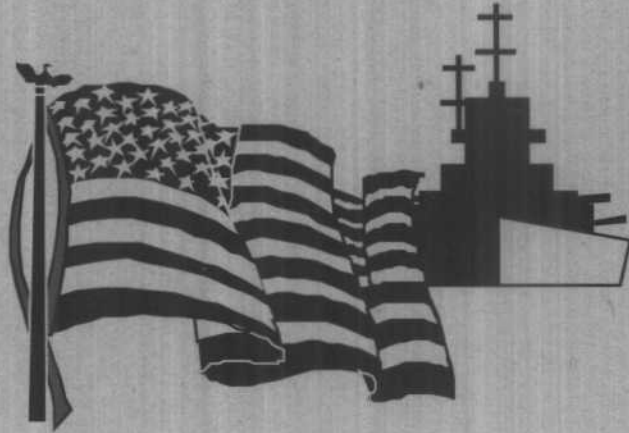


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Bechtel National, Inc.

NAVY  
CLEAN II  
PROGRAM



**FINAL CERFA  
ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SURVEY (EBS)  
AT  
SALTON SEA TEST BASE  
IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



Submitted to:

**Southwest Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, California 92132-5190**



**Southwest Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Contracts Department  
1220 Pacific Highway, Rm. 135  
San Diego, California 92132-5187  
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**CTO-0038**

**COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL  
ACTION NAVY  
NAVY CLEAN**

**FINAL CERFA  
ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SURVEY (EBS)  
AT  
SALTON SEA TEST BASE  
IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**Prepared By:**

**Bechtel National, Inc.  
P.O. Box 193965  
San Francisco, CA 94119-3965**



**December 14, 1993**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**J.A. Moe, Program Manager**

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# Glossary of Terms, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

ACM	asbestos-containing materials
AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
AWP	Annual Work Plan
Cal-EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CLEAN II	Comprehensive-Long-Term Environmental Action, Navy
CTO	Contract Task Order
DoD	Department of Defense
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Detachment
Friable	Easily pulverized or crumbled, thereby allowing particulates/fibers to be released into the air.
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSL	mean sea level
NEESA	Naval Energy and Environmental Support Activity
Ni/Cd	Nickel/Cadmium
NPL	National Priority List
NWC	Naval Weapons Center
Ordnance	Military ammunition that does/may contain an explosive charge
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PCE	perchloroethylene
RASO	Radiological Affairs Support Office
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
SI	site inspection

SSTB	Salton Sea Test Base
SWDIV	Southwest Division
TCE	Trichloroethylene
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank

# Executive Summary

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This Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) report for Salton Sea Test Base (SSTB), Imperial County, California, has been prepared by Bechtel National, Inc. (Bechtel) on behalf of the Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division (SWDIV) in accordance with Contract Task Order (CTO) No. 038, issued under the Comprehensive Long-Term Environmental Action, Navy II (CLEAN II) contract N68711-92-D-4670. The purpose of the EBS is to evaluate Federal real property and describe its environmental condition with respect to the presence of hazardous substances and petroleum products.

The EBS report will be used by the Navy as a basis for compliance with the requirements of the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), which calls for early identification of property for transfer. It should be noted that this report makes no determinations regarding the transfer potential of property; it only describes the environmental condition of the property. Real estate transfer and lease determinations are solely the responsibility of the Navy.

Concurrence is being sought from the State of California on the Navy's findings of suitability for transfer of property. These findings are based on the Navy's interpretation of the environmental condition of property as presented in this EBS.

This EBS report has been developed using the limited existing information and documentation available on SSTB. Persons reviewing this report should be aware of this and make judgments accordingly.

The EBS evaluated real property owned or leased by the Navy at SSTB, remote sites associated with the base, and adjacent property with the potential to impact SSTB significantly.

The CERFA EBS document for the SSTB Naval Facility has been prepared to identify sites which are uncontaminated. Once this document has been finalized, the next phase of base closure will be to prepare a comprehensive EBS and a Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Plan (BCP). The BCP will be a management tool for all Department of Defense installations for planning and executing environmental activities in response to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or hazardous solid wastes. The CERFA EBS presents facility findings in three area types:

- 1) *Properties With No Suspected Environmental Concerns.* These are areas that have had no known release or disposal of hazardous substances; areas that have had a release or disposal of hazardous substances but at which the hazardous substances are present only in quantities that require no response or remedial action; or areas that have had a release or disposal of hazardous substances, but at which all actions necessary to protect human health and the environment have already been taken, with agency approval.

- 2) *Properties With Known or Likely Presence of Environmental Concerns.* These areas have known or suspected presence of hazardous substances, petroleum products or ordnance.
- 3) *Properties Requiring Further Study.* These areas require further study to determine the presence of hazardous substances, petroleum products, or ordnance.

The CERFA EBS evaluates the facility and places specific sites into one of the three area types referenced above.

The BCP will present facility findings in seven area types which are:

- 1) Areas where no storage, release, or disposal of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred (including no migration of these substances from adjacent areas).
- 2) Areas where only storage of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred (but no release, disposal, or migration from adjacent areas has occurred).
- 3) Areas where storage, release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred, but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial action.
- 4) Areas where storage, release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred, and all remedial actions necessary to protect human health and the environment have been taken.
- 5) Areas where storage, release, disposal and/or migration of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred, removal and/or remedial actions are under way, but all required remedial actions have not yet been taken.
- 6) Areas where storage, release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred, but required response actions have not yet been implemented.
- 7) Areas that are unevaluated or require additional evaluation.

The reader can correlate the three EBS area types with the seven BCP area types as follows: The CERFA EBS area type one is the same as the BCP area type one; the CERFA EBS area type two is the same as the BCP area types two through six; and the CERFA EBS area type three is the same as the BCP area type seven.

It is important to note that any site which is suspected of being contaminated will not be presented in the "Properties with No Suspected Environmental concerns"/CERFA EBS area type one. The BCP will be the management tool to further define, in detail, the environmental constraints associated with each site at SSTB.

The primary role of SSTB was as a prototype weapons testing range. Many types of munitions were dropped on targets on land and in the Salton Sea over a period of several years during and following World War II. As a result, ordnance landed or could have landed in numerous locations around the base. In spite of past efforts to recover ordnance, there have been independent reports of ordnance discovered, some in areas not near an identified target. This creates an uncertainty about the presence of ordnance on the base that cannot be resolved without at least a comprehensive visual site inspection of the entire land portion of the base. This uncertainty causes areas of the base that otherwise may have been considered uncontaminated for the purposes of CERFA, to be suspect and thus in need of further evaluation.

The EBS was conducted by compiling existing available sources of historical information on SSTB. The basis for evaluating areas of contamination was the Preliminary Assessment (PA) which, it was assumed, had screened the entire base and identified all areas of concern in the form of the 23 Installation Restoration sites. The PA information on these sites was combined with review of drawings and aerial photos to determine the potential for contamination, contaminants of concern, and extent of possible contamination.

The IR sites identified in the PA were used as the basis for evaluating areas of concern. These sites were mapped for each type of contaminant or source of contamination. Each map shows two categories of sites: properties with known or likely environmental concerns and properties requiring further study. The first category includes areas which were implicated by the PA or other documentation to have had a release at some time. The second category includes areas that have no evidence of a release but need further study to confirm the absence of any environmental concern.

The independent contaminant findings were compiled over the entire base. No areas fit the category of "No Suspected Environmental Concerns" due to the uncertainty of the presence of ordnance throughout the base. Twelve areas on the base, including the entire main compound areas and the six new areas where ordnance has been noted, comprise properties with known or likely environmental concerns. Properties requiring further study include an additional four sites. Both types of property are shown with transparent overlays on maps in Section 6.