

Energy Department seeks public comment on clean up plans for contaminated Santa Susana Field Laboratory facilities

January 25, 2007

Canoga Park, CA -- The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management is seeking public comment on a document that summarizes removal alternatives for the decommissioning and decontamination of the DOE-owned Building 4024, at the former Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in Eastern Ventura County, California. The public comment period is from January 26 - February 28, 2007.

The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), a document that summarizes the ETEC removal alternatives, was developed to keep the public informed of ongoing DOE actions and to provide for the public's input in the decision-making process on the proposed removal action alternative for Building 4024.

Building 4024 tested systems for nuclear auxiliary power reactors in a simulated operational environment. These small reactors were originally developed and tested as a nuclear power source for space vehicles. Building 4024, consists of an above-grade highbay structure and below-grade test vaults. As a result of exposure to neutrons from the reactors, the test cell walls, ceiling, and floors have radioactive contamination.

A public meeting will also be held on February 21, 2007 to discuss and seek further comments on the alternatives summarized in the EE/CA. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Vista Hotel, 999 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley, CA 93964.

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The proposed work and destruction of Building 4024 will involve the complete removal of all structural components and any contaminated soil that may exist within the facility's footprint. The desired outcome of the removal action is a facility footprint that meets radiological and environmental standards for unrestricted future use.

The EE/CA identifies "demolition, removal and off-site disposal" as the preferred alternative to address the objectives of the Building 4024 decommissioning and decontamination. This removal alternative is compared against a "no action" alternative. Both alternatives are evaluated for their relative effectiveness, cost, and the ability to safely carry out removal actions as a decision basis.

The EE/CA and its supporting administrative record file,

that contains the documents that DOE used to identify its proposed alternative and any clean up decision, are available to the public at the following public libraries.

Simi Valley Library
2969 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 526-1735

Platt Branch Library
23600 Victory Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 340-9386

California State University, Northridge
Oviatt Library
2nd Floor, Room 265
Northridge, CA 91330
(818) 677-2285.

Written comments on the proposed action postmarked no later than **February 28, 2007** should be sent to:

Thomas Johnson, Jr., ETEC Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
c/o The Boeing Company
Santa Susana Field Laboratory
5800 Woolsey Canyon Road
Canoga Park, California 91304-1148

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Questions or comments regarding the proposed action, EE/CA, or other issues may be e-mailed to: etec@doeal.gov / Anne.Wickham@emcbc.doe.gov

General questions concerning Santa Susana Field Laboratory should be directed to Blythe Jameson, Manager of Environmental Communications, at 818-466-8793.

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For further information contact:
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Or visit us at <http://apps.em.doe.gov/>