

ANNUAL REPORT

Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Proposed Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone, Ventura County, California

January 2021 - December 2021



**U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Technology Engineering Center
Santa Susana Field Laboratory
Simi Valley, CA 93063**

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ACRONYMS

CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMI Plan	Corrective Measures Implementation Plan
DOE	Department of Energy
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ETEC	Energy Technology Engineering Center
ICR	Indigenous Community Representatives
NAMG	Native American Monitoring Group
PA	Programmatic Agreement
SSFL	Santa Susana Field Laboratory

This annual report summarizes activities conducted from January 2021 through December 2021 pursuant to the *Programmatic Agreement between the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Proposed Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone, Ventura County, California (PA)*.

1.0 Summary of Undertaking Updates during the Reporting Period

DOE's undertaking covered under the PA includes a three-phased proposal to (a) demolish and remove 18 DOE-owned buildings in Area IV; (b) perform groundwater cleanup and related activities; and (c) perform soil cleanup and related activities. This section describes the status of each of these activities and discusses anticipated actions during the next reporting period.

Building Demolitions

Activities Completed or Underway within the Reporting Period. DOE completed demolition of the above-ground portion of 6 remaining buildings (12 buildings were demolished in the prior reporting period) by the end of 2021 (see map in Appendix A). This included a controlled demolition of DOE buildings 4462 and 4463 using shaped charges. For the controlled demolition, DOE's contractor used seismographs to document the air overpressure and ground vibrations near the demolition site, confirming that all levels were within safe limits for nearby resources, including archaeological sites.

Before building demolition work started, screenings were conducted for radiological constituents and hazardous chemicals. Detailed implementation plans and safety procedures were developed, which were reviewed and approved by the California Department of Toxic Substance Controls (DTSC), the lead regulatory agency for the cleanup. DOE also performed a safety review of the demolition plans provided by its contractor to ensure that the work would be done in a safe manner. Operations were then overseen by DOE/Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) technical staff and DTSC.

Although not required under the PA (see PA Stipulation V.b.i), DOE ensured that a tribal monitor was present during the above-ground building demolition and removal activities even though these activities would not result in ground disturbance. DOE's contractor, North Wind, continued to employ Native American Monitoring Group (NAMG) to provide cultural monitoring for these activities. NAMG is owned by Beverly Folkes, who is of Chumash/Tataviam/Fernandeno tribal heritage and is a member of the Indigenous Community Representatives (ICR).

The NAMG monitor confirmed that the controlled demolitions were conducted safely with respect to nearby archaeological sites. Nothing was uncovered during the 2021 demolition activities that triggered any of the Monitoring Plan's procedures for unexpected discoveries of cultural resources or human remains.

Activities Expected in 2022. No ground disturbing activities are expected in 2022. Offsite disposal of debris remaining from 2021 demolitions will be completed.

Groundwater Cleanup and Related Activities

Groundwater Investigation Wells

Activities Completed or Underway within the Reporting Period. No new wells were installed in 2021. Samples were taken from the existing investigation well system.

Activities Expected in 2022. DOE plans to install additional investigation wells in 2022 or 2023 and, per the PA (PA Stipulation VI), will follow the standard protection measures for groundwater

investigations delineated in PA Attachment 8. This includes archaeological and Native American review of proposed investigation well locations, including identifying the boundaries of nearby archaeological resources to ensure avoidance.

Groundwater Cleanup

Activities Completed or Underway within the Reporting Period. DOE continued active groundwater remediation (pump and treat) at the Former Sodium Disposal Facility that has been ongoing since 2017.

Activities Expected in 2022. No ground-disturbing activities are anticipated in 2022. The timing of DOE's groundwater remediation work is dependent on the DTSC's completion of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DOE is preparing a draft Groundwater Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) Plan, describing the proposed groundwater cleanup actions, that DOE will provide to DTSC upon certification of its EIR. DOE will consult with the Consulting Parties about the proposed corrective measures, per PA Stipulation VIII, upon certification of DTSC's EIR and before finalizing the CMI Plan for submission to DTSC.

Soil Cleanup and Related Activities

There were no activities related to soil cleanup conducted during this reporting period, and no ground-disturbing activities are anticipated in 2022. The timing of DOE's soil remediation work is dependent on the DTSC's completion of an EIR pursuant to the CEQA.

2.0 Status of Programmatic Agreement Stipulations

The following table provides the current status of the PA stipulations.

Stipulation	Title	Status
I	Definitions	No change.
II	Professional Qualifications	DOE confirms that technical work during this reporting period was carried out by or under the direct supervision of professionals who meet professional standards.
IIIa	Tribal Involvement	Although no ICR meetings were held in 2021, DOE continued to coordinate with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians via phone calls and emails.
IIIb	Tribal Monitoring	DOE ensured that its contractor hired tribal monitors and that monitoring was conducted pursuant to the <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> , as described in Section 1.0.
IV	Modification of the Area of Potential Effects	No change; the Area of Potential Effects has not been modified.
V	Building Demolition and Removal	All 18 above-ground structures have been demolished, as described in Section 1.0. There was no reason to reopen consultations with the Consulting Parties, per Stipulation V.c.
VI	Groundwater Investigations	No new wells were installed in 2021, as described in Section 1.0.
VII	Soil and Groundwater Cleanup: Identification and Evaluation	DOE did not conduct any activities during this reporting period. As described in NASA's 2020-2021 PA Annual Report, the <i>Burro Flats Cultural District Traditional Cultural Property</i> nomination proceeded through the county, state, Native American, and federal review processes, and NASA intends to continue with the listing process.
VIII	Soil and Groundwater Cleanup: Assessment of Adverse Effects	No activities occurred during this reporting period.
IX	Soil and Groundwater Cleanup: Treatment of Historic Properties	No activities occurred during this reporting period.
X	Monitoring Plan for Tribal and Archaeological Monitors	DOE developed a <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> in 2020. Nothing was uncovered during the current reporting period that triggered any of the Monitoring Plan's procedures for unexpected discoveries of cultural resources or human remains.

Stipulation	Title	Status
XI	Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources and Human Remains, Graves, and Associated Funerary Items	DOE developed a <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> in 2020. Nothing was uncovered during the current reporting period that triggered any of the Monitoring Plan's procedures for unexpected discoveries of cultural resources or human remains.
XII	Curation	No activities occurred during this reporting period.
XIII	Review of Documents	DOE followed this stipulation during development and review of the <i>2020 Annual Report</i> .
XIV	Communication	DOE communications were consistent with this stipulation.
XV	Annual Reporting	DOE developed this annual report consistent with the requirements of Stipulation XV.
XVI	Confidentiality	DOE has conducted activities consistent with this stipulation.
XVII	Dispute Resolution	There were no disputes needing resolution during this reporting period.
XVIII	Duration	No change.
XIX	Amendments	No amendments were enacted during this reporting period.
XX	Addition and Termination	There were no additions or terminations during this reporting period.
XXI	Antideficiency Act	No change.
XXII	General Provisions and Scope of Agreement	No change.
XXIII	Execution	The PA was executed in September 2019.

DOE = Department of Energy; ICR = Indigenous Community Representatives; PA = Programmatic Agreement; NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration

APPENDIX A

Map showing demolished buildings

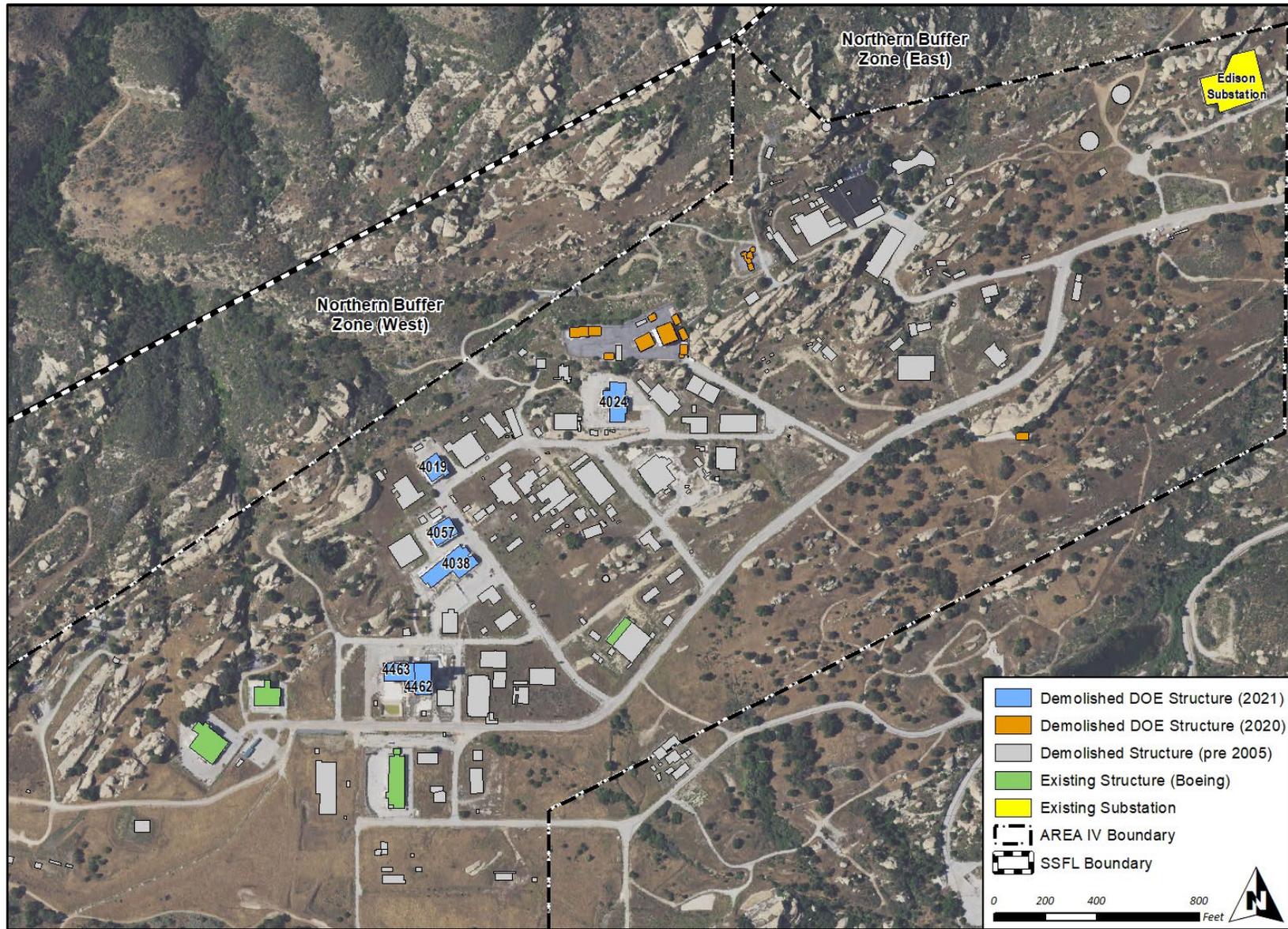


Figure A-1: Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area IV Building Status