



Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Ventura County, California Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed NASA Environmental Cleanup Activities and Demolition

What is Being Proposed and What are the Project Alternatives?

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is committed to cleaning up its facilities. Toward this commitment, NASA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the proposed environmental cleanup and demolition activities at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in Ventura County, California. Preparation of an EIS will meet the NEPA obligations of the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) signed with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Exhibit 1 shows the SSFL property.

A number of alternatives will be considered in the EIS for the demolition of existing structures at SSFL and the cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination at the portion of the SSFL site administered by NASA to support property disposition. The purpose of this action is to support property disposition. The proposed action would implement one Demolition Alternative and one Environmental Cleanup Alternative from the alternatives described in the following text.

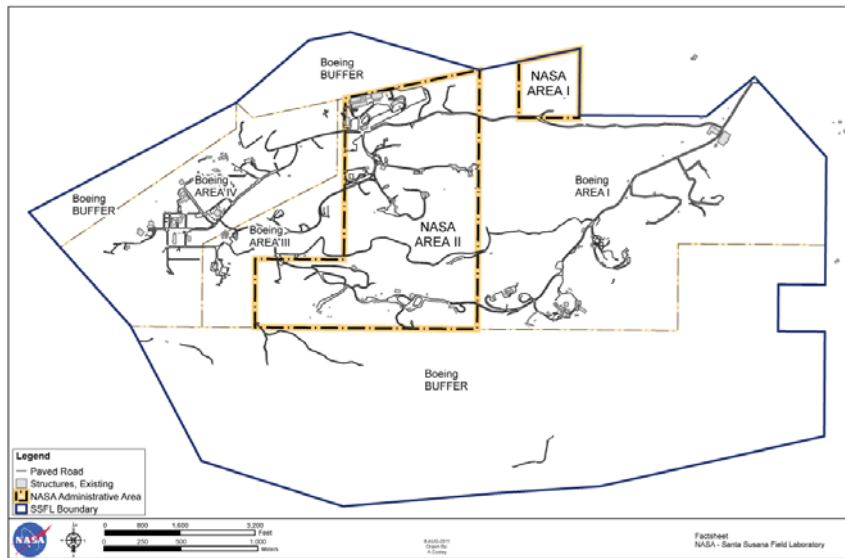


EXHIBIT 1: Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Demolition Alternatives

Demolition Alternative

- This alternative will be considered with each Environmental Cleanup Alternative to include up to 100 percent demolition of test stands and ancillary structures on the NASA-administered property.

No Demolition Alternative (No Action)

- This alternative will be considered with each Environmental Cleanup Alternative to include no demolition of test stands and ancillary structures on the NASA-administered property.

for your information

Environmental Cleanup Alternatives

Alternative for Soil Cleanup to Background Levels and Groundwater Cleanup

- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of site soils through excavation, soil vapor extraction, or other treatment technologies to meet cleanup standards established through the 2010 AOC between NASA and DTSC.
- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of groundwater through methods such as the use of heat or vacuum removal, in situ treatment (such as chemical oxidation, iron particle injection or enhanced microbiological treatment), or other treatment technologies.

Alternative for Soil Cleanup to Suburban Residential Cleanup Goals and Groundwater Cleanup

- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of site soils through excavation, soil vapor extraction, or other treatment technologies to meet suburban residential soil cleanup goals.
- Suburban residential soil cleanup goals assume that an adult or child could live on the site and be exposed for 24 hours per day for 350 days per year over a 30 year period.
- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of groundwater through heat or vacuum removal, in situ treatment, or other treatment technology.

Alternative for Soil Cleanup to Commercial and Industrial Cleanup Goals and Groundwater Cleanup

- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of site soils through excavation, soil vapor extraction, or other treatment technologies to meet commercial/industrial soil cleanup goals.
- Commercial/industrial soil cleanup goals assume that only site workers would be exposed for a normal workday of 8 to 10 hours per day for 250 days per year over a 25 year period.
- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of groundwater through heat or vacuum removal, in situ treatment, or other treatment technology.

Alternative for Soil Cleanup to Recreational Cleanup Goals and Groundwater Cleanup

- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of site soils through excavation, soil vapor extraction, or other treatment technologies to meet recreational soil cleanup goals.
- Recreational soil cleanup goals assume that an adult or

child could access the site and be exposed for several hours per day for about 50 days per year over a 30 year period.

- This alternative will evaluate the remediation of groundwater through heat or vacuum removal, in situ treatment, or other treatment technology.

No Cleanup Alternative (No Action)

- This alternative will be considered with each Demolition Alternative to include no environmental cleanup.

Background Information

The SSFL site, 2,850 acres in Ventura County, California, is approximately 7 miles northwest of Canoga Park and 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. SSFL is, for reference purposes, composed of four areas known as Areas I, II, III, and



EXHIBIT 2: One of the test stands at the Alfa Test Stand complex

IV and two unnumbered areas known as the "undeveloped land." NASA administers 41.7 acres within Area I and all 409.5 acres of Area II. The Boeing Company owns and manages the remaining 2,398.8 acres within Areas I, III, IV, and the two undeveloped areas. Exhibit 2 shows a test stand at the Alfa test complex.

Since the mid-1950s, when the two federally-owned areas were owned by the U.S. Air Force, this site has been used for developing and testing rocket engines. Four test stand complexes named Alfa, Bravo, Coca, and Delta were constructed in Area II between 1954 and 1957. Area II and the Liquid Oxygen (LOX) Plant portion of Area I were acquired by NASA from the U.S. Air Force in the 1970s. These test stands and related ancillary structures have historical significance, based on the

historical importance of the engine testing and the engineering and design of the structures.



EXHIBIT 3: Burro Flats Painted Cave

SSFL Cultural Resources

NASA has an ongoing responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Sections 106 and 110 to manage Cultural Resources on land it administers at SSFL. Cultural Resources include historic sites, buildings, districts, structures and objects with architectural or archeological significance. From 2007 to present day, NASA has conducted multiple structural surveys to identify historic buildings within NASA administered

Areas I and II. These surveys identified 3 historic districts within Area II (Alfa Test Area, Bravo Test Area, and Coca Test Area) which include 9 test stands and structures that are considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places

(NRHP). That NRHP is maintained by the National Park Service. In addition to the historic structures, the NASA-administered areas of SSFL contain Cultural Resources not related to rocket development. SSFL is near the crest of the Simi Hills, which are part of the Santa Monica Mountains running east-west across Southern California. The diverse terrain consists of ridges, canyons, and sandstone rock outcrops. The region was occupied by Native Americans from the earliest Chumash, Tongva, and Tataviam cultures. In 2008, NASA conducted an archeological survey of NASA administered Areas I and II. This survey identified one site, the Burro Flats Painted Cave, which was recorded and listed on the NRHP. Another site was determined eligible for listing on the NRHP. Exhibit 3 shows the Burro Flats Painted Cave.

What is Proposed for Cleanup?

Previous environmental sampling on the NASA-administered property indicates that metals, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organics, and semivolatile organics are present in the soils and upper groundwater (known as the Surficial Media Operable Unit). Volatile organics, metals, and semivolatile organics also are present in the deeper groundwater (known as the Chatsworth Formation Operable Unit). The environmental cleanup alternatives considered in the EIS will address cleanup objectives for both surficial and deeper contaminants.

Why is this EIS being Prepared?

NASA entered into an AOC with DTSC on December 6, 2010, which addresses NASA's obligations with respect to the cleanup of soils at the site. NASA agreed to complete a federal environmental review of the cleanup action consistent with federal law and regulations. An EIS is being prepared to evaluate the potential environmental effects of cleanup and demolition activities at the NASA-administered areas of the SSFL to fulfill NASA's obligations under NEPA and the implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality. Furthermore, NASA is integrating the NEPA and NHPA

requirements in a streamlined process so that decisions about cleanup will be made taking into consideration the protection of cultural resources.

How Does NASA's EIS Relate to GSA's Disposition Process?

NASA's NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) studies are for the actions of environmental cleanup and demolition. GSA will conduct separate NEPA and NHPA studies for the action of conveying the property out of federal ownership. Any mitigation required to preserve historic, cultural or archeological resources following conveyance out of federal ownership will be addressed in GSA's NEPA and NHPA studies and documentation. GSA expects to commence its process after publication of NASA's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

How Does NASA's EIS Relate to DTSC's CEQA Work?

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that state agencies give major consideration, when regulating public and private activities, to preventing environmental degradation and to identifying environmentally superior mitigations and alternatives when possible. This state-led environmental review is documented in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which identifies the potentially significant environmental effects of a project and the environmentally preferable alternatives to the implementing the project, and indicates the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided.

In both the NASA EIS and the DTSC EIR, the potential impacts from the federal (NASA) actions for cleanup and demolition at the site will be examined. The NASA EIS is expected to be completed before DTSC's EIR and will be a source of information for the EIR. Exhibit 4 shows a flow chart describing the EIS process.



EXHIBIT 4: EIS Process

Why is Public Input Important?

Public input is integral to a complete and informed environmental evaluation. The people in the community and the agencies that have jurisdiction over the site know what is important about the site, how the property is used, and how changes to that use might affect –positively or negatively– the property’s condition. Your involvement is encouraged during scoping and throughout NASA’s NEPA planning processes.

How Can I Get Involved?

NASA initiated the Public Scoping Period on July 6, 2011, to get input about the EIS. NASA is hosting scoping meetings August 16, 17, and 18, 2011, during which people may view a series of displays on the NEPA process and alternatives preliminarily being considered. The meetings also will provide time, and an official venue with a written transcript of the meeting, for the public to offer input and comments.

Tuesday, August 16, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Chatsworth Hotel, 9777 Topanga Canyon Road, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Wednesday, August 17, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Grand Vista, 999 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley, CA 93065

Thursday, August 18, 9:30 a.m. - noon

Corporate Pointe at West Hills, 8413 Fallbrook Ave, West Hills, CA 91304

To get involved, you may: 1) attend one of these meetings; 2) request to be added to the project mailing list at the scoping meetings or through one of the following methods; 3) request further information from msfc-ssfl-eis@mail.nasa.gov; or 4) submit comments to by one of the following methods:

- E-mail NASA at msfc-ssfl-eis@mail.nasa.gov
- Mail comment(s) to:

Allen Elliott
Marshall Space Flight Center
AS 01, Building 4494
Huntsville, AL 35812

The official public scoping comment period ends September 17, 2011.

For general questions about the EIS process, including scoping, or about any questions regarding the portions of SSFL administered by NASA, please contact Merrilee Fellows at (818) 393-0754.

Additional information about NASA’s SSFL site, the proposed demolition and cleanup activities, and the associated EIS planning process and documentation (as available) is provided at: <http://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov>.

What’s Next?

Following the NASA EIS public scoping period, NASA will collect and compile public comments for consideration in the EIS. NASA will post on the project web site a summary of scoping comments and responses, stating how comments will be addressed in the draft EIS. Expect to see this information in the fall of 2011.

NASA will prepare the draft EIS, including public input. NASA is hoping to finalize the draft EIS for public review and input during the summer of 2012.

Outside of specific public review periods, please visit the project website and feel free to contact NASA for answers to questions or to get further information throughout the planning process. ■