FACT SHEET: CLEANUP STARTS AT SEAPLANE LAGOON

Former Naval Air Station Alameda

Alameda, California

January 2011

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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INTRODUCTION

The Navy has an ongoing cleanup program at sites throughout the former Naval Air Station (NAS) Alameda, also known as Alameda Point, in Alameda, California. This Fact Sheet provides information on one of these cleanup sites, including a description of the actions that will be taken to complete the cleanup.

The Navy is proceeding with the cleanup for Installation Restoration (IR) Site 17, also known as Seaplane Lagoon (SPL). The cleanup will consist of removing sediments within SPL that contain chemicals that may be harmful to human health or the environment. The sediments will be removed by dredging, which will begin in mid-January 2011. The cleanup is being conducted in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The sediment cleanup for SPL consists of the following: 1) dredging sediments in specific areas of SPL; 2) conducting post-cleanup sampling to confirm the effectiveness of the cleanup; 3) dewatering the dredged sediments; 4) sampling the dewatered sediments to determine their waste characteristics; and 5) properly disposing of the sediments based on their waste characteristics.

SITE HISTORY

Former NAS Alameda was an active military installation from the 1930s to 1997, and primarily provided facilities and support for fleet aviation activities. IR Site 17 is located in the south central portion of Alameda Point. The interior of SPL, which covers an area of approximately 110 acres, was historically dredged to create an area of open water for seaplanes. SPL, which is directly connected to the San Francisco Bay and tidally influenced, is currently approximately 12 to 20 feet (ft) deep on average.

From the 1940s to 1975, industrial wastewater and storm water generated at the former NAS Alameda were discharged directly into a network of sewer drains and pipes and carried, in part, into SPL via sewer outfalls.

Regulatory Agencies Concur on Cleanup Plan for Seaplane Lagoon

The Navy and its cleanup partners, the U.S. EPA, Cal/EPA DTSC, and Water Board, concurred on the cleanup plan presented in the Record of Decision.

INVESTIGATIONS AND PREVIOUS CLEANUPS

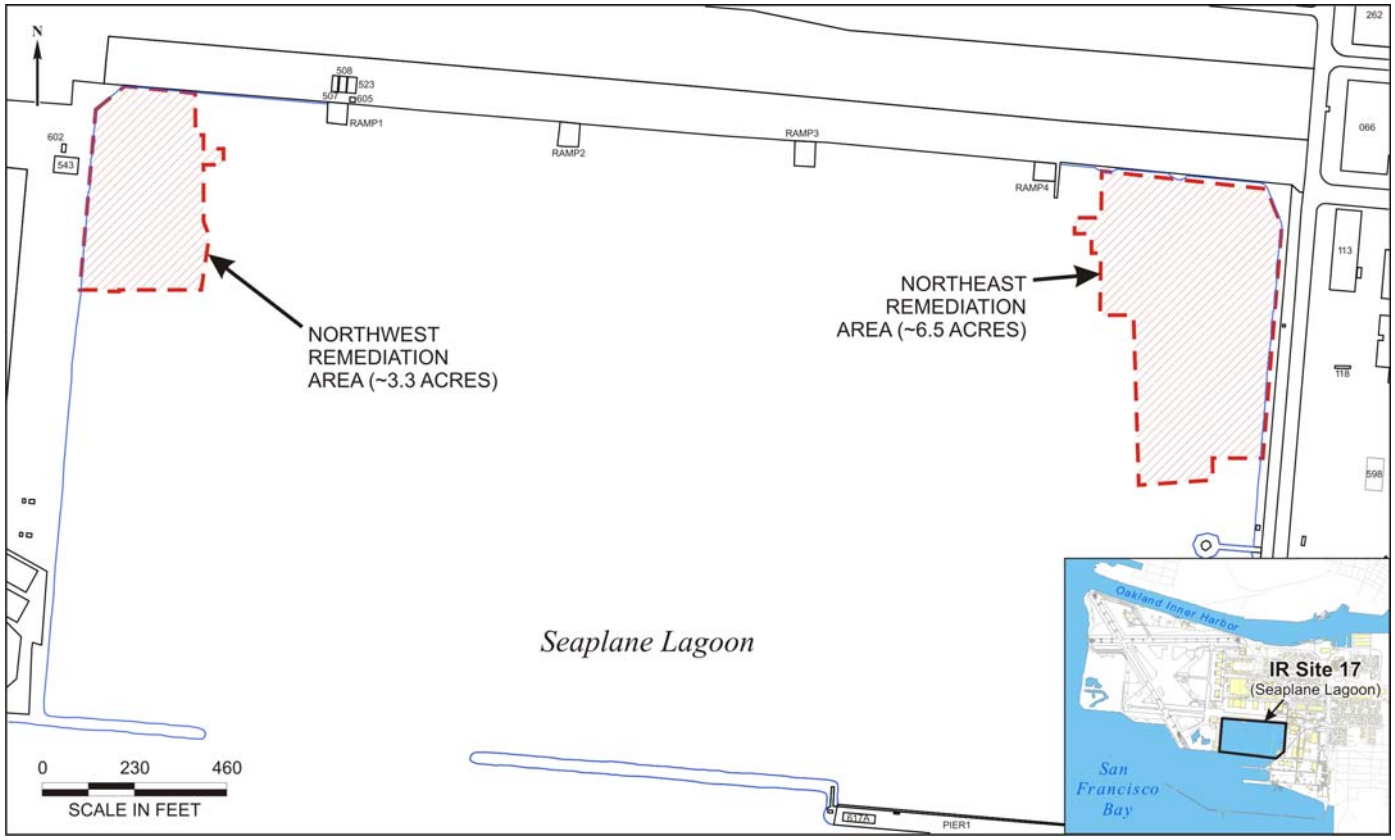
Results of past investigations and risk assessments conducted for SPL are documented in the Record of Decision (ROD). Certain chemicals in sediments pose a potentially unacceptable risk to human health and/or ecological receptors. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are the only chemicals in SPL sediments that are responsible for potential human health risks (through consumption of fish).

Cadmium, chromium, lead, PCBs, and DDx (the pesticides dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane [DDT]), dichlorodiphenyl-dichlorethane [DDD], and dichlorodiphenyl-dichloroethene [DDE]) in SPL sediments are responsible for potentially unacceptable risk to ecological receptors (fish and fish-eating birds).

SITE CLEANUP

Two discrete areas of SPL contain chemicals in sediment at concentrations exceeding the risk-based cleanup goals. These discrete areas are the northwest (NW) and northeast (NE) corners of the lagoon. The cleanup area in the NE corner of SPL is approximately 6.5 acres in size, and will produce approximately 52,000 cubic yards (cy) of dredged sediment. The cleanup area in the NW corner of SPL is approximately 3.3 acres in size, and will produce approximately 27,000 cy of dredged sediment.

Before conducting sediment dredging, debris in both sediment cleanup areas (a small area of construction debris in the NE corner of SPL and a partially submerged barge in the NW corner) will be removed and transferred to specific debris holding pads. Sediment will then be dredged from the SPL cleanup areas and transferred to large dewatering pads.



SPL Cleanup Areas

The dredging areas will be surrounded by turbidity curtains to prevent the release of suspended sediment, and the dredging will be conducted with specially-designed environmental dredging equipment.

When sufficiently dewatered, dredged sediments will be screened and sampled to determine its waste characteristics, and then disposed of properly. Before and after dredging, hydrographic surveys will be completed to confirm that the specified cleanup areas are completely dredged, and post-dredge sediment sampling will be conducted to ensure that the remedy has been successful.

Wastewater that accumulates during the cleanup will be contained in temporary holding tanks and then processed using an on-site wastewater treatment system. Treated water will be sampled to confirm that it is safe and will then be utilized on land to control dust during cleanup activities, discharged to SPL, or disposed of offsite.

During all phases of the IR Site 17 cleanup, health and safety will be in place to protect workers and the community. Water quality will be monitored in SPL to ensure that the dredging operations do not adversely impact water outside the contained dredging areas. Dust controls will be implemented and air monitoring will be conducted to ensure that no dust is generated that could impact site workers or off-site receptors. The entire work area will be secured with temporary fencing (or the turbidity curtains for the offshore work area), and entry to and exit from the site will be strictly controlled to ensure no unauthorized entry and that all workers are free of contamination prior to entering the surrounding community.

Project Schedule and Traffic Impacts

Source control activities are currently being completed, and will be followed by the IR Site 17 sediment cleanup, which will begin in mid-January 2011. The entire cleanup is expected to take approximately one year, through December 2011. To support the IR Site 17 cleanup and in consultation with the regulatory agencies, initial construction activities began in September 2010, including placement of the site perimeter fence, setup of the site support area, and construction of the process pads that are required prior to the start of the sediment cleanup.

During the cleanup at IR Site 17, road closings are not expected. The Navy will coordinate with any affected tenant throughout the duration of the cleanup. Relatively significant traffic may be associated with the IR Site 17 cleanup at particular stages of the project, including during waste management and disposal when numerous truck trips will likely be required to transport and dispose of project waste.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Documents that detail activities associated with this remedial action, including the Feasibility Study (FS), Record of Decision (ROD), and Remedial Design (RD), are available at the following locations:

Alameda Public Library
1550 Oak Street
Alameda, California 94501

Alameda Point, Former NAS Alameda
950 West Mall Square, Suite 240
Alameda, California 94501

This fact sheet is prepared in accordance with the NCP, 40 CFR 300.435(c)(3).

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