

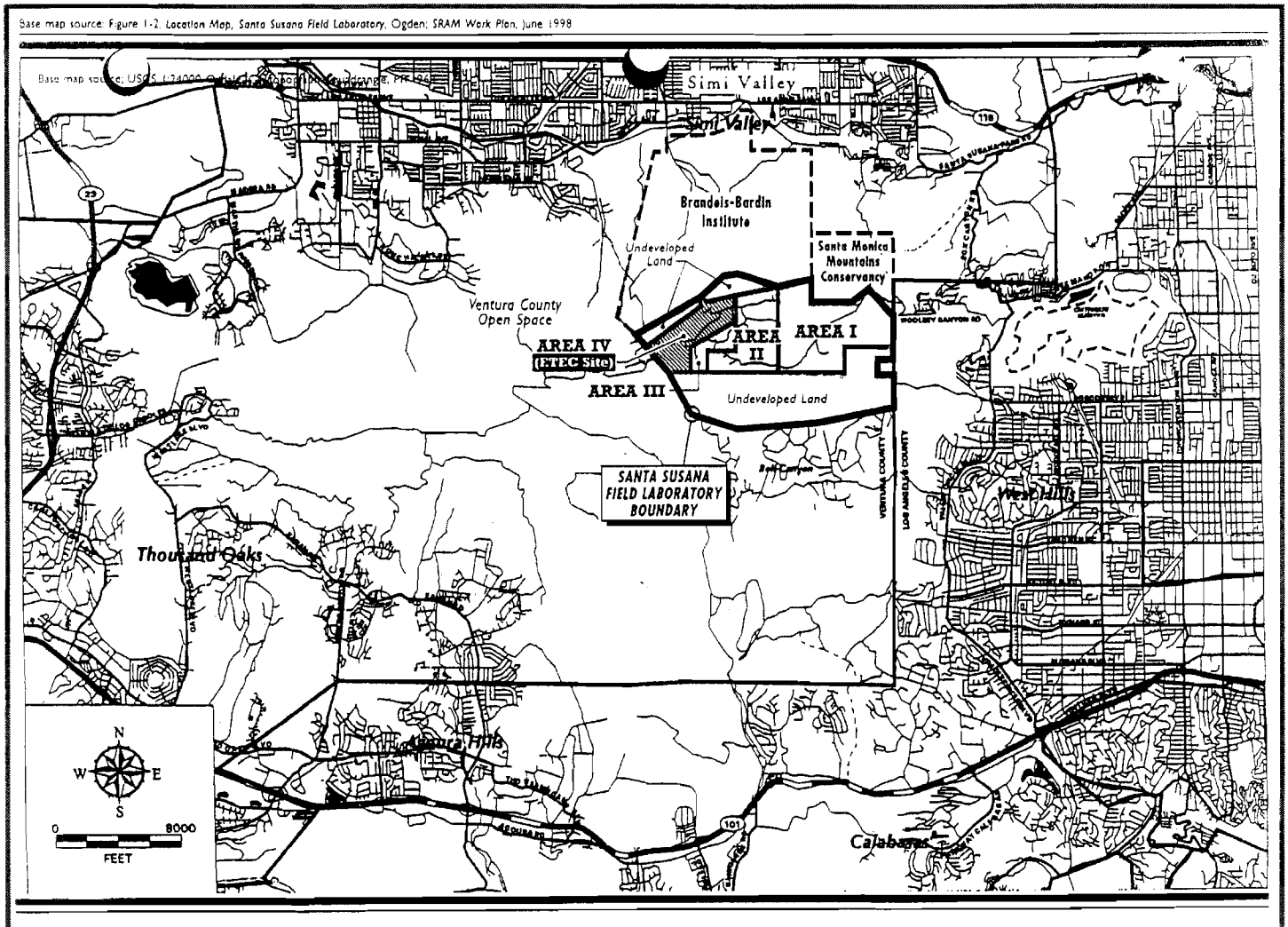


SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • July 2007

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Evaluation

EPA has prepared this fact sheet to inform Simi Valley community members and stakeholders that we will be conducting a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site, including Areas I-IV and the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC).



Site Location Map: Energy Technology Engineering Center/Area IV (ETEC) Site, Simi Hills, California

EPA Hazard Ranking System Overview

The Preliminary Assessment (PA)/Site Inspection (SI) are used by EPA to evaluate the potential for a release of hazardous substances from a site. During the site assessment process, EPA collects data to identify, evaluate and rank hazardous waste sites based on specific criteria.

The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is a numerically-based screening system that uses information from the initial, limited investigations (PA/SI) to assess the relative potential of sites to pose a threat to human health or the environment. The HRS score determines the eligibility for placing the site on the National Priorities List (NPL or Superfund).

The PA/SI for SSFL is expected to be completed by the end of 2007. The results of the investigation will then be made available to the public at the Simi Valley Library or upon request from the EPA (see library and contact information at the end of this fact sheet).

Background

The SSFL is a 2800-acre facility located in Ventura County approximately two miles south of the City of Simi Valley and 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The SSFL is divided into four areas which are under different ownership and operation. Boeing owns and operates Areas I, III and IV. Primary operations

include the development and testing of liquid fuel rocket motors. The rocket motor operations have been active since the late 1940s and have resulted in chemical contamination. Similar operations were conducted in Area II which is owned by NASA. Boeing also operates the 90-acre Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) in Area IV as a contractor to the Department of Energy (DOE).

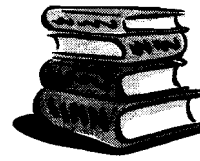
Between 1949 and 1988, Boeing operated 10 nuclear reactors and related facilities that resulted in chemical and radiological contamination at ETEC. All nuclear reactors and fuel elements were removed from SSFL. The on-going cleanup of the chemical contamination is currently managed by the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The on-going cleanup of the remaining radiological contamination is managed by DOE.

In the past, EPA has evaluated different areas of SSFL. This is the first time that EPA will be investigating the entire "footprint" of the SSFL. Chemical and radiological contaminants will be evaluated. EPA is updating the information we have collected for these four areas and will then determine whether additional data is required to complete the assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether the SSFL (all four areas as a whole) has a preliminary HRS score sufficient for possible listing on the National Priorities List (NPL).

SSFL Site Repositories:



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



California State University, Northridge
Urban Archives Center
Oviatt Library, Room 4
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, California 91330
Attention: Mr. Robert Marshall

Los Angeles Public Library
Platt Branch
23600 Victory Boulevard
Woodland Hills, California 91367
Attention: Janet Metzler

Introduction to the Hazard Ranking System (HRS)

The HRS is the principal mechanism EPA uses to place uncontrolled waste sites on the National Priorities List (NPL).

The HRS uses a structured analysis approach to scoring sites. This approach assigns numerical values to factors that relate to potential threats to human health or the environment based on conditions at the site. The factors are grouped into three categories and four pathways:

The three categories of factors:

- likelihood that a site has released or has the potential to release hazardous substances into the environment;
- characteristics of the waste (e.g. toxicity and quantity); and
- people or sensitive environments (targets) affected by the release.

Four pathways can be scored under the HRS:

- ground water migration (drinking water);
- surface water migration (drinking water, human food chain, sensitive environments);
- soil exposure (resident population, nearby population, sensitive environments); and
- air migration (population, sensitive environments).

After scores are calculated for one or more pathways, they are combined using a formula to determine the overall site score.



Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on EPA's mailing list for the Santa Susana site, please return the coupon below to: Lauren Berkman, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3), San Francisco, CA 94105. Or, you may email the information to Lauren at: berkman.lauren@epa.gov

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Evaluation of Santa Susana Field Laboratory

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If you have questions or would like more information on USEPA Site Assessment activities at the SSFL site, you may call USEPA toll-free at (800) 231-3075. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.



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