



SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA \$ November 2008

U.S. EPA to hold Community Meeting on Radiological Background Study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to a community meeting to learn about and provide input on an upcoming study to determine the level of background radiation in areas surrounding the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), near Simi Valley, California. The meeting will be held on **December 11, 2008** from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Grand Vista Hotel located in Simi Valley.

EPA Community Meeting on Radiological Background Study

December 11, 2008
6:30pm to 8:30pm

Grand Vista Hotel Ballroom/Conference Room

999 Enchanted Way
Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 583-4000



The SSFL site is a 2,800-acre facility located in Ventura County approximately 2 miles south of the City of Simi Valley and 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Owners and operators of this facility include Boeing, the Department of Energy (DOE) and NASA.

Primary past operations include the development and testing of liquid fuel rocket motors, nuclear reactors and related facilities. These operations resulted in the chemical and radiological contamination at the SSFL site.

All nuclear reactors and fuel elements have been removed from the site. The ongoing cleanup of chemical contamination is currently being conducted by Boeing and DOE under the regulatory oversight of the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The DOE is responsible for the cleanup of the radiological contamination. EPA has recently been requested to assist DOE concerning the investigation of radiological contamination in a portion of the site.

What is the Purpose of the Radiological Background Study?

The Background Study is the first phase of an overall study of radiological contamination at the SSFL site. The purpose of the Background Study is to determine the level of “ambient or background” radioactivity found in soil surrounding the SSFL site. The Background Study results will be compared to those of an on-site radiological study when completed. The comparison of study results will indicate the level of radiological contamination associated with past operations at SSFL.

In order to determine the background levels, EPA plans to sample areas that have not been impacted by site operations at SSFL, yet are within the same soil and rock formations found at the SSFL site.



What will be discussed at this meeting?

This will be the first of at least two community meetings on the Background Study. At this first meeting we plan to cover the following:

- Purpose of the Background Study
- Status of the Project thus far
- Goals of a “Gamma Survey”
- Criteria for Soil Testing
 - » What to test (e.g. surface soil and subsurface soil)
 - » Where to test (e.g. locations surrounding the site believed to be unaffected by site operations)
 - » What types of radiological contamination should we analyze the samples for (e.g. full scans, indicator radionuclides, etc)?
 - » How should we take the samples (e.g. types of equipment to be used)
 - » Methodology to ensure reliable results (e.g. quality assurance procedures)
- Community Input and Ideas
- The Next Community Meeting

For More Information

If you would like more information on the overall SSFL site, please contact Nicole Moutoux. If you have questions about EPA’s community involvement process, please contact David Cooper or you may call the EPA toll-free message line at (800) 231-3075.

Nicole Moutoux, Project Manager
 Superfund Division (SFD-8-1)
 75 Hawthorne Street
 San Francisco, CA 94105
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 Office of Community Involvement (SFD-6-3)
 75 Hawthorne Street
 San Francisco, CA 94105
 (415)972-3245
 Toll-free (800) 231-3075
Cooper.David@epa.gov



What is the Background Study's Timeline?

After our December 11 community meeting, EPA will assemble a draft workplan regarding the methodologies to be used for the Background Study. At a second community meeting to be held in early 2009, EPA will present the entire preliminary draft workplan including specifics on the amount of sampling, locations of the sampling sites, and other details.

After incorporating additional community input, the workplan will be finalized. It is anticipated that the testing for the Background Study will begin in Spring 2009. Under this schedule, test results and an associated report would be expected in Fall 2009.

How Can You Be Involved?

EPA needs your help! In order to ensure thorough and successful radiological studies at the SSFL site, EPA believes that it is essential that the community be fully involved. In addition, EPA national policy establishes a strong program of public participation in the site cleanup process.

The purpose of the EPA community involvement program is to help community members become involved in the decision-making process by developing two-way communication between the affected community and EPA.

Some preliminary ways community members can assist with this effort include attending the community meetings on the Background Study and volunteering to be interviewed by EPA to help develop our Community Involvement Plan for the SSFL site.

During community interviews with local residents, elected officials and other interested parties, EPA gathers a list of issues and questions the community is concerned about so that they may be considered during the cleanup process, and particularly when a cleanup remedy is proposed. If you are willing to help EPA by being interviewed for the Community Involvement Plan, please contact David Cooper (see For More Information, Page 2).

Technical Assistance is Available

EPA has a program to provide an independent technical advisor to interpret cleanup documents and help the community understand technical information about the site. For more information about this program, called Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC), please contact: Luis Garcia-Bakarich (415) 972-3237 or email: garcia-bakarich.luis@epa.gov.



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

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Santa Susana Field Lab Site

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SSFL Site Repositories

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

California State University, Northridge
Urban Archives Center
Oviatt Library, Room 4
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, California 91330
Attention: Mr. Robert Marshall
(818) 677-2271

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



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Region 9
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