FACT SHEET

Time Critical Removal Action Former Naval Station Puget Sound at Sand Point, Seattle, Washington

Project Contacts
If you have any questions or concerns about environmental activities, please feel free to contact any of the project representatives:

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Regulatory Agencies Concur on Cleanup Plan
The Navy, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Washington State Department of Health concur on the selected cleanup action presented in the Action Memorandum, which will be available for public comment from May 27-June 27, 2013.

Public Meeting: May 29, 2013, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
The City of Seattle will host a U.S. Navy Environmental Restoration Program public meeting on May 29, 2013, to present and explain the time critical removal action for the former Naval Station Puget Sound at Sand Point. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting. The meeting will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Introduction

This Fact Sheet describes actions associated with the time critical removal action (TCRA) for the former Naval Station Puget Sound (NAVSTA PS) at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington (Figure 1). The areas of focus for this TCRA are the central portion of the second floor of Building 2 and limited piping under the first floor; the "South Shed" of Building 27; the catch basins south of Building 27, and soil adjacent to the areas of Buildings 2, 12, and 27. Both the Building 27 South Shed and portions of Building 2 where contamination was identified are currently vacant. The main hangar area of Building 27 is an indoor multi-sport facility, which is operated by Arena Sports and open to the public; Building 2 is mainly vacant, with the exception of the hangar portion that is used for storage by the City of Seattle Parks and Recreation Department, and a north wing which houses offices and workshops for the job training program, Seattle Conservation Corps.

The TCRA is being conducted to address radium-226 (Ra-226), cesium-137 (Cs-137), and/or strontium-90 (Sr-90) contamination found during the 2010 investigation of the Building 27 South Shed, Building 2, and areas outside of Buildings 2, 12, and 27. The TCRA is intended to remove radiological contamination in these areas.

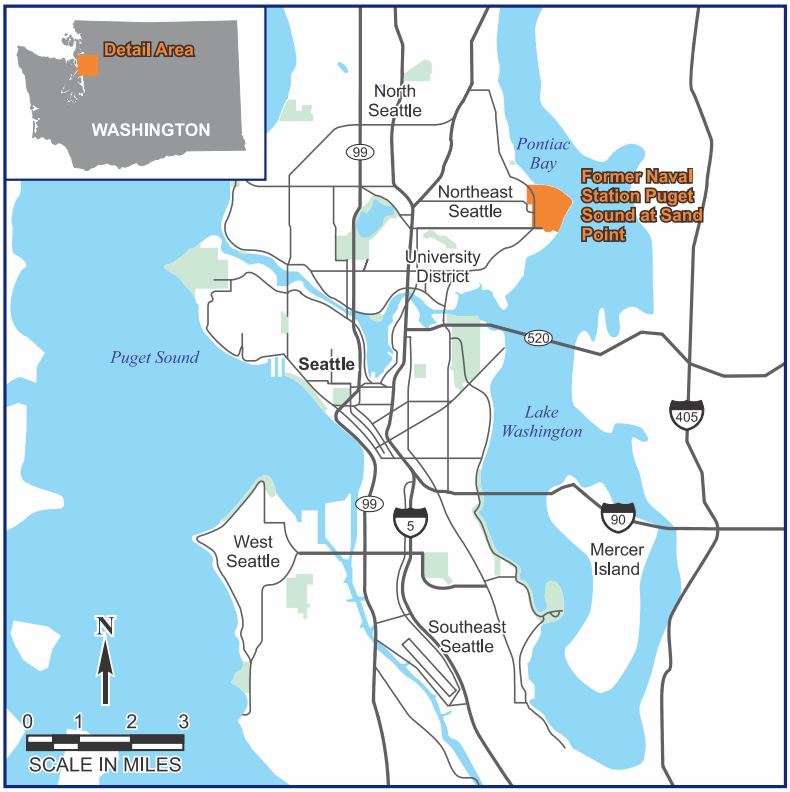

Figure 1: Former Naval Station Puget Sound at Sand Point Location Map

This TCRA is being conducted in accordance with the Department of Navy's Environmental Restoration Program using Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), with the Washington State Department of Ecology as the state regulatory agency. This TCRA will follow the requirements of CERCLA and the National Oil and Hazardous Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 300.5). The Navy will address the substantive requirements of the Washington State Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Washington Administrative Code 173-340-515). To accomplish cleanup, Department of Navy's environmental restoration team will work with various stakeholders, including state and federal regulators, and local communities. The Navy is conducting the cleanup under CERCLA in accordance with provisions included in the deed of transfer to the City of Seattle.

Site History

Former NAVSTA PS was initially named Naval Air Station (NAS) Seattle. Portions of the facility were built in 1925 on land donated by King County. Many of the major buildings were constructed prior to World War II, including Building 2 (1929) and Building 27 (1937). Further building construction and remodeling took place in later years, including an addition of the South Shed to Building 27 in 1944. During World War II, NAS Seattle supported air transport and ship outfitting personnel for the Alaskan and Western Pacific theaters of operation (Figure 2).

Aviation activities officially ceased on June 30, 1970. Between 1970 and 1977, the Navy conveyed considerable portions of the former base that had supported air operations to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the City of Seattle. The remainder of the property was retained by the Navy until it was listed for closure under the Base Realignment and Closure Act in 1991, and formally closed in 1995.

Figure 2: Photograph of Naval Air Station Seattle in the 1940s

The City of Seattle applied to receive additional property for recreational uses through the Department of Interior National Park Service. The Navy ultimately assigned the requested property to the National Park Service and by 2002 the City of Seattle was the owner of these additional lands that comprise the areas of Magnuson Park that are subject to this TCRA.

Radiological History

To support transfer to the National Park Service, the Navy conducted several environmental investigations and cleanup actions on portions of former NAVSTA PS (1988-1995). No radiological contamination was identified.

During planning of proposed renovations of Building 27 in 2009, the City of Seattle reviewed historical drawings and identified rooms labeled "Radium Room" and "Instrument Shop" in the South Shed of Building 27. Following this discovery, the City of Seattle reviewed drawings for Building 2 and identified a space labeled "Instrument Shop". From the late 1930s through the 1960s, airplane maintenance and storage activities included the use of radioluminescent (glow-in-the dark) paint for the maintenance and repair of radioluminescent aircraft dials, gauges, and compasses. Historical Navy records confirm that the former NAVSTA PS received routine shipments of Ra-226, which was used to make the radioluminescent paint. These operations were commonly conducted in aircraft hangars, optical and instrument shops, and radium paint facilities like those identified in Buildings 2 and 27.

The City completed a radiation survey in the Spring of 2009, after which the Navy took immediate action to investigate the extent of radiological contamination in and outside of Buildings 2 and 27. This investigation was conducted in 2010.

Radiological Remedial Investigation Results

The 2010 investigation identified radiological contamination above the project investigation criteria in and around the Instrument Shops in Building 2 and within the Building 27 South Shed. Radiological contamination was also found in piping in Buildings 2 and 27, in catch basins associated with Building 27, and in soil adjacent to these buildings and Building 12 (Figure 3).

TCRA Actions

The TCRA at the former NAVSTA PS will focus on the following tasks.

- Building 27 South Shed: Removal of radiological contamination in the South Shed, conduct radiological tests to ensure all contamination has been removed, and packaging of contaminated materials for disposal as Low-Level Radiological Waste (LLRW). Demolition of residual portions of the South Shed and restoration of the common wall between the hangar and the South Shed.
- Building 2: Removal of radiological contamination, conduct radiological tests to ensure all contamination has been removed, and packaging of contaminated materials for disposal as LLRW.
- Additional testing outside of Buildings 2, 12, and 27 to ensure all radiological contamination has been identified, removal of radiological contamination, conduct tests to ensure all contamination has been removed, and packaging of contamination materials for disposal as LLRW.
- Additional testing of storm and sanitary drain system components, removal and replacement of radiological contaminated storm drain system components associated with Buildings 2 and 27, conduct radiological tests to ensure all contamination has been addressed, and packaging of contaminated materials for disposal as LLRW.
- Transportation and disposal of non-LLRW in a permitted landfill and LLRW in a licensed LLRW waste disposal facility.

Project Schedule

The duration of the TCRA is expected to be less than six months. Field work is anticipated to begin in June 2013 and is expected to be completed by December 2013 with subsequent demolition of the Building 27 South Shed and restoration of the hangar south wall continuing into 2014.

PLANNED SOIL CLEANUP AREAS
PLANNED BUILDING CLEANUP AREAS
STORM DRAIN AND SINK DRAIN INVESTIGATION AREAS
MANHOLE
CATCH BASIN
CONTRACTOR CONTROLLED AREA
TRAFFIC ROUTING

Figure 3: Planned Removal Action Areas, Former Naval Station Puget Sound at Sand Point

INSIDE…

Navy Time Critical Removal Action Former Naval Station Puget Sound at Sand Point, Seattle, Washington

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Action Memorandum and other relevant documents are available at the Navy and Washington Department of Ecology Web sites located at:

http://goo.gl/t4JKw

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1359

Documents can also be viewed in the Northeast Branch of the Seattle Public Library at 6801 35th Ave N.E, in Seattle.

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The Navy encourages the public to comment on the proposed TCRA at the former NAVSTA PS at Sand Point described in this Fact Sheet. Written comments on the Action Memorandum may be submitted using the comment form below. The comment period is from May 27 through June 27, 2013. If additional space is needed, comments may be written neatly on plain white paper. The Navy also welcomes written comments submitted directly to our office.

The Action Memorandum and other relevant documents are available at the Navy and Washington Department of Ecology Web sites located at:

http://goo.gl/t4JKw

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1359

The Action Memorandum, which will be included in the administrative record for this site, is available at the following address:

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Name: _____

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Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Comments: _____

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