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DOE Seeks Public Comment on the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility Decontamination and Decommissioning at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Santa Susana Field Laboratory, CA -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking public comment on a document that summarizes removal alternatives for the decontamination and decommissioning of the DOE-owned Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (RMHF) at the former Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC). Using an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) process, DOE has identified removal and off site disposal of the former RMHF as the preferred alternative. The public comment period will begin March 26 and end April 30, 2007.

The EE/CA 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 the RMHF.

The RMHF is comprised of a group of ten buildings designed and constructed in 1959 for the safe storage and handling of new and irradiated nuclear fuel and other radioactive materials. In 1989, three buildings at the RMHF were authorized for the storage and treatment of mixed wastes generated at ETEC.

Decontamination and decommissioning of RMHF would involve the complete removal of all above and below grade buildings and structures and removal of any radiologically impacted soil as proposed by the EE/CA. The desired outcome of the removal action is an RMHF footprint that meets radiological standards for release for unrestricted use. A residential cleanup standard has been chosen that is fully protective of human health and the environment.

There will be a public meeting to receive comments on the RMHF EE/CA, on April 17 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at the Grand Vista Hotel, 999 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley, CA.

The EE/CA and its supporting Administrative Record File were used to identify the preferred alternative. The documents can be viewed at <http://apps.em.doe.gov/etec> and at the following libraries.

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

Platt Branch Library
2360 Victory Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
818-340-9386

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

Comments on the RMHF EE/CA are requested by April 30 and may be submitted in writing or by electronic mail to:

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E-Mail comments to: etec@doeal.gov

Media inquiries may be directed to Bill Taylor, U.S. Department of Energy - Environmental Management, Consolidated Business Center, 513-246-0539 or william.taylor@emcbc.doe.gov.

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