



# SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB SITE

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

## EPA Meeting on SSFL Radiological Studies

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to attend a community meeting where updates on its two radiological studies for the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) will be given. The meeting will be held at the Grand Vista Hotel in Simi Valley on July 15, 2009 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

### EPA's Radiological Background Study

The purpose of the Radiological Background Study is to determine the level of "ambient" or "background" radioactivity in soil. The results from the Background Study will be compared to data collected within the boundaries of SSFL and its buffer zone to determine the extent of radiological contamination.

EPA has been working on the SSFL Radiological Background Study since the summer of 2008 and held a community update meeting on December 11, 2008.

EPA, the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Department of Energy (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.

EPA has identified three Radiological Background Reference Areas where samples for the Background Study will be collected. These areas were identified in part based on the following criteria:

- They are located in the same geologic formations found at SSFL

- They are located as far from SSFL as possible while still remaining in the appropriate formation
- They are 1-2 acre parcels of land
- They are at a similar elevation as SSFL
- There is no evidence of past human activity (i.e., excavation)

In general these Reference Areas are between 3-5 miles from SSFL. EPA will collect surface and subsurface samples at these Radiological Reference Background Areas. A total of approximately 100 surface samples and 40 subsurface samples from these areas will be collected. The surface samples will be collected within the top 6 inches of soil, and the subsurface samples will be collected between 3 and 10 feet below ground surface.

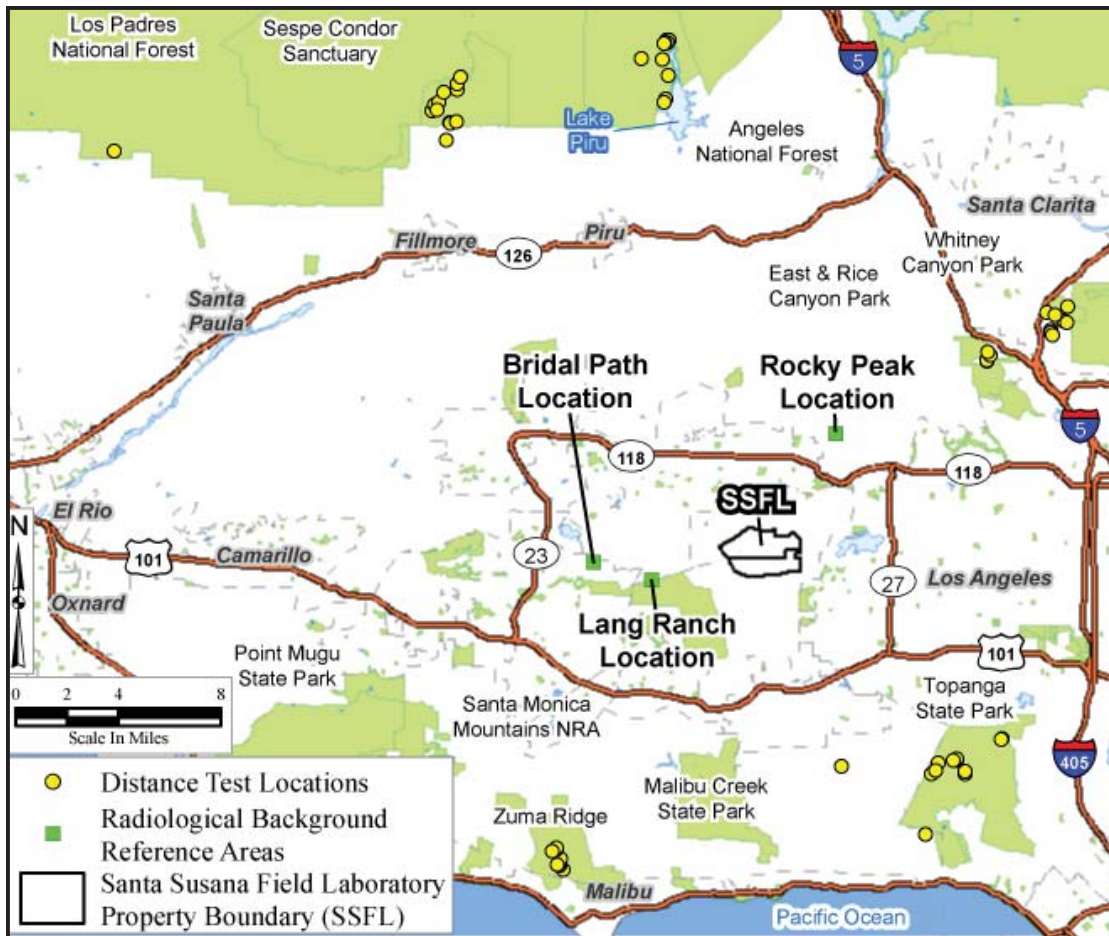
### EPA Community Meeting

Grand Vista Hotel  
999 Enchanted Way,  
Simi Valley, CA

July 15, 2009  
6:30pm – 9:00pm



Figure 1: Location of EPA Community Meeting



**Figure 2:** SSFL Reference Background Areas and Distance Test Locations

EPA also will collect surface samples at 20 locations that are more than 10 miles from the lab. These locations are referred to as “Distance Test Locations.” The purpose of these Distance Test Location samples is to compare data from the Radiological Reference Background Area to data from the Distance Test Locations to ensure that the Radiological Reference Background Areas have not been impacted by potential releases from SSFL.

At the July 15 meeting, EPA will present these locations as well as the list of radionuclides for which testing will be done. A discussion about how the data will be evaluated once it is collected also will be conducted.

EPA would like to hear from community members regarding these plans. Once the Field Sampling Plan is finalized, it will be placed in the Information Repositories and on EPA’s website for SSFL listed at the end of this fact sheet.

## EPA’s Radiological Study of SSFL Area IV

As reported in our May 2009 fact sheet, the DOE and EPA recently signed an agreement whereby DOE provided funding to EPA to conduct a radiological study of Area IV and the adjacent buffer zone to the north (see map of Area IV Study Area Boundaries on page 3).

The SSFL Area IV Study will consist of three major phases: 1) Information Gathering, 2) Planning and, 3) Testing and Reporting. At the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, EPA will provide the status of our Information Gathering and Planning phases of work.

### Information Gathering (Historical Site Assessment)

Many documents and reports have been prepared by various parties during the decades when radiological operations

occurred at the SSFL. These documents have been primarily developed and authored by DOE and DOE contractors such as Rocketdyne, Atomics International, Rockwell, and Boeing. It is important for EPA to review and understand these key historical records to ensure that our testing addresses all potential radiological contaminants and the locations where these contaminants may still be present in the environment. EPA will summarize its findings in its own document called a Historical Site Assessment.

### Gamma Scan Planning

As a first step in conducting a comprehensive radiological investigation,

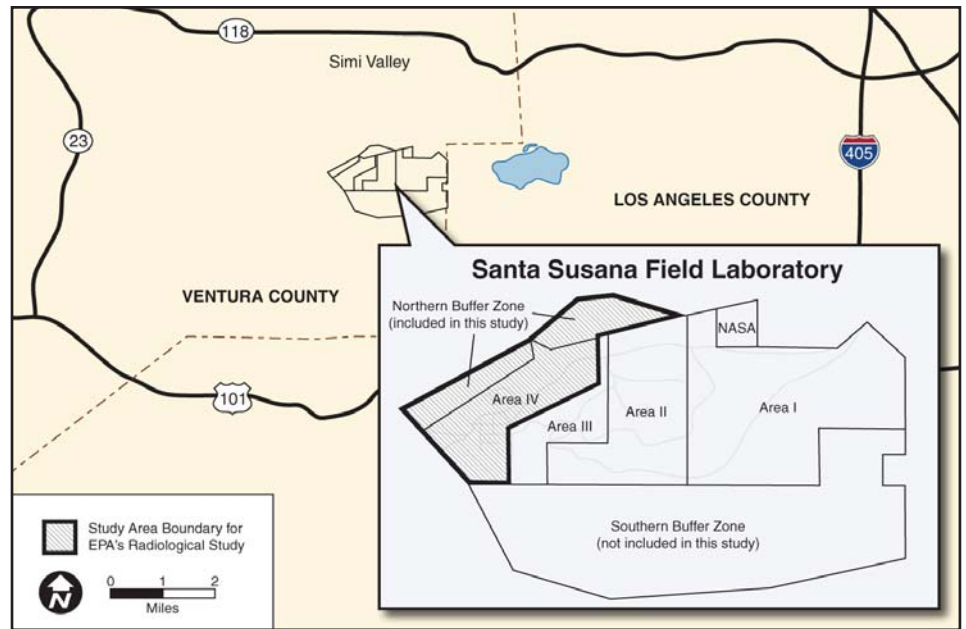
EPA typically uses gamma scanning devices to scan a site to identify potential “hot spots” of elevated gamma radiation in shallow soils (i.e., soils up to about 2 feet below the ground surface). These scanning devices provide data

## 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 (see map on Page 3). NASA owns and operates Area 2. The ongoing investigation and cleanup of site contamination is overseen and regulated by DTSC.

instantaneously. The data is then used by EPA to better plan the next phase of investigation which involves the collection and laboratory analysis of soil, sediment and water samples. Topics to be discussed at our July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting include:

- What is gamma scanning?
- Preliminary goals for gamma scanning
- Potential technologies to be used for gamma scanning
- Challenges to gamma scanning at the SSFL site
- Schedule for gamma scan work plan development and work plan implementation



**Figure 3:** Study Area Boundary for EPA's area IV Radiological Study, Santa Susana Field Laboratory

## How Can You Learn More?

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>. EPA is adding a new document location at the DTSC Chatsworth Office (see back page).

## Schedule

EPA will conclude its presentation by providing overall project budget and schedule information, as well as a description of the next steps EPA intends to take in order to complete its study by the end of 2011. Preliminary schedule information is as follows:

2009	2010	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background Testing</li> <li>• Gather and analyze information on SSFL radiological operations</li> <li>• Plan for Gamma Scan work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue Background Study Report</li> <li>• Conduct Gamma Scan work</li> <li>• Plan for and commence Soil and Water Testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue Gamma Scan Report</li> <li>• Complete soil and water testing</li> <li>• Issue Study Report</li> </ul>



## 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

## EPA Meeting on SSFL Radiological Studies

### 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

**Department of Toxic Substances  
Control Chatsworth Office**

9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, California 91311  
Please contact Vivian Tutaan at  
(818) 717-6520 for an appointment

### For More Information

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EPA web address: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/SantaSusana>

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Region 9  
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San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: David Cooper (SSFL 6/09)

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