

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Proposed Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone, Ventura County, California**

**September 2019 - December 2020**



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Energy Technology Engineering Center  
Santa Susana Field Laboratory  
Simi Valley, CA 93063**

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## **ACRONYMS**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| APE    | area of potential effects                         |
| Boeing | The Boeing Company                                |
| DOE    | Department of Energy                              |
| DTSC   | California Department of Toxic Substances Control |
| ICR    | Indigenous Community Representatives              |
| NAMG   | Native American Monitoring Group                  |
| PA     | Programmatic Agreement                            |
| RMHF   | Radioactive Materials Handling Facility           |
| ROD    | Record of Decision                                |
| SHPO   | California State Historic Preservation Officer    |
| SSFL   | Santa Susana Field Laboratory                     |
| SYBCI  | Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians                |

This annual report summarizes activities conducted from September 2019 through December 2020 pursuant to the *Programmatic Agreement between the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Regarding the Proposed Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone, Ventura County, California (PA)*.

## **1.0 Summary of General Programmatic Agreement Activities during the Reporting Period**

### **Execution and Distribution of the Programmatic Agreement**

The PA was executed in September 2019 when it was signed by DOE and the California SHPO. The PA was subsequently signed by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI) as an Invited Signatory, and by the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California, and Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation as Concurring Parties. DOE distributed copies of the executed PA to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Consulting Parties.<sup>1</sup>

### **Development of the Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan**

DOE developed a *Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan* (Monitoring Plan) that provides protocols for conducting tribal and archaeological monitoring during ground-disturbing activities in Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone, pursuant to PA Stipulation X. The plan also includes procedures in the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources or human remains, pursuant to PA Stipulation XI.

DOE consulted with the SHPO, SYBCI, Indigenous Community Representatives (ICR), and The Boeing Company (Boeing) during development of the Monitoring Plan. The SHPO found the plan adequate and sufficient, and offered no comments (letter dated January 19, 2020). DOE met with the SYBCI and ICR in December 2019 and May 2020 to discuss the plan and their comments. DOE also provided an opportunity for the Consulting Parties to review and comment on the plan, and held an information meeting in June 2020. DOE considered all comments and revised the plan as appropriate before approving the plan in June 2020. The approved plan was posted on DOE's project website (<http://www.etec.energy.gov>) for public viewing.

The Monitoring Plan will be a "living" document that will be updated and modified, as needed, as decisions are made moving forward regarding remediation activities and the likelihood of inadvertent discoveries, and also based on the successes and challenges of implementing the monitoring requirements and the inadvertent discovery process during each phase of the project.

## **2.0 Summary of Undertaking Updates during the Reporting Period**

DOE's undertaking covered under the PA includes a three-phased proposal to (a) demolish and remove 18 DOE-owned buildings in Area IV; (b) perform groundwater cleanup and related activities; and (c) perform soil cleanup and related activities. This report summarizes the status of each of these activities, describes related actions taken pursuant to the PA during this reporting period, and discusses anticipated actions during the next reporting period.

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<sup>1</sup> Consulting Parties include the signatories of the agreement, the invited signatories, the concurring parties, and other individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in DOE's undertaking (see Table 1 in Attachment 3 of the PA).

## **Building Demolitions**

*Activities Completed or Underway within the Reporting Period.* DOE published a Record of Decision (ROD) under the National Environmental Policy Act in September 2019 to demolish the remaining DOE-owned buildings in Area IV. DOE prepared demolition and disposal plans for each building. DOE and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) signed a Consent Order in May 2020 directing DOE to start demolition of the 10 buildings that previously comprised the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (RMHF). In October 2020, DOE and DTSC amended the Consent Order to include the remaining 8 buildings for which DOE is responsible. DOE demolished the above-ground portions of 12 structures by the end of 2020 (see Attachment A, Figure A-1).

Since there was no ground disturbance, PA Stipulation V.b.i provides that tribal monitor(s) were not required for above-ground building demolition and removal activities. Nonetheless, DOE's contractor, North Wind, hired Native American Monitoring Group (NAMG) to provide cultural monitoring for these activities. NAMG is owned by Beverly Folkes, who is of Chumash/Tataviam/Fernandeno tribal heritage and is a member of the ICR. Monitoring took place between July and December 2020. Nothing was uncovered that triggered any of the Monitoring Plan's procedures for unexpected discoveries of cultural resources or human remains.

*Activities Expected in 2021.* DOE will continue demolishing and removing debris from the above-ground portions of the remaining DOE buildings (see Attachment A, Figure A-1), and North Wind will continue to employ tribal monitors for these activities. No ground disturbing activities are expected in 2021.

## **Groundwater Cleanup and Related Activities**

### ***Groundwater Investigation Wells***

*Activities Completed or Underway within the Reporting Period.* DOE installed nine new investigation wells in 2020. The wells were installed in three general areas within Area IV<sup>2</sup> (see Attachment A, Figure A-1) to help inform selection of the groundwater corrective measures as part of its remediation activities. Pursuant to PA Stipulation VI and the standard protection measures in PA Attachment 8, all new wells were located to avoid identified archaeological sites. Freddie Romero (SYBCI) visited five proposed well location areas in October 2019 and concurred that they avoided identified archaeological sites. Dr. Karen Foster (Leidos), an archaeologist that meets the PA's qualification standards, visited and concurred with twelve specific well locations in five separate areas of Area IV in October 2019 and one revised location in July 2020 that was later removed from consideration due to sensitive biological resources. Based on the field visits, Dr. Foster confirmed that no recorded archaeological sites were located within 50 feet of proposed well locations, and no new (unrecorded) archaeological material was observed during the site visit. No proposed well locations needed to be adjusted to avoid an archaeological site.

*Activities Expected in 2021.* DOE has no plans to install additional wells in 2021.

### ***Groundwater Cleanup***

*Activities Completed or Underway within the Reporting Period.* DOE published a ROD under the National Environmental Policy Act in November 2020 announcing its decision to initiate groundwater remediation at the site. The ROD describes monitoring and treatment approaches for contaminated groundwater tailored to address the contaminants and potential impacts in each affected area of the site.

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<sup>2</sup> DOE considered five general areas of Area IV for proposed well locations, but moved forward with installing wells in only three of the five areas.

*Activities Expected in 2021.* DOE anticipates holding meetings with the ICR regarding the latest developments with groundwater cleanup planning.

### **Soil Cleanup and Related Activities**

There were no activities related to soil cleanup conducted during this reporting period, and no ground-disturbing activities are anticipated in 2021.

### **3.0 Status of Programmatic Agreement Stipulations**

The following table provides the current status of the PA stipulations.

| <b>Stipulation</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Status</b>  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| I                  | Definitions  | No change.   |
| II                 | Professional Qualifications                                    | DOE confirms that technical work during this reporting period was carried out by or under the direct supervision of professionals who meet professional standards.   |
| IIIa               | Tribal Involvement   | DOE consulted with the SYBCI and ICR during development of the <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> , as described in Section 1.0.   |
| IIIb               | Tribal Monitoring  | DOE ensured that its contractor hired tribal monitors and that monitoring was conducted pursuant to the <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> , as described in Section 1.0.  |
| IV                 | Modification of the APE  | No change; the APE has not been modified.  |
| V                  | Building Demolition and Removal                                | Twelve of 18 above-ground structures were demolished, as described in Section 2.0. There was no reason to reopen consultations with the Consulting Parties, per Stipulation V.c.   |
| VI                 | Groundwater Investigations                                     | Nine new groundwater investigation wells were installed, as described in Section 2.0.  |
| VII                | Soil and Groundwater Cleanup: Identification and Evaluation    | As described in NASA's 2021 PA Annual Report, the <i>Burro Flats Cultural District Traditional Cultural Property</i> nomination proceeded through the county, state, Native American, and federal review processes, and NASA intends to continue with the listing process. NASA also intends to finalize the <i>Burro Flats Archeological District Evaluation</i> with new information from the post Woolsey Fire investigation. |
| VIII               | Soil and Groundwater Cleanup: Assessment of Adverse Effects    | No activities occurred during this reporting period.   |
| IX                 | Soil and Groundwater Cleanup: Treatment of Historic Properties | No activities occurred during this reporting period.   |
| X                  | Monitoring Plan for Tribal and Archaeological Monitors         | DOE developed a <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> , as described in Section 1.0.  |

| <b>Stipulation</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Status</b>   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| XI                 | Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources and Human Remains, Graves, and Associated Funerary Items and Inadvertent Discovery Plan | DOE developed a <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> , as described in Section 1.0.                       |
| XII                | Curation  | No activities occurred during this reporting period.  |
| XIII               | Review of Documents   | DOE followed this stipulation during development and review of the <i>Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan</i> . |
| XIV                | Communication   | DOE communications were consistent with this stipulation.   |
| XV                 | Annual Reporting  | DOE developed this annual report consistent with the requirements of Stipulation XV.                                  |
| XVI                | Confidentiality   | DOE has conducted activities consistent with this stipulation.  |
| XVII               | Dispute Resolution  | There were no disputes needing resolution during this reporting period.   |
| XVIII              | Duration  | No change.  |
| XIX                | Amendments  | No amendments were enacted during this reporting period.  |
| XX                 | Addition and Termination  | There were no additions or terminations during this reporting period.   |
| XXI                | Antideficiency Act  | No change.  |
| XXII               | General Provisions and Scope of Agreement   | No change.  |
| XXIII              | Execution   | The PA was executed in September 2019.  |

APE = Area of Potential Effects; DOE = Department of Energy; ICR = Indigenous Community Representatives; PA = Programmatic Agreement; SYBCI = Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

## **ATTACHMENT A**

*Map showing new investigation well locations and demolished buildings*



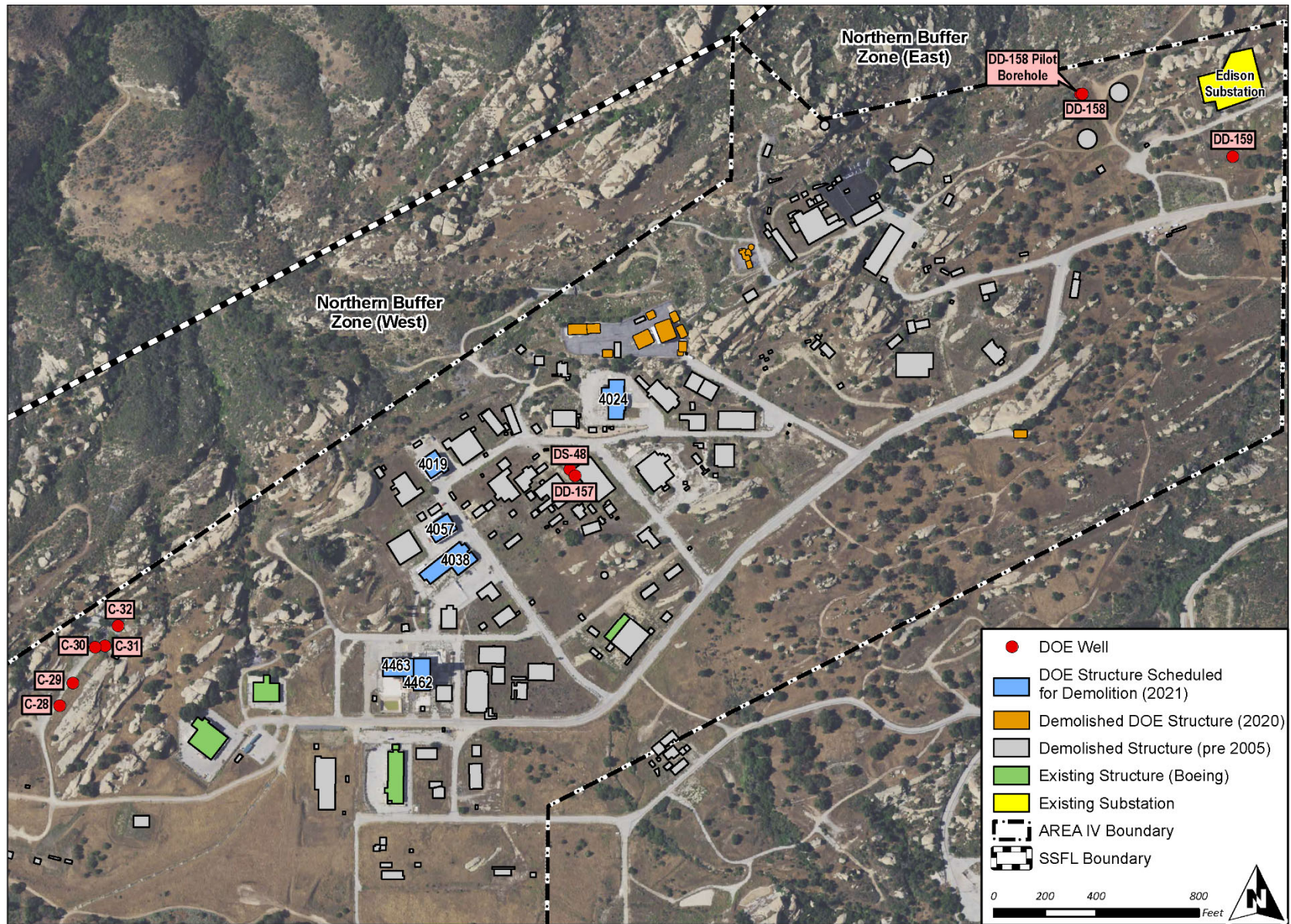


Figure A-1: SSFL Area IV Groundwater Well Locations and Building Status