

From: Fellows, Merrilee (HQ-LD000) <mfellows@nasa.gov>
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To: <mfellows@nasa.gov>
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Merrilee Fellows
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NASA LOOKS FORWARD TO NEXT STEPS ON CLEANUP AT SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB

On Wednesday, August 19, NASA was notified that the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issued a draft Consent Order among DTSC, NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This agreement, once finalized, will govern future investigation and cleanup activities by NASA and the DOE at the Santa Susana Field Lab.

Allen Elliott, project manager for environmental cleanup of NASA's 451 acres at the nearly 2,900-acre Santa Susana site known locally as SSFL, says, "We are eager to continue with cleanup at this site. The terms of the draft revised consent order now agreed on by DTSC, NASA and DOE will permit us to move forward to protect the health of local residents at the same time that we clean up the environment." The draft consent order is now available to the public for comments. Elliott added, "NASA looks forward to receiving public input on this important document and to continuing its collaborative work with DTSC and DOE to finalize this new consent order."

James Leatherwood, director of NASA's Environmental Management Division, commented that, "We just received this notice at the same time the public received notice, on Wednesday afternoon [Aug. 19]. We haven't completed our review to determine what changes DTSC made to a previous draft version that included the Boeing Company." Leatherwood further added, "We remain committed to cleaning up NASA's properties at SSFL within the bounds of our federal authority."

While awaiting public comment and until a new consent order is finalized, NASA continues to diligently pursue its ongoing cleanup at SSFL – under DTSC oversight and in compliance with the existing 2007 consent order.

For a copy of the draft consent order, go to: <http://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/> .

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