



SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • July 2011

SSFL Radiological Background Study Report Available for Public Review and Comment

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the completion of its Radiological Background Study Report for the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL). This report can be found at the repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet as well as on EPA's Santa Susana Field Lab website:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/SantaSusana>
(please note: case sensitive).

EPA will present a summary of the report and its findings at the following meeting:

July 27, 2011, 6pm

California Department of Substances Control
Public Participation Group Meeting

9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA

Public Comment Period

EPA encourages the public to review the Radiological Background Study and provide comments. EPA will be accepting public comments until Friday, September 16, 2011. Please direct your comments to Mary Aycock, EPA Project Manager (see contact information at the end of this fact sheet).



Why did EPA do the Radiological Background Study?

In 2008 EPA was directed by Congress to assist the Department of Energy (DOE) in completing a comprehensive radiological study of Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (see Figure 1). In 2008 and 2009 DOE gave EPA funding to complete the study independently. The SSFL Area IV Study is well underway and if you'd like more information please sign up for EPA's E-Newsletter by following the instructions at the end of this fact sheet. The Radiological Background Study is a key part of the overall study as the results will be compared to soil sampling results from the SSFL to determine where and how much soil to clean up at the SSFL.

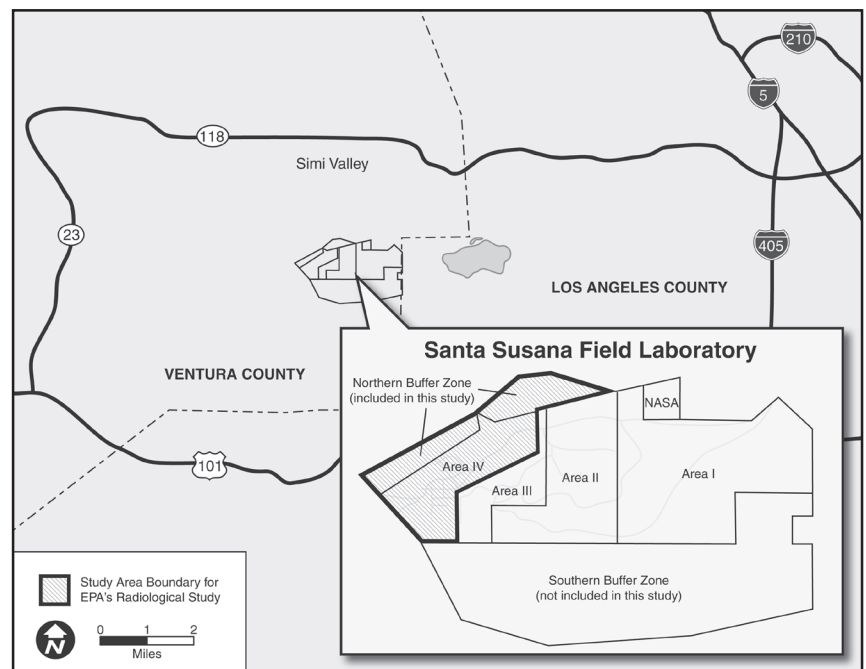


Figure 1: Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site

Purpose of the Radiological Background Study

The purpose of the Radiological Background Study is to determine the level of “ambient” or “background” values of select radionuclides in the environment. After significant research and public involvement, EPA selected several areas up to 5 miles away from the SSFL facility and collected 150 surface and subsurface soil samples (see Figure 2).

These samples were analyzed for over 60 different radionuclides at an independent laboratory. EPA then statistically evaluated the results to determine the values that best represent “background” in the environment. The table below

shows a few of the key radionuclides for which background numbers were calculated and why these radionuclides were chosen for testing.

Radionuclide	Reason for Selection
Cesium-137	Weapons Fall-out radionuclide/ Likely to be found at SSFL
Strontium-90	Weapons Fall-out radionuclide/ Likely to be found at SSFL
Thorium-232	Naturally-occurring radionuclide
Uranium-238	Naturally-occurring radionuclide
Cobalt-60	Known use at SSFL

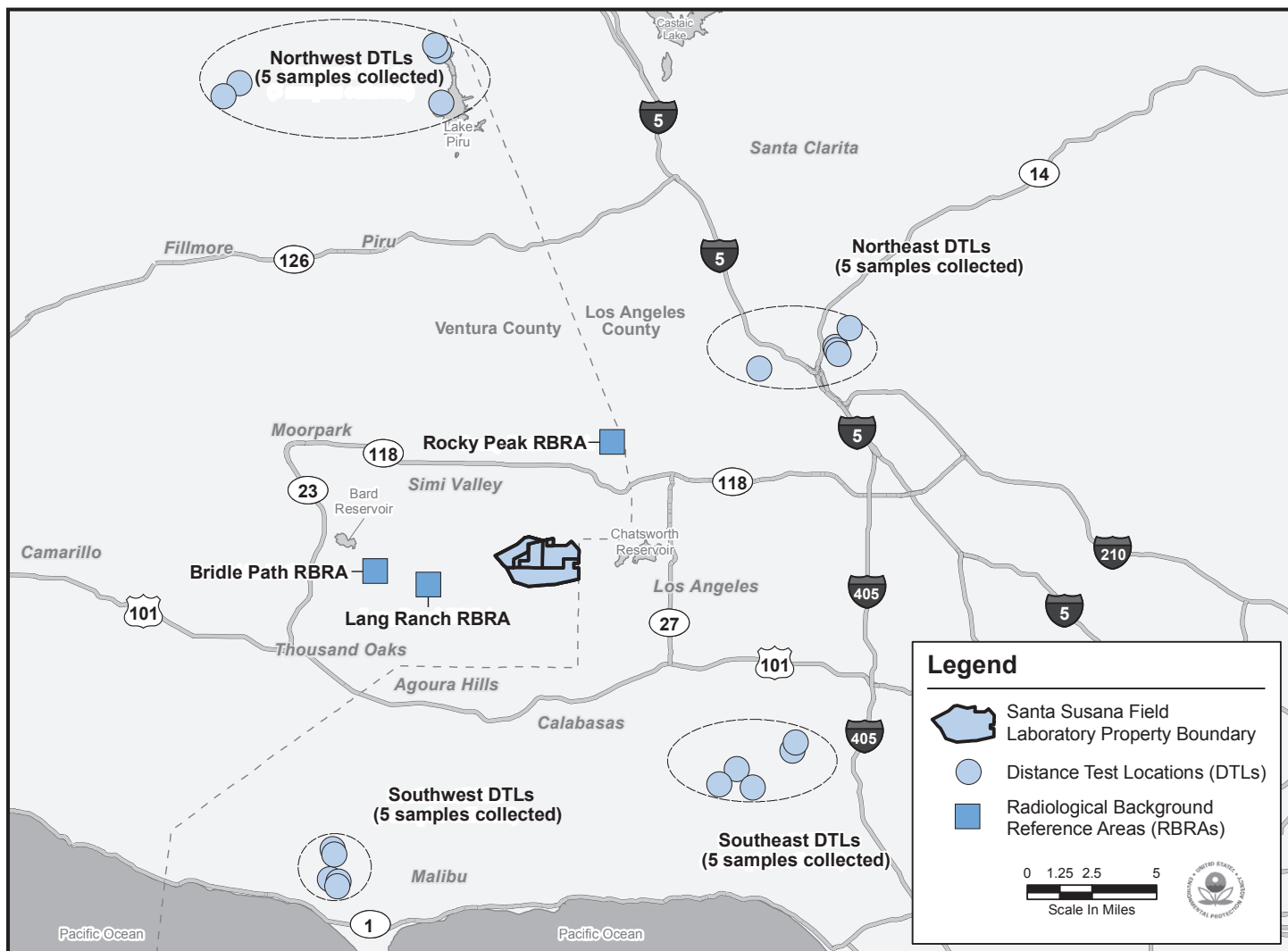


Figure 2: EPA Radiological Background Study Areas

Use of EPA's Radiological Background Values for Cleanup at SSFL

As the lead regulatory agency responsible for the cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, the California Department of Substances Control will be using EPA's radiological background values as the basis for developing cleanup numbers for SSFL. DTSC plans to hold several meetings with stakeholders between September 2011 and December 2011 to receive input into development of these cleanup numbers.

For More Information

If you are interested in finding out more about EPA's work at SSFL, please subscribe to our new electronic publication, the EPA SSFL E-Newsletter. EPA will no longer be issuing paper fact sheets. EPA's E-Newsletter includes attached photo and video content showing EPA on-site work, full-color maps, and links to additional web resources. To receive a copy of EPA's E-Newsletter, please send an e-mail to cooper.david@epa.gov with the following subject line: "subscribe E-News."

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EPA's toll-free message line **(800) 231-3075**. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

SSFL Site Repositories

EPA has placed paper and/or CD copies of key radiological assessment documents at the following places:

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



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



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