

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Department of Toxic Substances Control – Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

Santa Susana Field Laboratory Radioactive Materials Handling Facility Interim Response Action Begins

The [Order on Consent for Interim Response Action for the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility \(RMHF\) Complex](#) was signed on May 19, 2020. The California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the United States Department of Energy (DOE) entered into the agreement to demolish the above-ground portion of 10 buildings at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). DTSC notified the community with a press release, direct mailing and email blasts to the SSFL database on May 20, 2020. Newspaper ads appeared in the Los Angeles Daily News, Simi Valley Acorn and Ventura County Star. DTSC held a remote community meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2020, regarding the SSFL RMHF Order on Consent to respond to community questions. DTSC will continue to provide Interim Response Action Updates.

Who is doing the work?

DOE is doing the work with its contractors under DTSC oversight. DTSC is ensuring that demolition activities are protective of the Area IV environment and the neighboring communities.

When will the work begin and end?

There are four phases in the interim response action. Phase 1 and 2 have started, and all phases should be completed by the end of 2020.

Phase 1 – Review/Approve Plans: The [Standard Operating Procedure](#) (SOP) and the [Demolition Plan](#) for the RMHF have been approved. DTSC is reviewing the RMHF Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Closure Plan. It is scheduled for approval in August.

Phase 2 – Start Deactivation: Deactivation, pre-demolition preparation of the site, is in process. It began immediately following approval of the SOP and Demolition Plan. Most deactivation activities will conclude in July. The remainder will be completed with demolition.

Phase 3 – Demolition: Demolition for the RMHF Complex follows deactivation. Demolition will take about six months.

Phase 4 – Interim Site Configuration and Post Demolition Survey: Post-demolition inspections will be conducted. After demolition, the underground structures will remain and will be sealed at the surface. Existing asphalt and concrete will remain, and the entire site will be sealed. Loose contamination will be cleaned and removed. Based on post demolition radiation surveys, any fixed contamination that remains will be sealed and protected. Slabs containing radioactive material will have shielding applied, such as concrete or asphalt, to ensure the former building areas are left in a condition that is protective of human health and the environment. The Order on Consent requires a site evaluation one year after demolition.

How frequently will the community receive updates?

This Community Update introduces the Work Notice schedule and process. Work Notices will be sent on a bi-weekly basis by email blast and posted to the DTSC SSFL What's New webpage, EnviroStor, and the Document Library. Updates will also be summarized in the SSFL Monthly Report. Work Notices typically include the following:

- responsible party, consultant or contractor completing the work,
- type of work being done,
- work schedule,
- safety measures being conducted, and
- contact information.

Milestones, discovery of cultural artifacts, or unforeseen incidents may warrant a remote meeting, direct mailing, press release, newspaper ads or other public outreach activities. The community will be notified immediately of unforeseen incidents.

Contact Information

If you have questions or to secure project materials, please contact Michelle Banks-Ordone at (818) 717-6573 or Michelle.Banks-Ordone@dtsc.ca.gov.

Si tiene preguntas o necesita obtener materiales del proyecto en español, comuníquese con Manuel Lopez al (818) 717-6572 o Manuel.Lopez@dtsc.ca.gov.

यदि आपके पास कोई प्रश्न हैं या आप हिंदी में प्रोजेक्ट के कागजात चाहते हैं, तो कृपया कर के माया अकुला को फोन करें: (714) 715-4881 या ईमेल करें: Maya.Akula@dtsc.ca.gov ।



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



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#). (rev. 5-2020)