

COMMUNITY UPDATE

DTSC's mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

PEIR Completed for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory

In 2017, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) held a comment period after release of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for soil and groundwater cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). The PEIR explains the environmental impacts possible from SSFL cleanup activities and identifies alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts. During development of the draft PEIR, DTSC held two formal scoping meetings in 2013 as required under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for PEIR preparation and workshops in 2014 to engage community members in determining the transportation routes and methods. During the 2017 comment period, DTSC held two public meetings to receive comments. DTSC also accepted comments in writing and email.

After carefully reviewing and responding to thousands of comments on the Draft PEIR, DTSC certified the Final PEIR for SSFL. The certified PEIR includes updates and clarifications to the environmental analyses, responses to comments on the Draft PEIR, and other elements required by CEQA. Reaching this milestone, along with the recently effective settlement agreement with The Boeing Company (Boeing), opens the door for making decisions on cleanup documents and implementing remedies that are protective of people and the environment. Public comment periods for the first decision documents are scheduled to begin in late 2023 or early 2024. Decision documents, or cleanup plans, provide information on the need for a removal action, describe the proposed remedy and cleanup levels, and give a rationale for the recommended proposed remedy. DTSC will notify the public when each draft decision document is released for public comment.

As required by CEQA and DTSC's administrative orders to the Responsible Parties, the Final PEIR evaluates several alternatives to the proposed cleanup and the potential impacts of each and provides DTSC and the public with a complete analysis of those impacts. The Program Management Plan within the Final PEIR will guide preparation of all project related plans, including proposed decision documents.

Notable Updates from Draft to Final PEIR

DTSC thoughtfully considered public comments and input on the Draft PEIR and made updates and clarifications as appropriate. The Final PEIR outlines 64 essential mitigation measures for air quality, noise, and traffic to reduce impacts to the environment and community during cleanup. The PEIR also addresses timing, reporting, and enforcement. DTSC also updated the technical analyses in the Final PEIR to ensure accuracy and compliance with CEQA and other environmental laws. The updated analyses did not result in any new significant information that would require recirculation of the Draft PEIR under CEQA. Notable updates are summarized in this Community Update.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Excavation and Logistics



Debris loading in Area IV

The cleanup and backfill soil volumes were re-evaluated since the Draft PEIR was circulated. The amount of contaminated soil that DTSC assumed would be dug up increased for Boeing in the Final PEIR. DTSC included this update in response to changes in relevant EPA guidance, and upon consideration of the comments received on the Draft PEIR.

Backfill volumes increased for each of the Responsible Parties. The backfill volume for Boeing was updated based on the updated excavation volumes. Department of Energy (DOE) and NASA backfill volumes were updated to reflect how they calculated how much backfill they would need.

Truck haul volumes and truck types were also updated. There will now be two sizes of covered trucks used to haul away contaminated soil and debris. Details can be found in the Preface to the PEIR. There were additions to the disposal sites for the responsible parties. The updates in the potential disposal sites for Boeing waste resulted in less distance traveled for waste disposal. Updates to emissions modeling resulted in new calculations and estimated lower emissions.

Removal of Buildings in Area IV

Boeing owns five buildings within Area IV. In the Draft PEIR, the impacts from demolition and disposal of these buildings were evaluated as a related action in the analysis of cumulative impacts. In the Final PEIR, DTSC included this activity as if it is part of the project itself to ensure a conservative analysis.

DOE owns 19 buildings in Area IV. In the Draft PEIR, the impacts

from demolition of 5 of the buildings were included in the project while demolition of the remaining 14 buildings were evaluated as a related action in the analysis of cumulative impacts. DTSC issued an Order on Consent for Interim Response Action at the RMHF Complex to DOE on May 19, 2020, and an Amendment to this Order on October 30, 2020. This interim action required the removal of the above-ground portions of all DOE-owned buildings and associated structures in Area IV. The slabs and below ground portions of the



Area IV



structures remain. In the Final PEIR, DTSC included removal of the slabs and below ground portions of the structures as part of the project itself to ensure a conservative analysis.

2022 Settlement Agreement

In May 2022, DTSC and Boeing entered into a Settlement Agreement that amends the 2007 Consent Order as applied to Boeing. The 2022 agreement provides a more detailed comprehensive framework for guiding technical evaluations regarding cleanup of soil and groundwater, resulting in reduced complexity of coordination and accelerated, stringent cleanup of the site. The Settlement Agreement includes waivers by Boeing giving up its rights to legal challenges to any future DTSC decision on a cleanup standard up to and including “background” for radionuclides and “suburban resident with garden” for chemicals.

Updated Analyses

The technical analyses in the PEIR were updated. Updates were made to the air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials (health risk), and noise analyses to reflect the changes to the initial activities, the increase in soil volumes, and changes to truck capacities and haul truck distances.

The updated analysis did not result in any new significant information that would require recirculation of the Draft PEIR under CEQA. For more detail on the updates, please review the Preface of the Final PEIR and the corresponding sections.



Deer are considered part of the environment at SSFL

Next Steps

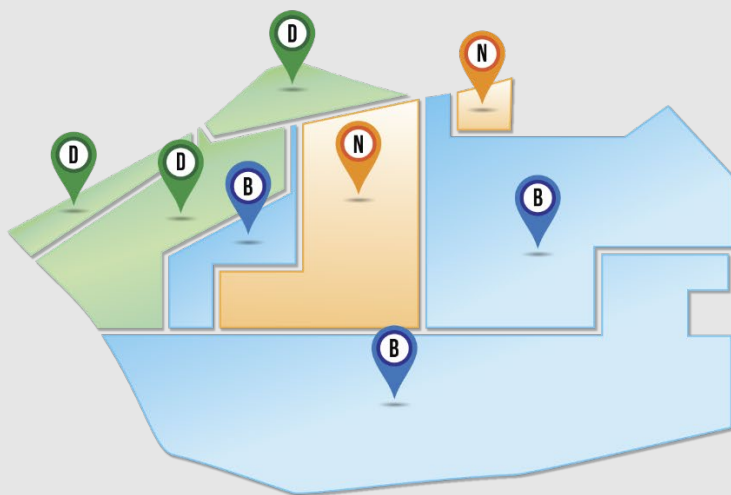
The initial activities identified in the PEIR consist of specific cleanup actions that have a sufficient level of detail for an in-depth analysis. These activities will be implemented following certification of this PEIR, public notice and comment on draft cleanup decision documents, and DTSC approval of such documents.

The first decision documents will focus on groundwater cleanup, and public comment periods are expected to begin later this year or early next year. The soil cleanup is anticipated to take approximately 15 years. Groundwater cleanup, along with long-term monitoring, will take much longer. The graphic below shows the anticipated public comment periods for cleanup for each of the responsible parties. In addition to holding public meetings for the decision documents, DTSC will conduct workshops and other activities to directly involve the community as we move forward with cleanup.



Santa Susana Field Laboratory Project

Anticipated Public Comment Periods



[B] Boeing:

- Groundwater Corrective Measures Study [Fall 2024]
- Soil Corrective Measures Study [Winter/Spring 2025]

[N] NASA:

- Groundwater Corrective Measures Study Phase 1 [Fall 2023 or Winter 2024]
- Groundwater Corrective Measures Study Phase 2 [Fall 2025]
- Soil Cleanup Plans [TBD]

[D] DOE:

- Groundwater Corrective Measures Study [Fall 2023 or Winter 2024]
- Soil Cleanup Plans [TBD]

Anticipated Public Comment Periods

The Final PEIR and other information can be found on our PEIR Webpage

https://dtsc.ca.gov/santa_susana_field_lab/fpeir/

The Certification Letter is also on Envirostor <https://bit.ly/SSFLFPEIR>

Final PEIR and all accompanying documents are available at the repositories listed below:

Department of Toxic Substances Control –
Chatsworth
9211 Oakdale Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311
Please call for an appointment: (818) 717-6500

Platt Library
23600 Victory Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Phone: (818) 340-9386

California State University,
Northridge – Oviatt Library
18111 Nordhoff St. 2nd Floor, Room 265,
Northridge, CA 91330
Phone: (818) 677-6671

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

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Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our **EnviroStor**.