



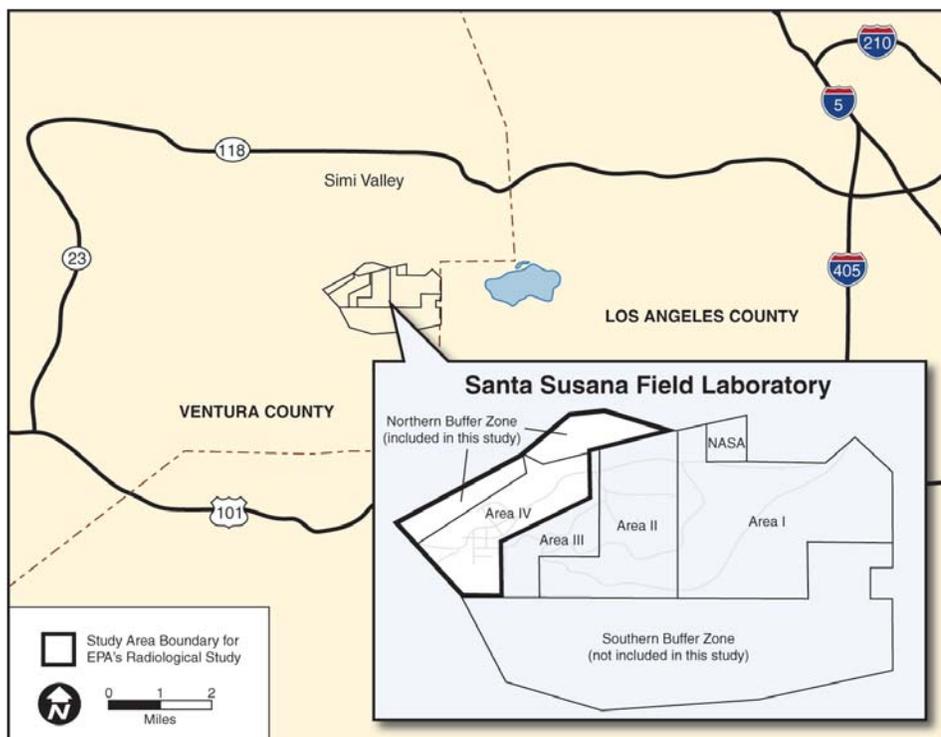
# SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA \$ May 2009

## DOE and EPA Sign Funding Agreement on Radiological Study

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have signed an agreement under which DOE provides funding for EPA to perform a radiological study at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), near Simi Valley, California. Under this agreement signed by the two agencies in late April, DOE provided \$38.3M. This funding is in addition to the \$1.7M of initial project funding that DOE provided EPA earlier this year.

This study will incorporate information gathered by a background radiation study that is already under development by EPA. Together, these two EPA studies will provide information concerning areas of elevated radiological contamination in SSFL's Area IV and adjacent buffer zones, which cover a combined total of approximately 470 acres and include the former industrial complex known at the Energy Technology Engineering Center or ETEC (see map below).



**Figure 1:** Study Area Boundary for EPA's Radiological Study, Santa Susana Field Laboratory

### Seeking Former SSFL Employees

Did you work for Atomics International, Rocketdyne, or Rockwell concerning nuclear operations, waste disposal, water/wastewater systems or other tasks that you think may be helpful to EPA? EPA may be interested in interviewing you to supplement our collection of information concerning site operations. This information will assist EPA in the planning of our investigation for potential residual radiological contamination. Please contact Craig Cooper at (415) 947-4148 or at [cooper.craig@epa.gov](mailto:cooper.craig@epa.gov) if you would like to help out. Thanks!

### Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

#### Planning Meeting

May 26, 2009  
6:30pm – 9:00pm

Radisson Hotel,  
9777 Topanga Canyon Blvd  
Chatsworth, CA

*See Page 4 for meeting details*

## SSFL Site Description

The SSFL is a 2800-acre facility located in Ventura County approximately 2 miles south of the City of Simi Valley and 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The SSFL is divided into four areas which are under different ownership and operation. Boeing owns and operates Areas 1, 3 and 4.

Primary operations included the development and testing of liquid fuel rocket motors. The rocket motor operations had been active since the late 1940's and have resulted in chemical contamination. Similar operations were conducted in Area 2, which is owned by NASA. Boeing also operates the 90-acre Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) in Area 4 as a contractor of the Department of Energy (DOE).

Between 1949 and 1988, federal contractors operated 10 nuclear reactors and related facilities that resulted in chemical and radiological contamination at ETEC. All nuclear reactors and fuel elements were removed from SSFL. The ongoing cleanup of the chemical contamination is currently regulated by the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The ongoing cleanup of the remaining radiological contamination is managed by DOE.

## EPA's Radiological Study in Area IV will include the following major tasks:

### Information Gathering/Planning: 2009-2010

- Evaluating documents and records concerning past radiological activities and releases of radiological materials at SSFL
- Interviewing former site employees concerning past operations
- Analysis of aerial photographs which may indicate areas of disturbance and disposal activities
- Preparation of a work plan for the investigation of radiological contamination using gamma radiation scanning technology
- Preparation of a work plan for the investigation of radiological contamination by testing environmental (e.g. soil, groundwater) samples for testing at analytical laboratories

### Testing: 2010-2011

- Testing the Area IV for elevated readings of gamma radiation
- Testing of the soil, groundwater, and surface water for a broad range of potential radioactive contaminants

### Reporting: 2011

- Evaluation of the data
- Issuance of EPA's data report

EPA will lead the technical and administrative aspects of the Area IV Radiological Study. EPA anticipates completing this study by September 2011 and will provide the results to the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which will manage the risk assessment and cleanup decision-making process.

## Update on Radiological Background Study

The purpose of the Background Study is to determine the level of "ambient" or "background" of radioactivity in soil. The results of the Background Study will then be compared to data collected at SSFL to determine the level of radiation in soil associated with past operations at the lab. EPA and stakeholders including DTSC, DOE, NASA, Boeing, and community members have been meeting on a regular basis in order to come to consensus on a Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Background Study.

Due to concern raised by community members about the distance from SSFL of the preferred Reference Background Areas, in addition to sampling the Reference Background Areas, EPA will be sampling areas that are 10 miles or more away from the lab. The results from these further-away locations will then be used to compare to the proposed Background Reference Areas sampling locations to confirm that the Background Reference Areas are in fact representative of background, i.e., not impacted by activities at SSFL. EPA will present data to be collected at the Distance Test Locations as well as the proposed subsequent sampling efforts at the Reference Background Areas at an upcoming Community Meeting likely to be held in July 2009.

## How Can You Become Involved?

EPA's public participation process focuses on answering the community's questions about EPA's radiological studies, providing information to the community about site activities, and incorporating community issues and concerns into Agency decisions. For example, EPA

will be seeking community advice and assistance regarding the collection and analysis of historical site information. We plan to interview former employees who once worked at SSFL who may provide us with additional information regarding former site operations, spills, and releases (see box insert on front page).

EPA places copies of its documents in the Information Repositories at local libraries (see back page), conducts public meetings, provides a toll-free number to contact EPA with questions at 800-231-3075, and provides documents on EPA's SSFL web page <http://www.epa.gov/region09/santasusana>. For more information, see back page for details.

## Technical Assistance to Community Members

The EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent technical assistance and consultation for communities that are impacted by hazardous materials and wastes. TASC services have been requested for the SSFL site. A planning meeting will be held on May 26, 2009 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Radisson Hotel, 9777 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Chatsworth, CA.

This meeting will introduce the TASC consultants to the community stakeholders, define consultant/community roles and responsibilities, identify community issues and concerns, and develop a work plan to organize the TASC consultant's effort regarding EPA's radiological studies, the site investigation, and other aspects of the site work.

## American Recovery And Reinvestment Act

The \$38.3M funding for EPA's radiological study is being allotted from DOE's nationwide allocation of federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Under ARRA guidelines, DOE funds should be spent by September 2011. ARRA provisions regarding expenditures and reporting of the funding will be adhered to by both DOE and EPA. Financial reports concerning this project and other ARRA funded projects will be made available to the public and reported at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

## EPA Community Update Meeting

EPA will hold community meetings about the two radiological studies that EPA is undertaking at SSFL. At our next meeting in the summer 2009, the public will learn more about the status of EPA's Radiological Background Study and the schedule for this study.

In addition, EPA will present an overview of EPA's investigation strategy for the Area IV Radiological Study. Topics will include the DOE/EPA funding agreement, project goals, the Historical Site Assessment, other potential investigation techniques and overall project schedule. EPA will be seeking the community's input and ideas to help us ensure a thorough and quality study. This meeting will be held this summer, and EPA will announce the exact date and location of this meeting via a subsequent fact sheet.



### Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory mailing list and would like to be, please fill out the coupon below and return it to: David Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-6-3), San Francisco, CA 94105 or e-mail the information to: [cooper.david@epa.gov](mailto:cooper.david@epa.gov)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Santa Susana Field Lab Site

## DOE and EPA Sign Funding Agreement on Radiological Study

### SSFL Site Repositories

#### Simi Valley Library

2969 Tapo Canyon Road  
Simi Valley, California 93063  
(805) 526-1735

#### Los Angeles Public Library

Platt Branch  
23600 Victory Boulevard  
Woodland Hills, California 91367  
Attention: Janet Metzler  
(818) 340-9386

### For More Information

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EPA web address:

[http://www.epa.gov/  
region09/SantaSusana](http://www.epa.gov/region09/SantaSusana)



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