

## Building Relationships

During 2009, DOE welcomed Lance Martin, project controller and Bill Backous, federal project director, and wished Backous' predecessor, Thomas Johnson, well in his new DOE position in Washington, DC. The increase in staff size and the speedy replacement of Thomas Johnson are part of DOE's commitment to continue to improve relationships with regulators, elected officials and affected and interested members of the public.

DOE provided \$40 million in funding to USEPA to perform an Area IV radiological background survey and radiological site survey and continues to consult with USEPA on technical aspects of the survey. We look forward to continued progress and survey results, currently scheduled for completion in September 2011.

## Meetings with the Community, Regulators and Elected Officials

DOE participated in numerous meetings with regulators and other government agencies, including DTSC and EPA to discuss technical issues, on-going studies, and public involvement issues throughout the year. In addition, DOE met with a number of elected officials and community members.

## Coordination of Approach to Address SSFL Cleanup

DOE continued its participation in biweekly meetings with NASA, Boeing, USEPA, DTSC, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board staff to coordinate public outreach efforts.

## Other Stakeholder Group Meetings

DOE presented briefings and information updates at various organizations and agency meetings. Through participation in these meetings, DOE staff provided information on ETEC issues and events and expand their understanding of others' issues and concerns. Last year DOE participated in four SSFL Interagency Workgroup meetings and other stakeholder meetings, such as those with the West Hills Neighborhood Council and community meetings at the Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education, Los Angeles.

## Comment Opportunities

DOE offered the *Draft Santa Susana Field Laboratory Community Involvement Plan* for public comment and received 58 comments from three stakeholders. Comments have been incorporated, and the final document will be issued in early 2010.

Additional comment opportunities were offered on the following two study plans: *Draft Study Plan Fall Biological Surveys of Area IV* and the *Northern Undeveloped Land Santa Susana Field Laboratory* and the *Draft Cultural Resources Survey Study Plan*.

## Mailing List Expansion

DOE added 474 individuals to the mailing list and 176 addresses to the email list, while it archived 188 names. The total number on the mailing list at the end of the year was 4,580.

# Energy Technology Engineering Center

Area IV, Santa Susana Field Laboratory

## Community Involvement

2009 Annual Report

This **Annual Report** provides an overview of the range of community involvement tasks the U.S. Department of Energy undertook to reach out to, inform, and involve stakeholders of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. It is part of our ongoing objective to work in an environment of transparency, accountability, and responsiveness.

The summary of 2009 activities described below documents progress toward goals in the *SSFL Area IV Community Involvement Plan* published in 2009. We knew when we developed the plan it was ambitious, and we would have to take things a few steps at a time. We hope to start work in 2010 on some important projects we haven't yet begun, such as school educational activities, environmental justice efforts, and community involvement for "big picture" issues as described in the *Plan*. Perhaps most important, we expect to initiate a regular effort to evaluate our community involvement tools and activities. With that objective in mind, DOE encourages readers to learn about our progress and offer feedback on our *Annual Report* below and on our ongoing activities.

## Community Surveys and Interviews

In 2008, DOE commissioned community interviews and the *Report on Community Interviews: Community Concerns and Preferences for Public Participation in the Cleanup of Area IV Santa Susana Field Laboratory*. The final draft of the document was completed and released in February 2009.

## ETEC Website ([www.etec.energy.gov](http://www.etec.energy.gov))

In 2009, the ETEC website had 13,801 visitors, who made 18,675 visits. The majority of visits – 15,638 – were from internet users in the U.S. Additional visits came from 116 other countries or territories. DOE added more than 100 new documents to the website last year.

## Summaries of Technical Information

In connection with the DOE-sponsored meeting and workshop, "Diverse Perspectives on the July 1959 Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) Accident," held in August 2009, three independent technical experts presented briefings, summarized, and interpreted more than 80 historical documents on the nuclear reactor accident. A Glossary of Terms was also prepared. All meeting materials can be found on the ETEC website at: <http://www.etec.energy.gov/History/Major-Operations/SRE-Workshop-2009.html>.

In addition, DOE developed the *Introduction to Santa Susana Field Laboratory and the Energy Technology Engineering Center* fact sheet and the *Draft Cultural Resources Survey at Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Lands, Santa Susana Field Laboratory* fact sheet in December 2009.

## Technical Reports and Work Plans

In response to regulator and stakeholder interest, DOE prepared and released the technical report, *Radionuclides Related to Historical Operations at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area IV*.

To support EPA's upcoming radiological studies, DOE prepared and released the Draft Study Plan *Fall Biological Surveys of Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Land Santa Susana Field Laboratory* in September 2009 and the *Fall Biological Survey Report for Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area IV and Northern Undeveloped Areas*, which documented in November the survey findings.

In addition, DOE prepared the *Draft Cultural Resources Survey Study Plan*, as part of the overall effort to support EPA's radiological studies.

## Progress Reports/Newsletters

DOE published three *CleanUpdate* newsletters with articles on the latest project activities in April, August and November 2009.

## Annual Reports

The SSFL Area IV *Annual Site Environmental Report for 2008* was prepared and distributed in 2009.

## Press Releases and Public Notices

DOE distributed three press releases with SSFL Area IV updates during the year. The August 2009 edition of the *CleanUpdate* included a separate insert inviting our stakeholders to the SRE meeting, as did three newspaper display advertisements that publicized the SRE meeting and workshop.

## Electronic Mail

DOE sent nine e-mail news flashes to 603 people.

## Local and Regional Press

Several articles on SSFL Area IV appeared throughout the year, with topics ranging from current project activities to historical project events.

## Maps, Project Roadmap, Photographs, Other Visual Aids

Many SSFL project events are best represented by graphic visual aids. In 2009 DOE staff produced a series of posters in conjunction with the SRE meeting and workshop. These included an *SRE Timeline*, a *Timeline for SRE Run 14*, a graphic overview of the *SRE Operation and Accident*, and a graphic showing *Radioactive Production and Decay of SRE Reactor Inventory*, all of which are available on the ETEC website at <http://etec.energy.gov/History/Major-Operations/SRE-Workshop-2009.html>.

## Comment Response Summaries

DOE released its *Scoping Comment Responses for SSFL Area IV EIS* and Draft Gap Analysis Report, which responds to 74 commenters who provided 750 comments.

## Information Repositories

DOE sent more than 80 documents to reading rooms in three local libraries.

## Project Site Visits and Tours

Eleven tours were hosted for individuals from various groups: Congressional and elected official staff members, regulators, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Native Plant Society, California State University, Northridge, former workers, newspaper reporters, Native Americans, West Hills Neighborhood Council, the Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education, the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, and stakeholders with interests in cultural resources and biological survey plans.

## Public Educational Outreach

DOE hosted an informational workshop on August 29, 2009 designed to explore the diverse expert and community perspectives on what occurred prior to, during, and immediately after the July 1959 SRE accident. The workshop included presentations from three independent experts: Dr. Paul Pickard of Sandia National Laboratories, Dr. Thomas Cochran of the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Dr. Richard Denning of Ohio State University. More than 150 workshop attendees had an opportunity to ask questions of these experts. Finally, community members had an opportunity to provide their own perspectives on what occurred.

## Focused Study Groups

DOE met with a focused group of stakeholders who had expressed interest in cultural and biological resources at SSFL. DOE sponsored presentations on proposed work at the site, took the group on a tour of Area IV, and solicited comments on its plan for a cultural survey of the Northern Undeveloped Lands.

DOE met with a focused group of Native Americans interested in historic Native American activity at SSFL. DOE sponsored presentations on proposed work at the site, took the group on a tour of Area IV, and solicited comments on its plan for a cultural resources survey of the Northern Undeveloped Lands.