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Special Update

Meeker Beach Exploratory Investigation Completed Richmond, California

January 10, 2006

On January 9, 2006, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) conducted an exploratory investigation of an area just upland (north) of an area known as Meeker Beach in Richmond, California. During the exploratory investigation activities on January 9, two trenches were excavated to approximately 12 feet.

The excavation activities were completed the afternoon of January 9. No metal drums were found and no evidence of metal drums was observed in either trench. Items that were observed at the site were: fill material; a layer of miscellaneous metal debris (steel cable, soldering rods, rebar, etc.) that was mixed with wood and concrete debris; a sandy layer containing shells; and bay muds. Numerous concrete test cylinders (concrete with an outer metal casing) approximately 1 foot long by 6 inches in diameter were also found in the trenches, as well as at the surface of the site.

In addition on January 9, both trenches were surveyed for the presence of radiation and volatile gases. **No survey readings were detected for radiation and volatile gases above background levels.** Soil samples were collected from each trench and will be analyzed by a laboratory for various chemicals, including radionuclides.

DTSC's contractor Engineering/Remediation Resources Group (ERRG) conducted the work activities and will be preparing a report documenting the investigation and results of the soil sample analysis. The sample results are expected to be available in approximately 6 weeks.

The exploratory investigation occurred because DTSC received allegations last year from an informant about possible buried drums containing radioactive material on the property that is owned by the City of Richmond Redevelopment Agency. The University of California conducted a radiological survey in September 2005 and a magnetometer (metal) survey in October 2005 at the site. Although the radiological survey did not detect any presence of surface radiation, the magnetometer survey detected buried metal object, and therefore, DTSC agreed to conduct an exploratory investigation of the area.