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NO. 5661 P. 2
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION—CHAIRMAN
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0604

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

February 23, 2007

The Honorable Samuel Bodman
Secretary, Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

It has come to my attention that the Department has established a public comment period, set to expire on February 28, 2007, regarding an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Assessment (EE/CA) for cleaning up radioactive contamination from the site of one of the former SNAP reactors at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. I write to urge you to extend the comment period.

Aside from an advertisement in local papers, DOE failed to provide meaningful public notice of the existence of the EE/CA and the comment period. Your Department did not notify my office of the availability of the EE/CA or the comment period. To my knowledge, other legislators were similarly not notified. Well into the comment period, DOE sent out a postcard to members of the public who had signed up to be informed of important SSFL developments, announcing a public meeting on February 21. However, this postcard inexplicably failed to mention the EE/CA, where it could be obtained, or the comment period. Similarly, the Department's SSFL website did not include any announcement of the EE/CA availability until long into the comment period. Those few people who may have seen the ad and promptly went to the cited URL would have found no mention of the EE/CA, nor copy of it. In fact, a link marked "Cleanup" leads to a page that reads "Under Construction."

As you know, I have long been concerned that SSFL is not adequately being cleaned up. To the extent the Department solicits public comment on aspects of the cleanup, the opportunity for public comment should be meaningful. I ask that you extend the public comment period a minimum of 45 days from the time the Department sends notice by mail to the mailing list for the interested public concerning the availability of the EE/CA, and opportunity to submit written comment.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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