

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Background: The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles in southeastern Ventura County, near the crest of the Simi Hills at the western border of the San Fernando Valley. A former rocket engine test and nuclear research facility, the 2,849-acre field laboratory is currently the focus of a comprehensive environmental investigation and cleanup program overseen by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Soil at various areas on the site is impacted by cleaning solvents, metals, combustion by-products and radionuclides.

The parties responsible for cleanup are the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and The Boeing Company (Boeing). DTSC works with other State regulatory agencies (e.g., Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Public Health, California Fish & Wildlife), and external consultants and academic subject matter experts to ensure the best recommendations and decisions are made. This project has a high level of interest from various community groups and organizations and DTSC has made education and community engagement high priorities.

Update

Soil Investigations: The three Responsible Parties have completed gathering data from soil investigations. Boeing has been submitting reports on an ongoing basis. DOE anticipates submittal of their last soil-related report in late 2016/early 2017. NASA's revised Final Soil Data Summary Report is due in late 2016. Soil data is being used for soil remediation planning. NASA also completed pre-remediation demolition on NASA property.

Groundwater Investigations: Cleaning solvents have impacted groundwater and for the last several years, the three Responsible Parties characterized the groundwater. The work is mostly complete and the data is being evaluated. Results will be presented in a Site-wide groundwater Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation (RFI) Report drafted by the responsible parties. When approved by DTSC, the groundwater RFI Report will be used for remediation planning. Site-wide groundwater treatability studies are ongoing.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): DTSC's draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report is in preparation, and anticipated to be available for public review in late 2016.

Community Outreach: DTSC produces monthly updates, holds biannual update meetings, and responds to community inquiries.

Enforcement: In 2016, DTSC conducted a compliance inspection. No violations of hazardous waste laws, regulations, or requirements were found. However, DTSC is still reviewing compliance information with respect to manifests generated onsite.

For more information visit:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Santa_Susana_Field_Lab/

