



Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) Cleanup By the Numbers

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is located approximately 29 miles northwest of Los Angeles, California, in the southeast corner of Ventura County. The SSFL occupies 2,850 acres of hilly terrain, with approximately 1,100 feet of topographic relief near the crest of the Simi Hills.

Starting in 1948, activities at SSFL included research, development, and testing of liquid-fueled rocket engines and associated components, such as pumps and valves. The Department of Energy (DOE) leased Area IV, which was designated as the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC).

Beginning in 1957, the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) was an experimental sodium cooled nuclear reactor and was the first commercial nuclear power plant to provide electricity to the public. In July of 1959, accidental blockage of sodium coolant led to a partial meltdown of the nuclear fuel and the release of radioactive gases into the environment. The facility was decontaminated, refueled, and restarted in August 1960 and was permanently shut down in February 1964.

Currently, ETEC is being characterized in preparation for cleanup. DOE is committed to cleaning up Area IV of SSFL consistent with the 2007 Consent Order and the 2010 Administrative Order on Consent signed with the state of California.

FOUR AREAS

Site is divided into four administrative areas: Areas I, II, III, and IV. **Ninety acres of Area IV were leased to DOE** to conduct energy-related research and development.

1988

In 1988, all nuclear energy activities and research within Area IV ceased and **DOE shifted its focus to facility decontamination and demolition (D&D) and environmental cleanup.**

TIMELINE

March 2003

DOE issued an Environmental Assessment (EA) and corresponding finding of No Significant Impact of the ETEC Cleanup and Closure activities in Area IV.

2007

DOE, NASA, and Boeing signed a Consent Order with the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulating and monitoring hazardous chemical cleanup for soil and groundwater.

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

\$38.3 MILLION

Amount DOE provided the EPA in 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the completion of the radiological survey of Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone. **DOE provided an additional \$1.7M to conduct a radiological background study.**

Congress passed H.R. 2764; Public Law 110-161, requiring DOE and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a joint comprehensive radiological background study and on-site radiological characterization study of Area IV of the SSFL.

December 2007

DOE issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to examine the cleanup options for the site.

2008

≈300 ACRES

soil characterization has been completed by DOE and the DTSC for chemicals and by the EPA for radionuclides.

TOTAL SAMPLES TAKEN:

over **3,600** radionuclide
over **6,500** chemical
over **100** soil vapor



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