



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

April 18, 2007

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your April 4, 2007, letter regarding the cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) and the Energy Technology and Engineering Center (ETEC), which is located within Area IV of the SSFL. As you know, the Department owns no land at the SSFL, but is responsible for the cleanup of the Area IV (290 acres) which was leased from the Boeing Company. In addition, the Boeing Company owns approximately 2100 additional acres (Areas I, III, and buffer zones) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) owns approximately 450 acres (Area II and a small portion of Area I) at SSFL. Each entity will be responsible for cleanup of their respective areas.

It is the Department's intent to clean up radioactive contamination at Building 4024 and at the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (comprised of several buildings), consistent with CERCLA, as well as any contaminated lands associated with the facilities. Area IV cleanup is being performed to meet residential standards which is more conservative than the anticipated future use of the Boeing-owned property. All cleanup performed will have full community involvement in the form of release of documents to the public and the regulators for review and comment before finalization.

We believe it is in the best interest of both the Department and the local communities to clean up the radioactive contamination as expeditiously as possible. The planned schedule is to have the radioactive contamination cleanup complete by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2008. All contaminated waste materials will be disposed of at appropriate disposal locations, based on the type of waste.

The Department has used the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) for independent verification of radioactive cleanup at many DOE sites, and will use ORISE for the verification of this cleanup as well. The Department has also had independent verification of past ETEC cleanups verified by the California Department of Health Services - Radiologic Health Branch (DHHS) with some additional reviews performed by EPA Region 9. The Department has



requested DHS perform independent verification for Building 4024 and the Radioactive Material Handling Facility.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7709 or Mr. Dirk Bartlett, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JA Rispoli". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

James A. Rispoli  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management