

BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NEWS



Hunter's Point Shipyard as seen from above, picture courtesy of the Navy

Update on Hunter's Point Shipyard: Will They Clean It or Cap It?

On June 27, 2012, at a community information meeting held at the YMCA center in Bayview, the U.S. Navy announced to residents their intention to cap Parcel E, the former Navy landfill and most contaminated part of the Shipyard. Residents expressed concerns with the Navy's intention to cap, due to the many unanswered questions and little research done to determine the potential danger of the contents in Parcel E. The Navy originally said the shipyard would be cleaned to the highest standards, yet now it seems they hope to just cap it which is not acceptable to the community and Greenaction! We still can make them do the right thing, by standing together and continuing to push them to honor the community's wishes for a total clean up.

The EPA and Navy believe the cap will prevent rainwater from seeping into hazardous waste and carrying the material into water sources, stop the wind from blowing away the hazardous materials, and keep animals and people from coming into contact with the materials. In past capping projects, reports praise the quick and affordable process, but these projects were not connected to large water pathways and do not discuss a change in health status or a decrease in exposure. In Bayview, the potential danger of capping and not cleaning the site is very real: the contents in the center of the parcel remain unknown, high risk of contaminating the Bay without a slurry wall (a soft wall put on the water side to prevent the flow of hazardous waste to

water sources) remains, and there is a high risk of earthquakes. A single crack in the cap means exposure to hazardous waste.

In 2000, a bright, multicolored fire arose from the center of Parcel E, with no known cause. After a couple months of burning underground, the EPA decided to place a cap composed of cement, clay, and plastic in hopes it would put out the fire. Since 2000, the Navy removed radioactive hotspots and old metals along Parcel E's shoreline, and reconstructed the shoreline, yet no additional cleanup has been done, no testing done of the contents done below the original cap, no slurry wall built, and the cause of the underground fire remains unknown. Residents are upset with the many unknowns that can potentially harm the community.

In response to the Navy's decision, on July 11, 2012, a panel of community members met at the San Francisco Opera House. Despite low turn out rates at past community information meetings (due to lack of outreach done by the Navy) this meeting had a higher resident turn out than any other meeting in the last year. The panel and residents concluded that capping the shipyard is not what is best for the community. While residents still plan to fight the cap, pressure on the Navy and EPA resulted in allowing the community to pick an engineer, a scientist, and a toxicologist to review the capping plans, determine if the Navy did an adequate job cleaning the site, and determine the margin of danger.

Residents are beginning to show their strength in numbers by demanding their voices be heard during the decision making process. Now more than ever, residents are urged to get involved in the process. Greenaction volunteers will be coming through the community in the coming weeks to give residents information and collect signatures.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Marie Harrison at (415) 284-5600 x103 or Tessie Ester at (415) 240-8269.

Are you eating SF Bay Fish?

As Greenaction wraps up its first and very successful program with the Bay Fish Project on the importance of eating San Francisco Bay Fish safely, we just want to remind you of the following:

Surfperches (wall eyes, bug eyes, shiners, etc) are easy to catch and plentiful in our bay, but are also very polluted with toxins like mercury and PCBs. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the California Health Department recommends that nobody eats this type of fish because eating those toxins are linked to health problems, especially if you are a child or a woman 18-45 (a mom or mom to be).

If you are a mom, want to be a mom, or might be a mom in the future, please don't eat perch, bass, sharks, or sturgeon. Don't eat croaker (kingfish) with the skin on it, and don't eat kingfish or halibut more than once a week. The best choices are salmon, brown rockfish, jacksmelt (be sure to cook completely), and the meat of red rock crabs. For commercial fish, avoid tilefish, sharks, swordfish, or king mackerels. These fish have toxins that not only affect you and your child while you are pregnant, but also can stay in your body and affect future pregnancies.

And finally, remember, we don't want you to stop eating fish from our bay or bought from a store. There is a lot of good in fish, such as omega-3s which are a healthy fat that can help your heart, eyes and brain. We just want to help you eat smarter, to stay healthy and protect the health of those you love. To find out more information, go to: www.oehha.ca.gov/fish.html and <http://www.sfei.org/content/educational-materials>, call the Office of Health Hazard Assessment at 510 622-3170 or call Greenaction. We'd be glad to help.



For more information visit us at:

703 Market Street, Suite 501

San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: 415-284-5600

Fax: 415-284-4666

www.greenaction.org

Huntersview Demolition & PG&E Cleanup

As the demolition continues in Huntersview, so do the excessive emissions (overages) of dust that continues to harm residents still living there. In June there were reported overages for thirteen of the thirty one days. Residents are upset and with Greenaction are planning an action to raise the awareness of their plight, and to put pressure on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District that has the power to put a stop to so many dust overages.

PG&E ended their 3-month break for the rainy season, and began clean up work again on or around May 15th. They are expected to continue work through December 2012.

Currently, they are doing ground water and soil excavation. PG&E is monitoring air quality for toxins such as asbestos. However, we have just received some of the data and it shows that on July 10th they too had an overage, even with the increased amount of water they are using to help prevent dust from crossing their fence line. So you can see why the community cannot just sit by and see if the Air District will take steps to make things right.

Community Health Surveys

Greenaction and the Huntersview Mothers Committee conducted health surveys in select neighborhoods to respond to the issues raised about health problems in the community. The first round of surveys is now complete. A big thank you to all who participated! The results of this round are being analyzed to see the extent of health problems among residents and if more surveys are required.

If another round of surveys is conducted, Greenaction would appreciate your participation and support.

Want to get involved?

- Volunteer to get signatures on our petition about the toxic cleanup at the shipyard.

For more information: www.greenaction.org
(415) 284-5600 x103 marie@greenaction.org