

**Santa Susana Field Laboratory
Energy Technology Engineering Center
Removal of Radioactive Materials Handling Facility**

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to conduct the Decontamination & Decommissioning (D&D) of the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (RMHF) as a non-time critical removal action in accordance with requirements of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). This approach integrates the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) oversight and provides an opportunity for greater public participation.

Background

Nuclear research has been conducted by Atomics International at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) for the Atomic Energy Commission and later the DOE since the mid-1950's. The Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) was established in the mid-1960s as a research center for liquid metals technology. ETEC is located within Area IV of SSFL, located in eastern Ventura County.

With the closing of DOE nuclear operations in 1988, the focus turned towards the disposition of government property, cleanup of facilities, the investigation and remediation of soil and groundwater, demolition of facilities and site restoration. This cleanup effort is collectively known as the ETEC Closure Program.

What is DOE proposing to do?

DOE is proposing to D&D RMHF. This involves the removal of all above- and below-ground structures as well as any radiologically impacted soil that may exist within the 1.5 acre facility area. The objective of the removal action is to completely remove RMHF and verify that the remaining land area meets the radiological standards for release for unrestricted use. A residential cleanup standard that is protective of human health and the environment will be used.

What is a non-time critical removal action?

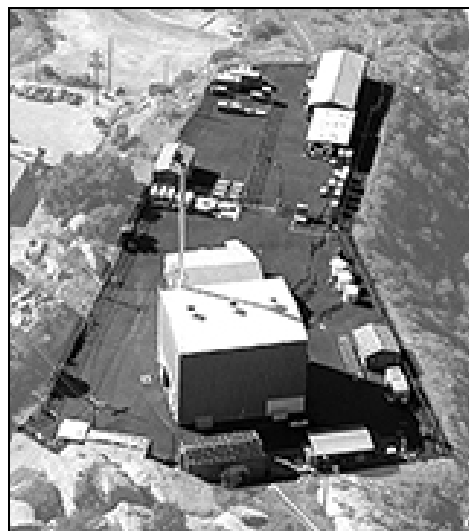
A non-time critical removal action is performed when there is no immediate threat to the public or environment and sufficient time is available for planning and community involvement. This process provides an opportunity for the community to comment on the project objectives and the proposed activities for RMHF.

What is an EE/CA?

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) is a document produced as part of the non-time critical removal action process.

The RMHF D&D EE/CA summarizes the objectives of the removal action and evaluates alternatives to implement the D&D.

The public is encouraged to comment on the proposed alternative presented in this EE/CA during the public comment period. After public comments are considered, an alternative will be chosen and the EE/CA will be used as the basis to implement the chosen approach.



Aerial Photo of the RMHF Facility

Why is DOE using this approach?

DOE is using this approach to allow for EPA's oversight and increase public participation opportunities. Use of the removal action authority also is in accordance with the 1995 joint DOE/EPA Policy Memorandum on D&D in a manner that is consistent with CERCLA.



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What alternatives did DOE consider?

Two alternatives are evaluated for their relative effectiveness, implementability and cost. The EE/CA identifies "demolition/removal and off-site disposal" as the preferred alternative compared against a "no action" alternative.

What happened at RMHF?

The RMHF was designed and constructed in 1959 for the safe storage and handling of new and irradiated nuclear fuel and other radioactive materials. The RMHF operated in its original capacity until research at ETEC involving radioactive materials was completed in 1988. When the DOE-sponsored activities at ETEC began to focus on the D&D of the ETEC facilities, the RMHF was dedicated to the exclusive support of D&D activities at SSFL. In this capacity, only radioactive and mixed wastes were managed at the RMHF.



RMHF Workers at Building 4022 in 2005

Are DTSC/EPA involved?

Yes, EPA and DTSC reviewed and commented on the RMHF D&D EE/CA. The DOE and EPA have worked together in a similar manner at other sites.

Where can I get a copy of the EE/CA?

Copies of the EE/CA will be available at the April 17, 2007, public comment meeting. The EE/CA, including supporting documents (administrative record) is also available at the DOE ETEC website at: <http://apps.em.doe.gov/ETEC>

In addition, you may review the EE/CA and Administrative Record at the following libraries:

Simi Valley Library

2969 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063
805/526-1735

California State University, Northridge

Oviatt Library
2nd Floor, Room 265,
Northridge, CA 91330
818/677-2285

Platt Branch Library

23600 Victory Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
818/340-9386

How do I comment on the EE/CA?

Oral comments will be received during the April 17, 2007, public comment meeting. Written comments may be submitted in person at this meeting, or mailed or emailed to DOE's project manager:

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The public comment period ends on April 30, 2007.



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