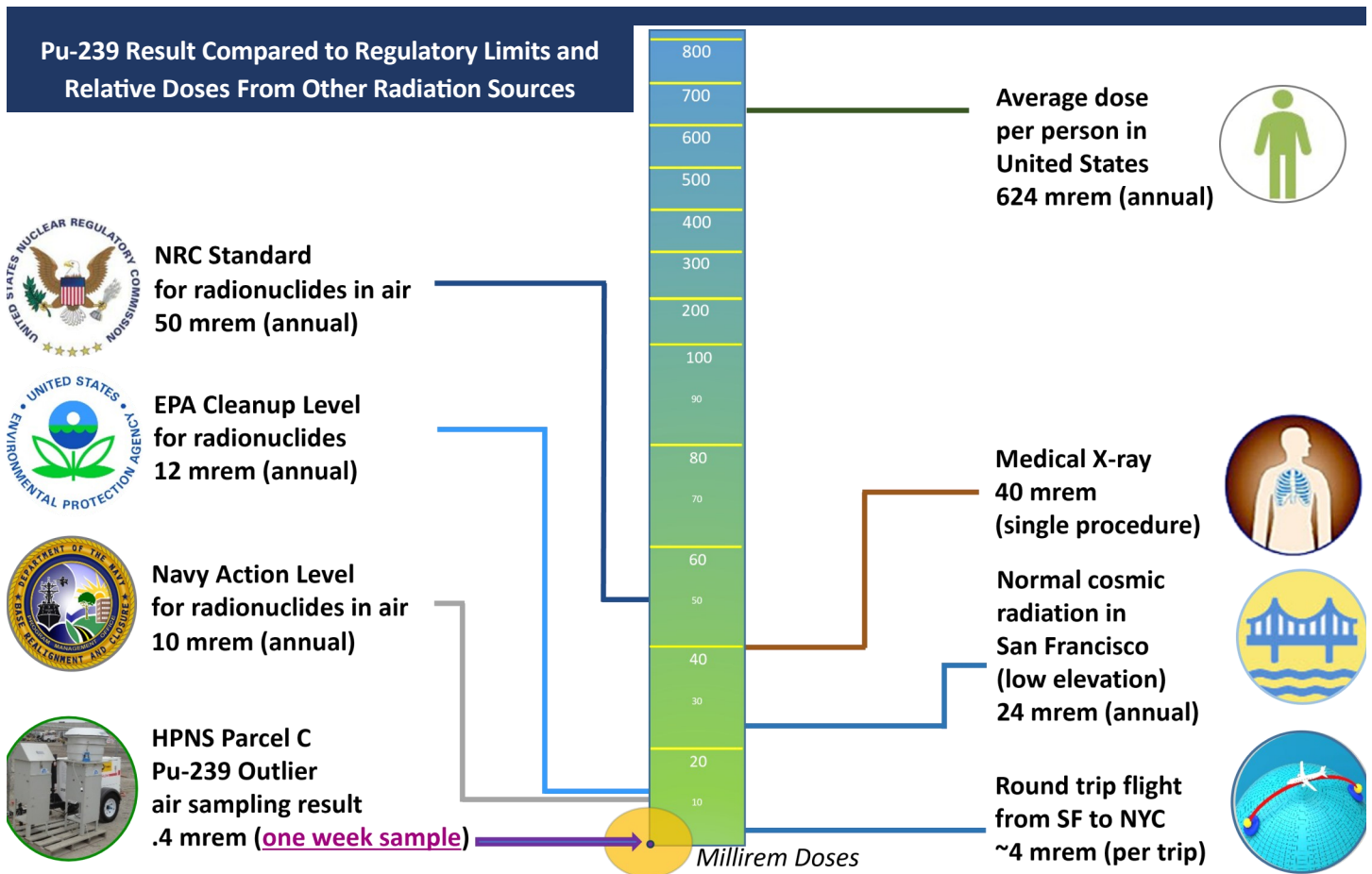
Visit the Navy's Website: bracpmo.navy.mil/hpns

Download HPNS Air Monitoring Reports:

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