

**RE: ETEC-EPA release**

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From: "Kramer, Debbie" <debbie.kramer@emcbc.doe.gov>**To:** "Kramer, Debbie" <debbie.kramer@emcbc.doe.gov>**Media Contact: Bill Taylor, 513-246-0539****April 27, 2009**

Department of Energy to Provide Environmental Protection Agency with \$38 Million in Recovery Act Funding for Santa Susana Field Lab Survey

Canoga Park, CA – The Department of Energy announced today a finalized agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to transfer \$38.3 million to fund a complete radiological characterization survey at the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) site at the Santa Susana Field Lab. The funding, provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will be used to conduct radiological assessments that are necessary to complete the environmental impact statement and site cleanup.

DOE committed full funding to the Interagency Agreement that calls for radiological characterization work at SSFL Area IV and the northern undeveloped land. Under the agreement, EPA's tasks for the radiological characterization survey include: initiating a historical site assessment to evaluate past radiological activities, conducting a surface gamma scan, performing surface and subsurface soil sampling and a groundwater analyses. Approximately 10,000 soil and groundwater samples are expected to be analyzed.

"The funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to DOE's Office of Environmental Management, give EPA the opportunity to begin the much-anticipated radiological characterization survey sooner than planned," said Cynthia Anderson, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, DOE Office of Environmental Management. "We are looking forward to working with EPA, the State of California and our stakeholders, who have requested EPA perform this very important effort. It is crucial to complete this survey by 2011 in order to stay on schedule for cleanup by 2017."

DOE, through a Consent Order with the State of California, has agreed to complete the cleanup of radiological and chemical hazards at SSFL by 2017. The Department is also in the process of conducting a court-ordered Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act. The EPA-conducted radiological characterization survey will provide vital input to the EIS.

The DOE-leased ETEC is located on 90 acres within SSFL Area IV. The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), conducted nuclear research at ETEC starting in the 1950s. The EIS for Area IV of the SSFL focuses on environmental restoration activities that include soil and groundwater remediation and the decontamination and decommissioning or dismantlement of the remaining government buildings and structures.

DOE previously provided \$1.7 million to EPA to begin planning efforts for the radiological characterization survey. The additional \$38.3 million provided via the current Interagency Agreement will fully fund EPA's radiological characterization survey.

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