

Community Involvement Plan to be available for public comment

The SSFL Area IV Community Involvement Plan (CIP) will be available for public comment on the ETEC website at http://etec.energy.gov/EIS/Documents/Area_IV_Community_Involvement_Plan.pdf, beginning August 24 through September 24, 2009. The CIP is the foundation for the DOE's SSFL Area IV comprehensive communication and engagement strategy for public involvement activities. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the plan and send comments to ETEC-energy@emcbc.doe.gov.

USEPA initiates background sampling for radionuclides

USEPA has completed identification of Radiological Background Reference Areas, and "Distance Test Locations" for the Background Radiological Study and is poised to begin soil sampling this summer. The agency will collect about 100 surface soil samples and 40 subsurface soil samples from the Radiological Background Reference Areas, which are about three to five miles from SSFL, and 20 surface soil samples at Distance Test Locations, more than 10 miles from SSFL. Data from the two sets of samples will be compared to ensure that the Radiological Reference Background Areas have not been impacted by prior releases from SSFL.

USEPA gamma walkover preparation progress

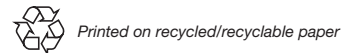
USEPA is designing and constructing equipment for a gamma walkover survey of Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Land. This activity will involve carrying instruments capable of detecting gamma radiation throughout the accessible space in the study area to identify locations for follow-up soil sampling.

DTSC background study status

DTSC has identified locations for the chemical background study, some of which are in the vicinity of USEPA's radionuclide background sampling areas. DTSC proposes to mark those locations in early August. A draft work plan describing the background study is nearing completion and will be shared with the public at large.

For more information

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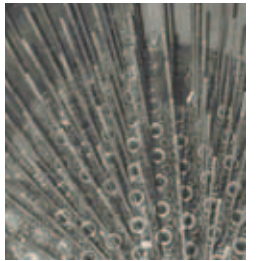
Energy Technology Engineering Center
 Area IV, Santa Susana Field Laboratory

CleanUpdate

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DOE begins surveys to protect biological, cultural resources

One of the many challenges the Department of Energy (DOE) will face in cleaning up Area IV is protecting biological and cultural resources. Key sections of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be devoted to descriptions and analyses of these sensitive resources. DOE is beginning two surveys, one for biological and the other for cultural resources.

DOE's role in protecting biological and cultural resources is first to survey – as illustrated in the photo below from a different site – all of Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Land, noting the presence and locations of biological and cultural resources. Both surveys will require research and field work.

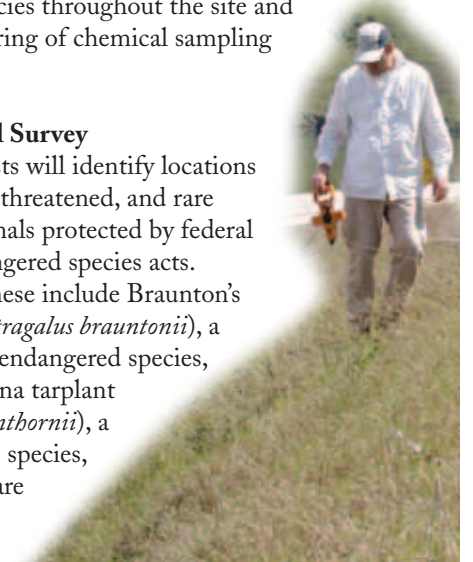
This challenge is a concern long before actual cleanup begins, because even the studies to identify contamination, such as the one that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will begin in Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Land later this year, can pose threats to sensitive resources.

The DOE surveys will be consistent with policies the Boeing Company has in place to protect sensitive resources during its work under the Resource Conservation and Resource Recovery Act (RCRA). Those policies include posted warnings in habitats of sensitive species throughout the site and regular monitoring of chemical sampling areas.

USEPA's radiological studies to detect gamma radiation may require the use of heavy equipment that could damage sensitive resources. In addition, soil sampling may require digging that would impact places where humans once lived or where sensitive plant species or burrowing animals now dwell. Further, DOE's cleanup actions must be designed to protect sensitive resources.

The Biological Survey

DOE's biologists will identify locations of endangered, threatened, and rare plants and animals protected by federal and state endangered species acts. For example, these include Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), a federally listed endangered species, and Santa Susana tarplant (*Hemizonia minthornii*), a state-listed rare species, both of which are known to be in Area IV.



What are sensitive resources and why are they a concern?

Biological resources include plants and animals, some of which may be eligible for protection under federal or state law. **Cultural resources** include Native American archaeological features and artifacts as well as buildings or structures that have historical significance.

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Have email? Get connected!

DOE encourages those who would like to receive the **CleanUpdate** and other SSFL news by email to send your address to: ETEC-Energy@emcbc.doe.gov

Greetings to the Santa Susana community:

This edition of the *CleanUpdate* focuses on **biological and cultural surveys** that will feed into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These surveys will help us identify rare plants, animals, and habitats, and the potential presence of historical features and artifacts in Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Land that should be protected throughout the process of characterizing and cleaning up contamination. Our goal is to complete these surveys and write the related chapters of the EIS prior to ground- or habitat-disturbing activities that will occur during planned site characterization and cleanup. See the story on page 1, plus we invite you to visit the ETEC website for additional information on the surveys.

We are also planning a workshop on the **Sodium Reactor Experiment** to help us and community members better understand the SRE accident, and develop a summary of community perspectives on the accident. Initial details about this meeting are on page 3.

Meanwhile, we are happy to introduce our newest staff member, Lance Martin, who will use his project management capabilities to help us keep on track. See article on this page.

Stephie Jennings, DOE NEPA Document Manager

Thomas Johnson, DOE Federal Project Director

Spotlight on...

Lance Martin



Editor's note: "Spotlight on..." will be an occasional feature in the CleanUpdate highlighting individuals, activities, and milestones relevant to the Area IV cleanup.

Lance Martin is the new Project Controls and Project Management specialist up on the hill at DOE-Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). CleanUpdate staff spoke with him recently.

CleanUpdate: What is your role on the project?

Martin: Strictly speaking, my title is Program Analyst. Practically, that means I spend my time assessing project performance against plans, budget, and schedule, making sure that contractor performance is integrated into the overall plan. I am responsible for tracking "earned value" – that is, evaluating work completed against funds expended. I will also be tracking expenditures of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is the stimulus money. All government agencies using stimulus funds must provide more detailed tracking of all expenditures.

CleanUpdate: What is your educational and work background?

Martin: I have a bachelor's degree in systems engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and a master's in management from the University of Redlands.

As for my work background, I have over 20 years experience in both program management and business development in the aerospace and defense industry, working for companies such as HR Textron and Curtiss-Wright Corporation. My experience as a program manager will be particularly applicable to my work with DOE in the area of financial analysis and controls. In addition to my civilian background, I am also a retired Navy captain, with a total of 20 years active and reserve service with the United States submarine service.

CleanUpdate: What, if anything, surprised you most about your work on this project?

Martin: Certainly one of the most interesting aspects has been the involvement of such a broad range of organizations, including NASA, Boeing, EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), stakeholders, and elected representatives. It is a very interesting and diverse group of organizations and people; all with important involvement in the project.

CleanUpdate: What do you see as your biggest challenge on this project?

Martin: Maintaining solid oversight over all the activities and getting the job done on schedule.

CleanUpdate: What do you hope to look back on as your accomplishments on this project a few years down the road?

Martin: I hope to be able to say we achieved cleanup goals on budget and on schedule. I believe it will be a tremendous source of satisfaction if I am able to say I've made a positive difference.

Workshop to offer three perspectives on SRE accident

The 1959 accident at the SSFL SRE will be the focus of a workshop DOE is sponsoring on Saturday, August 29, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Grand Vista Hotel, 999 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley.

According to Stephanie Jennings, DOE's NEPA Document Manager, the goal is to provide the community with the opportunity to explore different perspectives about the 1959 accident at the research reactor.



Undated photo of key SRE facilities

The workshop will begin with presentations by a panel of three independent experts with extensive knowledge of nuclear reactors:

- Dr. Paul Pickard, Sandia National Laboratories
- Dr. Richard Denning, Ohio State University
- Dr. Thomas Cochran, Natural Resources Defense Council

Each panelist will be invited to share what he believes happened during the accident. After the presentations, members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel. Then workshop participants will be invited to develop their own descriptions of the accident, working in small groups or independently, as they prefer.

The resulting descriptions will be compiled to present the community's perspectives on the accident, which will be provided to all meeting participants, posted on the ETEC website, and attached as an appendix to the EIS.

To assist in planning for food, DOE asks that those who wish to attend contact Debbie Kramer, 818-466-8898 or ETEC-Energy@emcbc.doe.gov by Monday, August 24.

Surveys (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Archeological Survey

DOE's archeologists will develop a cultural resources inventory of historical features and sites in Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Land. There may be new sites identified in the Northern Undeveloped Land. Some cultural resources may be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

Next Steps

Once the two surveys have been completed, DOE will share the information with USEPA to support its studies of contamination; and copies will also be provided to the DTSC and made available on the ETEC website. DOE will use the information in preparing its EIS, which will evaluate Area IV cleanup options, including their potential impact on cultural and biological resources, and will also use the findings to develop plans to protect sensitive resources during cleanup.

Cultural and biological surveys are never completely "done." Plants or animals may appear or be active only at certain seasons or during favorable years, and archeological sites may be buried. This means site workers must remain vigilant to recognize sensitive resources and call in the team biologists and archaeologists when necessary, a practice that is already in place for the current RCRA studies. For more information, visit the web version of this newsletter at http://etec.energy.gov/Cleanup/CleanUpdate/SSFL_CleanUpdateAug09.pdf. Individual links describe the process for conducting the surveys; the federal and state registers of historical locations; a few of the means to protect sensitive resources; and related links on cultural and biological protection.



This photo of Brauntion's milk vetch, an endangered species, was taken in Area IV by DOE's biologists.