



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO
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SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA 92136-5084

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Nxx/xxxx
17 Mar 25

Dear Neighbor:

You are receiving this notice because Naval Base San Diego's (NBSD's) Health Risk Assessment (HRA) from calendar year 2021, as approved by San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD), indicates that our facility's emissions potentially cause elevated health risks to people living and working nearby. NBSD takes these results seriously, as protecting the health and safety of our workers and our neighbors is our priority while conducting operations to support National Defense. It is important to recognize that the HRA results outlined in the attached letter are derived using highly conservative estimates of emissions. Furthermore, modeled concentrations of pollutants a person may have encountered are theoretical, and reflect potential exposure.

2021 Health Risk Assessment

The NBSD 2021 HRA was conducted at the request of SDAPCD using available 2021 data, to meet the requirements of California Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act. Because of the lack of site-specific data, the HRA relied on default assumptions to estimate impact. Key points include:

- **Nickel Emissions:** The primary contributor to the reported health risk is nickel from outdoor abrasive blasting. SDAPCD utilized standard emission factors from the early 1990's because site-specific data was not available.
- **Dust Controls:** NBSD contractors are required to use advanced shrouding and dust control systems, which NBSD estimates reduce emissions by 90% to 99%. This was the case in 2021. However, the approved HRA only accounted for a 50% reduction in accordance with SDAPCD guidelines for permits that lack enforceable operating requirements for these controls.

Actions Taken to Reduce Emissions

NBSD is deeply committed to protecting the environment. We have ongoing strategies to reduce emissions, including:

- **Shore Power (i.e., cold ironing):** All US Navy vessels that are homeported at NBSD connect to shore power, reducing emissions up to 98%, including 70 tons of Diesel PM annually.
- **Fleet Modernization:** NBSD has voluntarily initiated the retirement of older diesel and gasoline vehicles and replaced them with zero-emissions (ZE) and hybrid options when feasible.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations:** In partnership with the California Energy Commission, NBSD has committed over \$20 million dollars to EV support infrastructure. Dual-use EV chargers have already been installed, with 300+ more chargers under construction.
- **Microgrid Project:** NBSD will soon begin installing an innovative microgrid consisting of a 300 kW solar photovoltaic and battery storage system that powers the port operations building, eliminating its dependence on SDG&E.
- **Transportation Incentive Program and Traffic Management:** NBSD established the largest military alternative transportation program on the West Coast, encouraging carpooling or use of public transportation for alleviating traffic congestion and improving air quality in the area. We constructed a traffic circle and adjusted gate operations to minimize idling emissions.

Moving Forward

NBSD will continue to evaluate and implement emission reduction measures and provide all notifications required by the SDAPCD. As part of NBSD's commitment to environmental stewardship and in accordance with SDAPCD requirements, a Risk Reduction Audit Plan (RRAP) will be implemented. This includes identifying and characterizing emissions, and will be used to calculate actual risk from operations which will result in lowering health impacts below the regulatory thresholds. If you have any questions about the HRA or our emission reduction programs, please contact the NBSD Public Affairs Officer (PAO) at NBSD.PAO@us.navy.mil or (619) 556-7359.