



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 30, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

We would like to personally invite you to attend the public workshops and meetings we have scheduled in June and July 2008. As you can tell from the attached information, this will be a busy and important summer for the Department of Energy (DOE) as we begin the process of the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

It is our commitment to actively engage the community in all phases of the development of the Environmental Impact Statement. We welcome your input and hope that you will attend these meetings.

Don't hesitate to call or email with any suggestions, ideas, or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Johnson, Jr.".

Thomas Johnson, Jr.
Federal Project Director
818-466-8959
Thomas.johnson@emcbc.doe.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Jennings".

Stephanie Jennings
NEPA Document Manager
818-466-8162
Stephanie.jennings@emcbc.doe.gov

Attachment

May 30, 2008



DOE Invites You to Attend Upcoming Public Participation Events to Support the Cleanup of Area IV at Santa Susana Field Laboratory

The Department of Energy (DOE) is beginning to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider alternatives for cleanup of Area IV at Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), which includes the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC). We know how concerned the community around SSFL has been about contamination at Area IV and we hope you will help us as we prepare an EIS that will address your concerns. The purpose of this mailing is to inform you of upcoming opportunities for involvement. We invite you to attend two sets of public meetings that are scheduled in June and July 2008. The purpose of each of these meetings is described below.

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-1950's 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 the various facilities.

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

Under the National Environmental Policy Act there are two key objectives for any EIS process: the first is to inform, involve and interact with other government agencies, organizations, interest groups, and the public in the decision-making process. Accordingly, DOE intends to seek your engagement throughout the entire EIS process (which is expected to be completed in late 2010). The second objective is to inform internal (DOE) decision makers about the potential consequences of the range of alternative approaches that would accomplish cleanup. Following completion of the EIS process, DOE will select one alternative and then issue a Record of Decision documenting the selection of the preferred alternative.

Gap Analysis Workshops—June 10 and June 26, 2008

In order to prepare an EIS to evaluate how to cleanup all chemical and radioactive contamination at Area IV, DOE needed to first understand the full nature and extent of the contamination that poses risks to nearby communities and the environment. Over the extensive period of DOE operations in Area IV, a huge volume of documents has accumulated. DOE decided that a necessary preliminary step for this EIS would be to conduct an extensive review of all the existing sampling and analysis information. A review of all the data and information has been completed. The results of this review and recommendations for additional sampling for chemical and radionuclides are presented in a data gap analysis report. The report includes a description of the process used to evaluate the available data and information and summarizes the amount and quality of readily available information about Area IV. The report concludes with recommendations for additional sampling for both chemical and radiological contaminants that is needed before they can proceed with preparing the EIS. Following finalization of the Data Gap Analysis Report, a detailed sampling and analysis plan that will identify sampling locations will be prepared. The sampling and analysis plan will be shared with interested parties in the late summer 2008.

Two workshops will be held to share the draft Data Gap Analysis with interested members of the public. Both meetings will be held in Simi Valley, California at the Grand Vista Hotel, located at 999 Enchanted Way.

- On Tuesday, June 10, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., interested stakeholders are invited to learn about the draft gap analysis report and ask questions related to the approach, results, and conclusions presented in the report. Copies will be available at the workshop, posted on the website (www.etc.energy.gov), and available in the libraries listed below.
- On Thursday, June 26, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., interested stakeholders will have another opportunity to ask questions about the draft report and to provide input and suggestions for consideration during finalization of the report.

What does the Draft Gap Analysis contain?	The Draft Gap Analysis Report describes how the EIS contractor analyzed the quality of existing information and makes recommendations for additional sampling needed to support the human health and ecological risk assessment and analyze a full range of alternatives in the EIS.
What is not in the Draft Gap Analysis?	The Draft Gap Analysis Report does not identify exact sampling locations. A field sampling and analysis plan is the next step in the process. The sampling and analysis plan will contain maps and proposed locations for additional sampling and will be shared with interested parties in August-September 2008. The public will have an opportunity to provide input and suggestions for sampling locations.
Where to find the Data Gap Analysis	The draft Data Gap Analysis can be found at the reading rooms (listed below) and on the ETEC website, http://www.etec.energy.gov . You may also request a copy of the report on compact disk by calling Stephanie Jennings at 818-466-8162 or stephanie.jennings@emcbc.doe.gov . Hard copies will be available at the workshops listed above. A condensed version of the document will be available on the website or via email.

Scoping Meetings—July 22, 23, 24, 2008

During the scoping period, a federal agency works with other government agencies, organizations, interest groups, and the public to identify a full range of reasonable alternatives to accomplish the purpose and need for federal action. In addition, the agency determines the issues that should be evaluated to allow comparison among the alternatives. Public participation during scoping helps assure that the EIS will be responsive to community concerns.

The scoping period began on May 16, 2008 with the publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS in the *Federal Register*; it 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 that date will be considered to the extent practicable. ¹Scoping comments will be conveyed to DOE's EIS contractor, CDM for consideration during development of the draft EIS.

During the scoping meetings, DOE will share the alternatives that have already been identified that would meet the purpose and need for action. In addition, DOE will share the list of 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. DOE will share the same information at each of the scoping meetings identified below.

The public is invited to attend any of the three scoping meetings:

When are Scoping Meetings?	Tuesday, July 22, 2008 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Grand Vista Hotel 999 Enchanted Way Simi Valley, California
	Wednesday, July 23, 2008 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	World Vision Church 19514 Rinaldi Street Northridge, California
	Thursday, July 24, 2008 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Sacramento Central Library 828 I Street Sacramento, California
How Can I Find Out More About the EIS?	We invite you to visit our website: www.etec.energy.gov and click on the EIS tab at the top of the page. You can also find additional information at three reading rooms that have been established.	
Where are the Reading Rooms?	<p><i>Simi Valley, CA</i>, Simi Valley Library, 2969 Tapo Canyon Road, (818) 526-1735</p> <p><i>Woodland Hills, CA</i>, Platt Branch Library, 23600 Victory Blvd., (818) 340-9386</p> <p><i>Northridge, CA</i>, California State University Northridge, Oviatt Library 2nd Floor • Room 265, (818) 677-2285</p>	

¹Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.