

July 8, 2008



DOE Invites Your Participation in Scoping the Environmental Impact Statement for Remediation of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Dear Santa Susana Stakeholder,

The Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider options for cleanup of Area IV at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). We know the community is concerned about contamination at Area IV and we hope you will help us as we develop an EIS that will analyze those concerns. We are seeking your input on the "scope" or range of issues to be analyzed in the EIS. We invite you to attend any of the public meetings scheduled July 22-24, 2008, or to send comments in writing to an address below.

The scoping period began on May 16, 2008 with the publication in the *Federal Register* of a Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS, and will end on August 14, 2008. DOE will consider all comments received during the scoping period in defining the scope of the EIS. Comments received after August 14, 2008 will be considered to the extent practicable.

Background

SSFL is located on approximately 2,852 acres in the hills between Chatsworth and Simi Valley, CA. The site was originally selected because it was remote and provided the opportunity to test rocket engines and conduct nuclear research.

Area IV occupies 290 acres on the western end of SSFL. Starting in the mid-1950s, nuclear energy research was conducted on a 90-acre portion of Area IV, known as the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC). All nuclear research activities were completed in 1988. Over the 30+ years that DOE conducted nuclear research at SSFL, chemical and radiological contamination occurred in and around various facilities.

DOE is preparing an EIS to evaluate alternatives for cleaning up, or remediating, Area IV to assure on-going protection of human and environmental health. It is expected that the cleanup will include removal and disposal of all facilities and support buildings that were formerly used for nuclear research, as well as cleanup of all chemical and radiological contamination.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) includes two key objectives for any EIS process.

1. Inform, involve, and interact with other government agencies, organizations, interest groups, and the public. Accordingly, DOE seeks your engagement throughout the entire EIS process (which is expected to be completed in late 2010).
2. Inform DOE decision makers about the potential consequences of the range of alternative approaches that would accomplish cleanup. Following the completion of the EIS process, DOE will select one alternative, and then issue a Record of Decision documenting the selection of the preferred alternative.

Scoping Meetings - July 22, 23, and 24, 2008

During the scoping period, DOE will work with other government agencies, organizations, interest groups, and the public to identify a full range of reasonable alternatives and methods to address the contamination at Area IV.

During the scoping meetings, DOE will present the alternatives that have already been identified that could meet the cleanup needs of the site. In addition, DOE will describe the issues that it plans to use to evaluate and compare the alternatives. ***But most importantly, the public will be invited to suggest additional alternatives and issues that should be included in the EIS.***

The following are proposed alternatives that have been identified by DOE for analysis in the EIS:

- **Alternative 1:** No Action—This alternative involves the cessation of all DOE management and oversight of SSFL Area IV. The buildings would remain and would not be monitored or maintained. Unmitigated natural processes, including erosion, groundwater transport of contamination and concrete degradation, would be assumed to occur. The purposes of evaluating this alternative are to establish the baseline against which the environmental impacts from all other alternatives are compared and to justify the proposed action. NEPA regulations require analysis of a no action alternative.
- **Alternative 2:** No further cleanup or disposition of buildings and no remediation of contaminated media at SSFL Area IV—DOE would continue environmental monitoring and maintain security of SSFL Area IV.
- **Alternative 3:** Onsite Containment at SSFL Area IV—Containment onsite of buildings, wastes, radiological and chemical contaminants, aligned with potential future land use scenarios including, but not limited to, agricultural, residential, and open space.
- **Alternative 4:** Offsite Disposal of SSFL Area IV Materials—Demolition of buildings, removal of contaminated media aligned with potential future land use scenarios including, but not limited to, agricultural, residential, and open space. Transportation of non- radiological wastes to approved disposal or treatment facilities and radiological wastes to an approved out-of-state disposal facility.
- **Alternative 5:** Combination On-Site/ Off-Site Disposal Alternative for SSFL Area IV—Demolition of buildings, on- site containment of contaminated media aligned with potential future land use scenarios including, but not limited to, agricultural, residential, and open space. Transportation of non- radiological wastes from building demolition to approved disposal or treatment facilities and radiological waste from building demolition to an approved, out-of-state disposal facility.

These preliminary alternatives will be refined and further developed as part of the scoping process through public and other stakeholder input.

The following issues have been tentatively identified for consideration in the EIS. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, but is presented to facilitate public comment during the public scoping period:

- Best methods to obtain accurate information on radiological and hazardous contamination;
- Compliance with applicable Federal, state and local requirements;
- Long-term stewardship and institutional controls; and
- Mitigation measures to avoid or mitigate potentially significant environmental impacts.

The six meetings will follow the same format, beginning with a 20-minute open house followed by a 15-minute project overview by DOE. Oral comments will be accepted privately by a court reporter during the open house portion of the meeting or on a first-come, first-served basis during the formal oral comment period immediately following the DOE project overview.

Written comments will be accepted at the meetings and throughout the scoping period, which ends August 14, 2008; however, the DOE will accept comments relevant to the analysis throughout the process to the extent possible. Oral comments at any meeting and written comments will be considered equally.

Comments may be mailed, e-mailed or faxed to:

Ms. Stephe Jennings
NEPA Document Manager, DOE

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 10300
Canoga Park, CA. 91309

Street Address:
5800 Woolsey Canyon Blvd.
Canoga Park, CA. 91304

Fax: 818-466-8730
E-mail: STEPHANIE.JENNINGS@EMCBC.DOE.GOV
(Please use "Scoping" in the Subject Line)

To request further information or to be placed on the mailing list, contact Ms. Jennings.

The public is invited to attend any of the six scoping meetings listed below.

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| When are Scoping Meetings? | July 22, 2008 – Tuesday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm | Grand Vista Hotel 999 Enchanted Way Simi Valley, California |
| | July 23, 2008 – Wednesday 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm | World Vision Church 19514 Rinaldi Street Northridge, California |
| | July 24, 2008 – Thursday 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm | Sacramento Central Library 828 I Street Sacramento, California |
| Who Can I Contact for More Information on Scoping? | Ms. Stephe Jennings DOE NEPA Document Manager Telephone: 818-466-8898 Email: stephanie.jennings@emcbc.doe.gov | |
| How Can I Find Out More About the EIS? | We invite you to visit our website: www.etec.energy.gov Click on the EIS tab at the top of the page. You can also find additional information at three reading rooms. | |
| Where are the Reading Rooms? | <i>Simi Valley, CA</i> Simi Valley Library, 2969 Tapo Canyon Road (818) 526-1735 | |
| | <i>Woodland Hills, CA</i> Platt Branch Library, 23600 Victory Blvd. (818) 340-9386 | |
| | <i>Northridge, CA</i> California State University Northridge, Oviatt Library 2 nd Floor – Room 265 (818) 677-2285 | |

We look forward to working with regulators and stakeholders on this effort and invite your comments on the process and specific aspects of the EIS throughout the process.

Sincerely,



Stephie Jennings
NEPA Document Manager