

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

March 31, 2009

Dear Resident,

Thank you for contacting EPA and providing additional information to consider in the selection of schools for our Air Toxics Monitoring Schools Initiative. As you are aware, recent media reports have raised important questions about the air quality outside schools near large industrial facilities. In response, EPA has made a commitment to swiftly investigate and monitor the air for specific chemicals at selected schools across the nation. By using the latest emissions inventory and modeling efforts, and the latest monitoring equipment, EPA intends to quickly get a more accurate snapshot of the potential exposure of our nation's children to toxic air pollutants.

To prioritize schools for monitoring, EPA considered a number of factors, including USA Today's results, our own comprehensive screening analyses using the National Air Toxics Assessment (www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/natamain/), and additional air toxics monitoring and modeling work performed by state, tribal, and local air pollution control agencies. Based on this analysis of areas with potentially high air toxics impacts, EPA identified 62 schools for initial monitoring. The complete list of schools can be found at www.epa.gov/schoolair/.

We did not select any schools in the Bayview Hunters Point community for the initial list of school monitoring. In making our selection of schools, EPA carefully considered the feedback from you and others advocating for monitoring in the vicinity of the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. However, neither the USA Today study nor EPA's screening analysis identified the Bayview Hunters Point community as being one of the higher impact locations nationally, based on reported emissions of pollutants.

In addition to air quality monitoring, EPA has several existing programs available to help make schools the healthiest environments possible. These programs address indoor air quality, pesticide use, chemicals in schools, air pollution from school buses and other environmental issues. If you wish to learn more about these programs, please visit cfpub.epa.gov/schools/index.cfm.

We also wanted to thank you for your invitation to Administrator Jackson to meet with you to discuss your concerns. If you would like to set up a meeting to discuss Superfund cleanup issues or concerns over naturally occurring asbestos at the former Naval Shipyard, you can contact Mike Montgomery, the Assistant Director for the

Federal Facilities and Site Cleanup Branch at (415) 972-3438 or
Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov. If you would like to discuss the Schools Initiative
further, please contact Mike Bandrowski, Chief of the Air Toxics, Radiation, and Indoor
Air Office at (415) 947-4194 or Bandrowski.Mike@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Deborah Jordan, Director
Air Division
U.S. EPA, Region 9