

Boeing Santa Susana Field Laboratory
Status Report - November 12, 2009
Interim Source Removal Action (ISRA) Outfalls 008 and 009
NPDES CA0001309, CI-6027

This is the third update of the ISRA activities ongoing at Boeing Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Excavation activities planned for the watershed of Outfall 008 for the 2009-2010 year have been completed. Approximately 4,000 cubic yards of soils have been removed from the nine areas targeted during the 2009-2010 ISRA activities. Confirmation samples have been collected by the Discharger and Regional Board staff has collected splits at eight of the nine target areas. Regional Board and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) staff have reviewed the final confirmation data from three of the nine target areas. The data indicates that the excavation operations are completed at three of the nine targeted areas: DRG-1, HVS-2B-2, and HVS-2C. Samples collected at four of the ISRA target areas indicated that additional excavation was required. After completion of the additional excavation new confirmation samples were collected. As the data becomes available it will be evaluated to determine if the action is complete.

The previous update, dated September 15, 2009, discussed the discovery of two features within the watershed of Outfall 008: (1) a soil collapse feature (sink hole) located in the southeast corner of HVS-2A and (2) a hatch or cover located in HVS-3. The soil collapse feature was investigated, found to be poorly compacted soil and the area has subsequently been excavated along with the adjacent areas of HVS-2A. The hatch was subsequently determined to be a septic tank. Documents indicate the septic tank was installed in the late 1950s near Building 1399. The tank was associated with showers and restrooms located in that building. The septic tank was removed on Thursday, October 29, 2009, with oversight from Ventura County Environmental Health Division and Department of Building and Safety. Regional Board staff and DTSC staff were onsite to observe and to collect splits of the confirmation samples. The leach pit believed to be associated with the septic tank was removed during the 1999/2000 interim measure that was completed in the area with DTSC oversight.

In an effort to stabilize the Outfall 008 watershed using natural best management practices (BMPs), three areas have been located where plants will be used to increase soil stability and prevent the transport of sediment downstream. The three areas (bioswales) are located within the drainage of Outfall 008. The plants that will be used are native species. The planting began during the week of November 1. This effort is proceeding with direction and oversight from the Expert Panel.

Planned excavation activities within the watershed of Outfall 009 at ELV-1C and ELV-1D are on hold pending a decision from DTSC regarding the final disposition of the soils targeted for excavation. Samples from a portion of the target areas had elevated concentrations of Cesium 137 relative to the background concentrations established in the 1995 McLaren/Hart report.

A work plan amendment from NASA was submitted to the Regional Board via email on September 18, 2009, for the inclusion of two other areas, A2LF-1 and A2LF-3, in the 2009-2010 ISRA activities planned within the watershed of Outfall 009. On November 4, 2009, after reviewing the response to comments from Boeing submitted on behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Regional Board with concurrence from

DTSC staff issued an approval of the work plan for the two areas. The waste profiling completed for these two areas do not indicate elevated levels of radionuclides. Implementation of the work plan amendment began immediately. Confirmation samples were collected at A2LF-1 on November 10, 2009.