



Community
Involvement
Annual Report
Special Edition.
Beginning on page 4



Energy Technology Engineering Center
Area IV, Santa Susana Field Laboratory

CleanUpdate

February 2011



Co-located
sampling
in full swing.
Below.

AOC compliance activities underway in Area IV

The recently signed Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) lays out the investigation and cleanup process for Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Land – and the prescribed soil sampling activities are in full swing under the Co-located Sampling Program. See related article, this page.

The AOC calls for the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), or its designee, to collaborate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to carry out the Area IV Co-located Sampling Program. DTSC, the US Department of Energy (DOE), and its contractor are working with USEPA to obtain dual soil samples from each sampling location.

USEPA will analyze one set of samples to identify potential radiological contamination in Area IV. USEPA will provide

the second set of samples to DOE for its investigation of potential chemical contamination under DTSC's supervision.

Soil collection and data analysis are just a few steps along the way. Analytical results will be compared to the results of radiological and chemical soil background studies. These background studies, initiated in 2009 and 2010, will provide a baseline to determine to what extent Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) soils exceed background levels of chemicals and radionuclides and thus need to be cleaned up.

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Co-located chemical sampling continues

Co-located sampling continues as USEPA, DTSC, and DOE work to identify radiological and chemical contamination in and around Area IV.

As USEPA scientists sample sediments, soils, and water for radionuclides, they collect additional samples from the same locations, which they provide to DOE's contractor CDM. On behalf of DTSC, CDM submits these samples to a laboratory where they will be subjected to a broad range of analyses. The potential contaminants for which they are analyzing include semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, fluoride, dioxins and furans, perchlorate, pesticides, and herbicides. Based on information in USEPA's Historical Site Assessments, selected samples are also submitted for analysis of a variety of waste constituents.

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Soil sampling is underway. Through this ongoing work, DOE will receive soil samples from the same locations that USEPA is using to collect soil for radiological study. The samples that DOE obtains, under DTSC oversight and approval, will be analyzed for chemical contaminants.

Have email? Get connected!

DOE encourages those who would like to receive the **CleanUpdate** and other SSFL news by email to send your address to: ETEC-energy@emcbc.doe.gov



Richard Schassburger

Greetings to the SSFL Community:

As we stride into 2011, we are very encouraged that our 2010 accomplishments and the coordinated, collaborative approach we now have in place will lead to an effective cleanup of SSFL. The extremely positive working relationships we have established with DTSC and USEPA on co-located sampling will be critical to our completing soil characterization and cleanup effectively and expeditiously. See the articles on AOC compliance activities and co-located sampling beginning on page 1.



Stephanie Jennings

AOC. The AOC outlines the characterization and cleanup process. The first steps are completion of off-site background studies and onsite co-located sampling for radiological and chemical contamination. As these studies move forward, DOE will work on other AOC requirements. These include a chemical data gap analysis, potential additional chemical sampling, treatability studies of any proposed on-site cleanup technologies, and development of a Soils Remedial Action Implementation Plan.

EIS. In signing the Administrative Order, DOE and DTSC agreed to “make their best efforts to seek and obtain the support of the plaintiffs in [the lawsuit] *NRDC v. DOE* in applying for relief from the terms of [the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California] Court’s order ... to allow the work under this [Administrative] Order [on Consent] to be performed.”

Until the Court relieves DOE of the obligation to do the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), DOE will proceed with parts of the EIS that can be done before characterization is complete. Although background studies and characterization must be completed before the environmental analysis for the EIS can be done, some sections, such as those on socioeconomic conditions around the site, baseline environmental conditions, and general site information can be completed now.

Groundwater seminars. Meanwhile, in collaboration with DTSC, NASA, and Boeing, we are on the verge of launching a seminar series to inform stakeholders about SSFL groundwater. We encourage you to attend these seminars.

2010 accomplishments. Finally, our *Community Involvement Annual Report* on pages 4-6 is a summary of 2010 activities and progress toward goals in the SSFL *Area IV Community Involvement Plan* finalized in early 2010. This past year has reminded us how ambitious the plan is. Have we done everything we hoped to do? No. Are we headed in the right direction? Yes. Do we plan to do more? Yes.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed toward these goals – our regulators, our partners at the site, NASA and Boeing, and our stakeholders who devote countless hours to follow our activities, attend meetings, read documents, and provide feedback. This project is the better for it.

Sincerely,


Richard Schassburger, DOE Federal Project Director


Stephanie Jennings, DOE NEPA Document Manager

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Co-located chemical sampling continues

USEPA and DTSC/DOE have completed initial radiological and chemical sampling of sediments in drainages to the north of SSFL toward Simi Valley. They plan to sample sediments in one additional on-site location, at the excavation for Building 56, a large reactor that was never built.

DTSC/DOE will participate in USEPA’s sampling of private wells.

Stephie Jennings, the DOE NEPA document manager, notes, “We are extremely pleased with how well this part of the project is going. DTSC and DOE have developed decision criteria for determining which of USEPA’s radiological soil sampling locations need not be sampled for chemicals. For example, we have criteria for deciding when we have enough data to know that a location is contaminated and by what. If a location is contaminated we analyze samples to determine the extent of contamination.”

Thus far, USEPA has provided more than 400 samples to DTSC/DOE for evaluation. The samples are sent to the analytical laboratory daily.



Field team prepares samples and makes field notes.

AOC compliance activities underway in Area IV

Once initial chemical sample collection and analysis are completed, DOE will perform a data gap investigation. Prior to the data gap investigation, DOE, in consultation with DTSC and stakeholders, will review the soil results to determine locations where insufficient chemical data exist and what additional chemical investigation is necessary.

Once USEPA completes its study of radiological contamination, it will provide the information to DOE. DOE will, in turn, develop potential options for cleanup of both the radiological and chemical contaminants.

If DOE believes the use of onsite treatment technologies might achieve the agreed upon cleanup levels, the AOC directs DOE to conduct treatability testing to evaluate the implementability and effectiveness of these technologies.

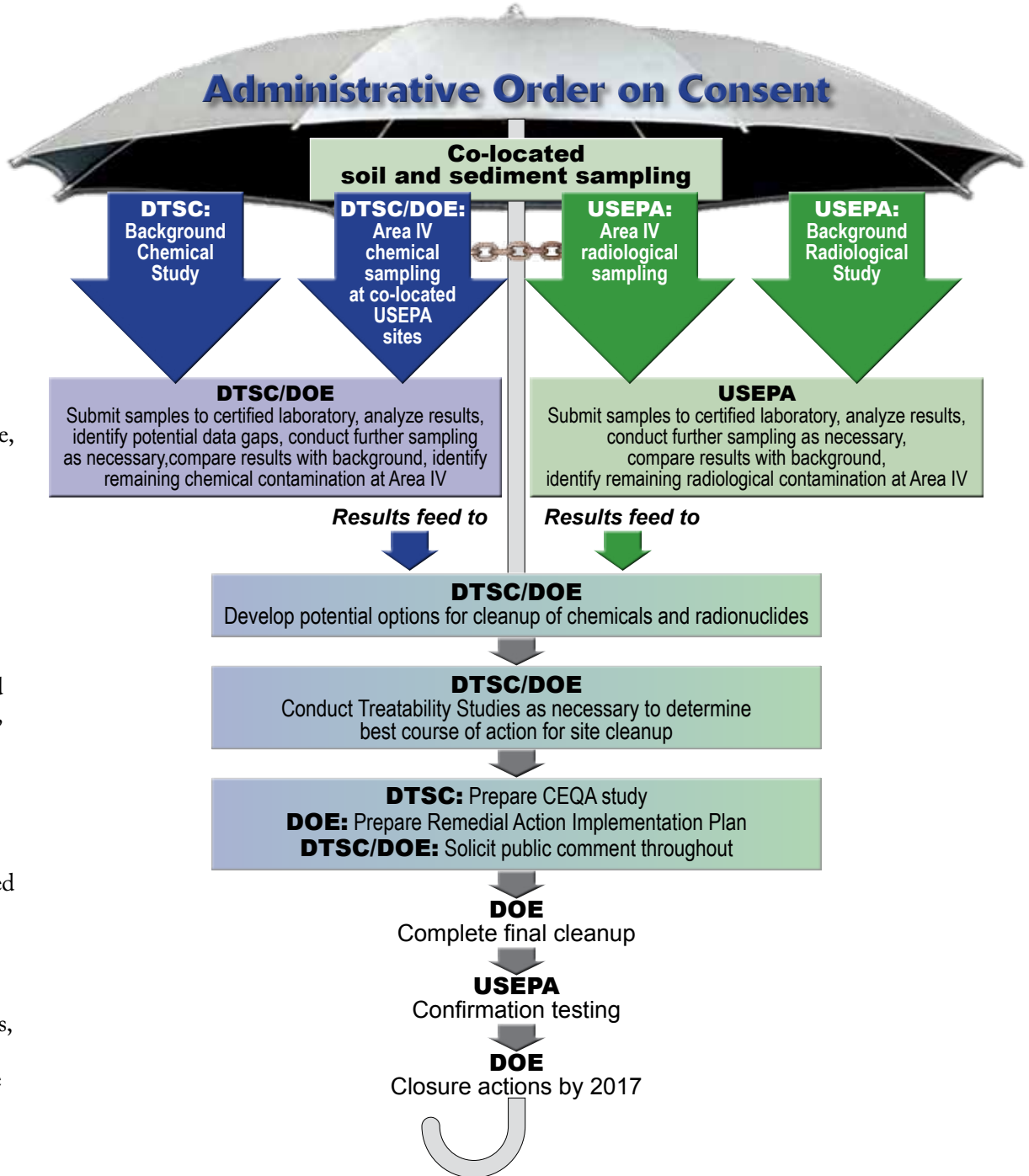
In addition, the AOC directs that DTSC, with support from DOE, will prepare an environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate, among other things, the potential impacts of proposed remedial actions.

The next steps are to prepare a Remedial Action Implementation Plan outlining proposed actions to clean up soils, and to implement the plan, once it has been reviewed and approved by DTSC. USEPA will perform confirmation testing to ensure required cleanup standards have been met before DOE proceeds with closure.

Throughout this process, DTSC, in conjunction with DOE, will provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on all plans and reports.

Next Steps in the Process for SSFL Area IV Studies Under AOC

DTSC provides oversight and approval for each step in DOE's process below



Building relationships

Building relationships – with regulators, stakeholders, public officials, partners at SSFL, and neighboring Native Americans – is among our highest priorities. Why? Because respectful relationships are essential to achieving a cleanup responsive to the concerns and priorities of those interested in the SSFL. We have woven this goal through all of our activities below.

Meeting with Key Officials, SSFL Partners

Regular participation in meetings with regulators, our partners at the site, public officials, and stakeholders has been key to achieving our 2010 milestones, via both negotiation and coordination of the multiple interests at the site.

Most notably in 2010, DOE and DTSC negotiated and signed the AOC, available at: http://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_correspond/agreements/64791_SSFL_DOE_AOC_Final.pdf. These agreements provide the framework for an enforceable consent order that commits DOE to cleaning the soil to background levels of contamination.

DOE achieved another milestone in 2010 with the Co-located Sampling Program in Area IV and the Northern Undeveloped Lands. Through this program, DOE will receive soil samples to test for chemicals, under DTSC oversight, at the same time and from the same locations that USEPA uses to test for radiological contamination.

Also during 2010, DOE continued a monthly dialogue with representatives of the California congressional delegation and regularly attended community meetings of involved federal agencies, such as open houses hosted by USEPA and NASA.

In October, DOE hosted a community meeting on co-located sampling to inform stakeholders of our plans and to seek community input. We also participated in a community involvement meeting hosted by DTSC in May on our RCRA Facility Investigation.

Throughout the year, DOE continued its participation in numerous technical and other coordination meetings – more than 60 – including biweekly meetings with representatives of the other two parties at the SSFL (NASA and Boeing), USEPA, DTSC, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board to coordinate public outreach efforts. Members of the public typically attend many of these meetings as well.

Meeting with Stakeholder Groups

DOE presents briefings and information updates at various organizations and agency meetings. Through participation in these meetings, DOE staff provide information on issues and events related to SSFL Area IV and expand DOE's understanding of other agencies' and groups'

Energy Technology Engineering Center

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Community Involvement

2010 Annual Report: Building Relationships

This **Community Involvement Annual Report** provides an overview of the community involvement activities DOE undertook to reach out to, inform, and involve SSFL stakeholders in 2010. The accomplishments presented here are based on the SSFL Area IV **Community Involvement Plan**, the final draft of which was published in February 2010. It is part of our ongoing commitment to work in an environment of transparency, accountability, and responsiveness.

With that final commitment in mind, DOE encourages readers to offer feedback on our **Annual Report** below and on our ongoing activities throughout the year. Please send your comments to stephanie.jennings@emcbc.doe.gov or to Ms. Stephanie Jennings, DOE NEPA Document Manager, P.O. Box 10300, Canoga Park, CA 91309.

issues and concerns. In 2010, DOE participated in more than 12 such meetings, including the SSFL Interagency Workgroup meetings and community meetings sponsored by the West Hills Neighborhood Council, the Aerospace Contamination Museum of Education, Los Angeles, the SSFL Community Advisory Group, and the DTSC Public Participation Group.

Maintaining our Core Federal Staff

During 2010, DOE welcomed Jazmin Bell to the site from DOE headquarters and wished Bill Backous well in his next endeavors. Meanwhile, long-time DOE principal on this project Richard Schassburger continues as the DOE Federal Project Director. Maintaining an adequate federal staff size is part of DOE's commitment of resources to improve relationships and achieve a timely, effective cleanup.

Providing written and electronic information

DOE strives to offer multiple types of information and involvement opportunities. In our commitment to transparency, additional ways to be involved in and informed about SSFL Area IV activities were provided in 2010 and are described below.

Technical Reports and Work Plans

To support EPA's radiological studies, DOE conducted the following studies in 2010, as reported in the *CleanUpdate*:

- Habitat assessments at three ponds with potential habitat for the red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), February 23. No evidence of the frog was found. http://etec.energy.gov/EIS/Documents/CRLF_Habitat_Assessment_Report_January_2011.pdf.

- A cultural resources survey for evidence of early human activity in the Northern Undeveloped Lands, April 19–20. The surveyors recorded three prehistoric lithic reduction sites, which are locations where stone tools were manufactured. No rock art or habitation sites were discovered. http://etec.energy.gov/EIS/Documents/SSFL_NUL_Archaeology_Survey_2010.pdf.
- An assessment of the potential habitat for the Quino Checkerspot butterfly, to ensure that the technical work at the site would not affect this endangered species. This biological survey showed that the rare butterfly was not found in Area IV or the Northern Undeveloped Lands. The survey was documented in the *Site Assessment for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly* in July 2010; it may be accessed at http://etec.energy.gov/EIS/Documents/Quino_Butterfly_Report.pdf.
- DOE also prepared the *Work Plan/Field Sampling and Analysis Plan, Co-located Chemical Sampling at Area IV*, which provides the plan for DOE to receive and test Area IV soil samples for chemicals in conjunction with USEPA's radiological sampling program. The plan can be accessed at http://etec.energy.gov/Cleanup/Documents/FieldSampling/CoLocated_Chemical_FSAP_October_14.pdf.

Maps, Photographs, Other Visual Aids

To support the cultural resources survey, DOE developed two supporting maps of the survey area, which were distributed during site visits by Tataviam-Fernandeño members in April.

To help describe the Co-located Sampling Program, DOE prepared a graphic to demonstrate the process for sample management, which ran in the October issue of the *CleanUpdate*.

Project Site Visits and Tours

DOE hosted six site tours during 2010, including two for Tataviam-Fernandeño neighbors, and four co-sponsored with Boeing and NASA for the general public, including one for Teens Against Toxins.

Newsletters and Progress Reports

DOE published three *CleanUpdate* newsletters with articles on the latest project activities in March, June, and October 2010. They were distributed to more than 4,100 individuals on the postal mail list and approximately 600 on the email list.

Annual Reports

The SSFL Area IV *Annual Site Environmental Report for Calendar Year 2009* was completed and posted to the Energy Technology and Engineering Center (ETEC) website in September. The report describes the environmental conditions related to work performed for DOE at Area IV. This document is available at: http://etec.energy.gov/Health-and-Safety/Documents/ASERS/ASER_2009.pdf.

In addition, the first annual *Community Involvement 2009 Annual Report* was distributed through the *CleanUpdate* newsletter in March. This document is available at: <http://etec.energy.gov/EIS/Documents/Annual%20Report%202009.pdf>.

Press Releases, Local and Regional Media

DOE distributed one press release during the year, in conjunction with the signing of the AOC. The Public Affairs Officer coordinated 19 ETEC-related media inquiries. DOE hosted reporters from the Los Angeles *Daily News*, *Neon Tommy*, and National Public Radio during the year. Numerous articles on SSFL Area IV appeared in local media throughout the year, with topics ranging from the AOC to current project activities to historical project events.

Electronic Mail

Throughout 2010, DOE sent nine e-mail news flashes to approximately 600 individuals, announcing the signing of the AIP and the AOC, the community meeting on co-located sampling, the posting of new documents on the ETEC website, the posting of the video taken during the public meeting on the Sodium Reactor Experiment, and distribution of the *CleanUpdate* newsletter. The SRE meeting video is available at <http://etec.energy.gov/History/Major-Operations/SRE-Workshop-2009.html>.

ETEC Website (www.etec.energy.gov)

In 2010, the ETEC website had 12,604 visitors, who made 17,060 visits to the site. The majority of visits – 14,794 – were from internet users in the U.S. Additional visits came from 113 other countries or territories. DOE added

Community Involvement

2010 Annual Report: Building Relationships

more than 39 new documents to the website last year. We seek to keep the website current and comprehensive – in essence, the go-to place for information on DOE's portion of SSFL.

Information Repositories

DOE sent approximately five documents to reading rooms in three local libraries. In 2011, DOE expects to review its approach to ensuring project reports and documentation are easily accessible to our stakeholders and the public.

Seeking formal and informal input

An important part of our operation is to seek and respond to continual input from those interested in or affected by our plans and activities. Our formal and informal comment opportunities are described below.

Comment Opportunities and Response Summaries

DOE offers all project plans for public review and comment, including October 2010 *Work Plan/Field Sampling and Analysis Plans, Co-located Chemical Sampling at Area IV*. DOE also held a public meeting on October 12 to present the sampling and analysis plan for soils and solicit community input on selection of analytical laboratories.

DOE released two comment response documents in 2010:

- *Response to Comments Received by DOE on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Cultural Resources Survey Plan*, which included responses to 11 comments and 19 suggestions. This document, posted in February 2010, was in response to comments provided during two meetings in late 2009, one with Native American neighbors, and the other with community people interested in cultural and biological resource protection in the area. This document is located at: http://etec.energy.gov/library/Cultural_Resources/Cultural_Resources_Comment_Plan_Comment_Responses.pdf.
- *Comment Response Document for the Community Involvement Plan in February 2010*, which responds to three commenters who provided 58 comments. <http://etec.energy.gov/EIS/Documents/CIP%20Comment%20Table%202-2.pdf>.

In addition, DOE co-sponsored with DTSC two public comment periods during the roll-out of the AIP and the AOC. At the end of the second comment period, DTSC and DOE prepared a joint summary response to comments:

- *Responses to Comments, Draft Administrative Order on Consent, State of California and the United States Department of Energy* (December 6, 2010). This document provided summary responses to the more than 2,000 general comments received and the more specific comments submitted by 20 individuals. The document either identifies specific changes made to the draft AOC and supporting documents, or explains why changes were not made. This document is located at: http://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_correspond/agreements/64790_Response_to_AOC_Comments.pdf.

Community Surveys and Interviews

Following DOE's August 2009 community workshop on the Sodium Reactor Experiment, DOE committed to interview a broad spectrum of former workers. The objective was to ensure we have a fully informed history of Area IV operations, including any records that may exist relevant to the Area IV cleanup. As of press time, some 120 former SSFL workers had been interviewed. A report on the interviews is scheduled for release in Summer 2011.

These interviews were both an opportunity for former workers to provide input to the study process and an opportunity for DOE to build relationships.

Meeting with Native American neighbors

In April 2010, DOE and USEPA consulted, at on-site meetings, with two groups of Tataviam-Fernandeño neighbors interested in historic Native American activity at SSFL. Together with NASA, DOE provided tours of SSFL locations of interest to these groups. These meetings provided opportunities for DOE to build relationships with neighboring Native Americans.

Spotlight on...

Jazmin Everett Bell

Editor's note: "Spotlight on..." will be an occasional feature in the CleanUpdate highlighting individuals, activities, and milestones relevant to the Area IV cleanup.

Jazmin Bell is the new records management person up on the hill at DOE-SSFL. *CleanUpdate* staff spoke with her recently.

CleanUpdate: What is your role on the project?

Jazmin: My job is to institute a consistent, cohesive records management program for DOE-SSFL. I am also a part of the public participation team and assist with the ETEC website. One of my positions when I worked at DOE Headquarters was in the external and congressional affairs area in the Chief Financial Officer's Office.

CleanUpdate: What would you call your strongest skills and work interests?

Jazmin: People! I like to be out talking to people, to interact with people of different perspectives. I'm a real people person. In addition, in my previous work for DOE as a budget analyst, I found I like to tell the story behind the numbers. I did it all: presentations, response to queries, questions and answers for the congressional hearing record. In addition, I am a very organized person, and the idea of implementing a comprehensive, user-friendly records management program for DOE-SSFL will be a great



source of satisfaction because it will help build the historical record. It will also be a valuable resource for the project.

CleanUpdate: What is your educational and work background?

Jazmin: I did my undergraduate work at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina, where I graduated with a BA in political science. For my graduate work, I attended the University of Baltimore in Maryland. I have an MS in negotiations and conflict management.

As an undergraduate, I started working at DOE as an intern in 2001, and returned to DOE each summer. After I graduated, I went to work for DOE full time as a budget analyst while I continued going to school to complete my master's degree.

CleanUpdate: Describe a personal accomplishment that you feel particularly proud of.

Jazmin: When I was in the Office of Safety Management and Operations, we had two supplier events. For the one in Augusta, Georgia, we had more than 700 people in attendance, including the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Safety Management and Operations for Environmental Management (EM). It was one of the largest Supplier Outreach Events EM has done and an opportunity for small businesses to learn how they could do business with the federal government.

CleanUpdate: What personal interests would you like to share?

Jazmin: I am a newlywed. Many people know me as Jazmin Everett; however "Bell" is my new last name. I live in Monrovia with my husband and my dog Kobe...I am a huge Lakers fan... and I am really excited to be a part of the DOE-SSFL team.

Records - the "petroglyphs" of the future?

Although not as glamorous as studying Native American petroglyphs in the field, records management is a vital part of the DOE's responsibility on every project, including the SSFL

What is a "record"?

A record is any recorded information relating to our work, regardless of who created it or how information was recorded. Most records are paper documents, such as letters, completed forms, memos, directives, and reports. However, records also appear in forms such as email messages, databases, maps, spreadsheets, presentations, photographs, drawings, microfilms, motion pictures, sound records, and computer tapes or disks.

Why do we need good records?

First, it makes sense. The information contained in records is necessary to keep everyone informed about what's going on and why - both now and in the future.

By maintaining and organizing records, we document activities and preserve the context and history of the decision-making process during the course of the Department's activities such as an EIS or other complex environmental study.

Second, it's the law. Federal law requires the creation of adequate records, and makes it a crime to destroy them without the approval of the National Archives.

Finally, it's our history. Some records may become a permanent part of the Federal Archives. These will help future generations understand how our government worked and learn about our lives and values. Think of records as the "petroglyphs of the future."

What is Involved?

Records are collected, organized and categorized based on content to ensure their preservation, retrieval, use and disposition.

Specific to the SSFL, an EIS is being conducted. The complete body of documents that forms the basis for selecting a cleanup action in an EIS is called the Administrative Record or AR, which ensures accountability and transparency of actions and decisions. Planning for the SSFL AR began before the EIS started. It is the responsibility of DOE and/or its contractor to ensure the AR is updated and accessible, but everyone plays a role in records management. Everyone can participate in the EIS process and anyone can review documentation that supports project decisions.

Coming Soon...

Groundwater education sessions

The SSFL Core Team has developed a highly technical multi-volume site-wide *Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report (Groundwater RI)* that DTSC made available to the community for public review and comment.

Beginning March 8, DOE, NASA, Boeing, and DTSC will co-sponsor a series of six groundwater education sessions to provide information that will facilitate stakeholders' reviews of the *Groundwater RI*. The six sessions will be followed by a field trip to the site.

The first three sessions will be general information on:

- Geology and hydrogeology
- Contaminant fate and transport
- Groundwater remediation.

The second three sessions will be specific to the SSFL Site and cover:

- Groundwater flow
- Contaminant sources
- Fate of contaminants.

More details will be available soon.

Moved? Changed addresses?

We have received a number of returns on recent mailings. If you have changed your address for some reason – and you somehow received this anyway – please update us. Please pass this message to friends who may have moved.

Similarly, if you *plan* to move or change your email or snail mail address, please let us know. Or if you'd like to change your method of receiving information from us – from paper copy to electronic copy or from one means to both – please let us know that as well. We want to stay in touch. Contact Debbie Kramer at 818-466-8898, or ETEC-energy@emcbc.doe.gov.

For more information

<http://www.etc.energy.gov/>

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