Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC)

Welcome to Scoping Meetings
Environmental Impact Statement for Remediation of Area IV at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Thursday, February 27, 2014
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Simi Valley City Council Chambers

Saturday, March 1, 2014
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center
Welcome and Introductions
John Jones
DOE Project Director
Very Brief Site History

- The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), a predecessor agency of DOE, funded nuclear energy development in Area IV starting in the mid-1950s.

- ETEC was established in the early 1960s by the AEC, as a center of excellence for liquid metals technology.

- Over the years there were 10 small research reactors, and several sodium component test labs.

- Activities conducted at ETEC mostly involved:
  - Liquid metals research
  - Nuclear energy development
  - Waste Management

- Last nuclear operations ended in 1988 with all nuclear materials removed.
Soil and Groundwater Characterization

• US EPA completed radiological characterization survey, December 2012 — collecting more than 3,600 soil samples

• DOE/DTSC nearing completion of chemical characterization survey — collecting more than 6,000 samples

• DOE will be completing groundwater characterization — sampling performed on 90 wells in Area IV
Stephie Jennings
DOE NEPA Document Manager
DOE Deputy Project Director
An Environmental Impact Statement

• Tells the story of a proposed project
  – Designed for many different readers
  – Begins with the purpose and need that provides an explanation of why agency action is necessary
  – Describes a proposed action and alternatives ways to accomplish the purpose and need
  – Analyzes potential environmental impacts
EIS Timeline for Area IV

- **MAY 2007**: Court order to complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- **OCT 2007**: Advanced Notice of Intent to prepare EIS
- **MAY 2008**: Notice of Intent to prepare EIS
- **MAY-AUG 2008**: Initial scoping and public comment period
- **2008-2013**: EIS work curtailed until characterization studies completed; active community engagement continued
- **MAY/JUNE 2012**: Community Alternatives Development Workshop
- **FEB 2014**: Amended Notice of Intent to prepare EIS
- **FEB-MAR 2014**: Scoping and public comment period
- **DEC 2014**: Draft EIS available for public comment
- **OCT 2015**: Final EIS
- **DEC 2015**: Record of Decision
NEPA Scoping??

- Scoping is an early and open process for determining the breadth of issues to be addressed in the EIS and for identifying the significant issues to the public.

- Through the scoping process the public has the opportunity to:
  - Provide input to help DOE frame the analysis for the EIS
  - Suggest alternatives that you would like to see evaluated in the EIS
Why We Are Here

• DOE initially scoped the Area IV EIS in 2008
  – Based on community and agency comment, DOE agreed to complete site characterization prior to moving actively forward with the EIS analysis

• Six years later that characterization is nearing completion
From 2008 to 2014

- In addition to site characterization, DOE has continued to perform EIS related activities including:
  - Biological surveys
  - Cultural resource surveys
  - Traffic and noise studies
  - Soil treatability studies
  - Native American interactions
  - Public interactions
Six Years Later . . .

- Regulatory requirements have changed
  - DOE, DTSC signed Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for soil cleanup, December 2010
  - Groundwater cleanup continues to be governed by the 2007 Consent Order

- Soil characterization
  - EPA completed radiological characterization
  - DOE has nearly completed chemical characterization

- Groundwater characterization
  - DOE will complete groundwater characterization by September 2014
Purpose and Need

DOE needs to complete remediation of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone to comply with applicable requirements for radiological and hazardous contaminants. These requirements include regulations, orders, and agreements, including the 2007 Consent Order, as applicable, and the 2010 AOC.

To this end, DOE needs to remove the remaining DOE structures in Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and clean up the affected environment in Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone in a manner that is protective of the environment and the health and safety of the public and workers.
Proposed Action

- Demolish remaining DOE-owned buildings and debris and dispose of waste off-site
- Clean up Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone soil
  - Look-Up Tables for chemicals and radionuclides govern soil cleanup
  - Where possible, DOE would use on-site treatment of contaminated soils and monitored natural attenuation to reduce volumes of contaminated soil
- Protect biological and cultural resources
Proposed Action (continued)

- Transport soil that cannot be treated on site to permitted disposal facilities
- Backfill, re-contour and stabilize soil excavation locations
- Mitigate transportation impacts to adjacent communities to the extent practicable (e.g., new roadway)
- Address groundwater contamination
  - Pump and treat technology
  - Chemically enhanced degradation
  - Monitored natural attenuation
Preliminary Remediation Areas—Chemicals
Preliminary Remediation Areas—Radionuclides
**Community Developed Alternative Workshop Series**

- DOE invited community members to build alternatives
- More than 100 community members participated in at least one of the three workshop sessions
- Participants contributed time, thought, discussion to alternatives to be considered
- Some concepts included suggestions for mitigations or best management practices that would apply across all alternatives
Concept 1: Minimize Environmental Disturbance

- Approach cleanup of environment in a holistic manner by minimizing damage to the existing ecosystem
- Give preference to in-situ and on-site treatment, and to recycling
Concept 2: Risk-based Prioritization

- Prioritize cleanup actions based on toxicity of contaminants to humans and biota and the efficacy of cleanup methods
- Cleanup should not be schedule driven
- A cost-benefit analysis may be conducted
Concept 3: Schedule-and Background-driven Cleanup

- Meet Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) requirements, including schedule
- Remove and dispose of all contaminated structures
- Remove uncontaminated foundations and pads if necessary to facilitate soil sampling after the buildings have been removed
Concept 4: Green Cleanup

- Use green cleanup technologies whenever possible
- Select methods, activities, and components of each cleanup action by assigning points based on factors such as cost, efficacy, and degree of disturbance
No Action Alternative

- The “No Action” Alternative is always required
  - Establishes baseline to compare impacts of all alternatives
  - DOE will analyze the risk of no further clean-up actions
- No further soil or groundwater cleanup or disposition of DOE buildings and structures would take place at Area IV and the NBZ
- Buildings and structures not owned by DOE may be removed
- Environmental monitoring, stormwater controls, and security at Area IV and the NBZ would continue
Developing “Alternatives”

- Alternatives will be based on current requirements, site characterization, public workshops, and public and agency scoping comments.
- DOE’s range of reasonable alternatives will be shared with public in late Spring to early Summer.
DOE invites you to comment

- Your ideas, thoughts, comments are vital and important
- Focus on what DOE should consider as it assesses the impacts of cleanup, what’s important to you
- Make your comments solution oriented and provide specific examples
- Make suggestions for additional alternatives that you think we should consider
- Comments that contribute to developing alternatives that address the purpose and need for action are very effective
Potential Areas for Analyses

Please share your thoughts about these or other issues:

- Public and worker health and safety
- Waste and material transportation
- Waste management
- Potential accidents
- Intentional destructive acts
- Air resources
- Noise
- Water resources
- Geology and soils
- Land use and visual resources
- Biological resources
- Cultural, historic and paleontological resources
- Native American resources
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental justice
- Resource commitments
- Cumulative impacts
Thank You for Your Participation

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Please Note:
The comment period now ends April 2, 2014
Potential Areas for Analyses

Please share your thoughts about these or other issues

- Public and worker health and safety
- Waste and material transportation
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