



HUNTERS POINT: PARCEL A-2 SURVEY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the role of the California Department of Public Health in the Hunters Point survey?

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will be performing a health and safety radiation survey (scan) at Parcel A-2.

What areas of Hunters Point will be surveyed?

The survey work will include the areas of Parcel A-2 that are accessible to CDPH Radiation Health Branch (RHB) staff and where safe passage is possible over the Parcel. Parcel A-2 is approximately 20 acres of uninhabited open and flat graded areas surrounded by steep and hilly ridges with no structures.

Why is CDPH doing this survey now?

The U.S. EPA, the Navy and the City of San Francisco requested CDPH to perform a radiological health and safety survey of Parcel A-2.

When will the survey work begin?

The survey work is scheduled to begin on October 22, 2018.

What kind of testing is included in the survey?

Radiation is emitted as alpha, beta or gamma activity, but only gamma radiation is able to penetrate through soil and vegetation. CDPH will conduct gamma radiation scans. Sodium iodide detectors will be used due to their high sensitivity to gamma radiation.

Why isn't soil testing being done?

Parcel A-2 consists of original native soils as well as a large amount of mixed soils excavated from the Parcel A-1 development project beginning in 2004, including soils that were in place when the Navy operated the site. As of October 12, 2018, over 95 percent of Parcel A-1 scanning has been completed. So far, one naval deck marker has been discovered, which did not pose a threat to human health. With the exception of the naval deck marker, the scan has only revealed naturally occurring potassium-40. Given historical uses of the A2 parcel, wide-spread dispersed forms of radiological contamination is not probable. Gamma scanning is the most effective method for detecting discrete (i.e., not uniformly distributed) buried radiation sources. While soil sampling may be useful for site remediation, in a radiation survey conducted for health and safety purposes, scanning is more effective. If radiation above background levels or radiation that could be a potential concern to public health is detected, additional testing will be done.

Is the equipment to be used for scanning state-of-the art? Is it the right equipment?

The detection instruments to scan parcel A2 that will be used are state-of-the-art, highly-sensitive calibrated, instruments that are appropriate for performing sensitive gamma ray scans.



What will happen next if the survey finds man-made radioactivity?

The CDPH will notify the Navy, the U.S. EPA, the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the City of San Francisco. The involved agencies would then coordinate regarding the response actions.

When will findings from the survey be available?

Following the survey, the data will be analyzed and compiled into a report that will be provided to the Navy, DTSC, SFDPH and the U.S. EPA as well as to the public. This report is expected in February 2019.

How much will the survey cost and who is paying for it?

The CDPH is still completing the cost estimate. The Navy will provide the funding for the survey work.

What is the role of the Navy, US EPA, and the state of California?

The Navy will provide funding for the project. The City of San Francisco is the lead agency for the property, and is responsible for communications with the residents. The CDPH will be doing the survey work at Parcel A-2.