



Press Release

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Cal/EPA Secretary Announces State Will Not Support Superfund Listing for Santa Susana Field Lab Site

State Will Continue to Oversee Cleanup of Former Rocket-Testing Site in Ventura County

SACRAMENTO – Today, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) announced it intends to oppose Superfund Listing for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site, a former rocket engine testing and nuclear research facility in Ventura County.

“We’ve decided to turn down the U.S. EPA’s offer to consider placing the Santa Susana Field Lab site on the National Priorities List because we think we can deliver a faster, more protective clean up,” said Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection. “The state will continue to oversee the cleanup of the site, working with the U.S. EPA on a thorough and expeditious site investigation and cleanup.”

The investigation and cleanup of both chemical and radiologic contamination at the site is being managed by Cal/EPA’s Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) under the requirements laid down in Senate Bill 990 (Kuehl, 2007) which assures that the site will be cleaned up to the strictest standards.

On December 6, 2007 U.S. EPA wrote a letter asking for the State’s position on whether the U.S. EPA should place the SSFL site in Ventura County, on the National Priorities List (NPL), also known as the Superfund list. At Cal/EPA’s request, the U.S. EPA granted additional time for consideration. During the last year, Cal/EPA and DTSC have worked with U.S. EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Boeing Company and environmental groups on how the site would be cleaned up under the new state law.

Later this week, Cal/EPA Secretary Linda Adams will send a letter to U.S. EPA on behalf of California indicating that the State does not concur with the proposal to place the site on the federal Superfund List, and that the State intends to retain lead in the cleanup. The State will reserve the right to change its position should circumstances regarding the site or cleanup change.

“I’d like to thank our partners for their tireless efforts. U.S. EPA, community members, Boeing, and local and state elected officials continue to be valuable partners in our efforts to plan and implement site cleanup,” added Secretary Adams.

More information about ongoing clean-up efforts can be found at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Projects/Santa_Susana.cfm.

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