



FieldNOTE

MAY 2012

An Update
on NASA's
Cleanup Efforts at
Santa Susana
Field Laboratory

In our first edition of the **FieldNOTES** newsletter in spring 2011, we presented six pages of stories (<http://go.usa.gov/bco>) about NASA's investigation and cleanup activities at SSFL.

Our ongoing conversations with community members since then have prompted us to make a change, away from the lengthy, printed newsletter to regular, shorter news reporting posted on our cleanup website. It's the same in-depth coverage on all NASA activities at SSFL but in smaller packages and brought to you more often.

In 2012, we are shedding the "s" and present to you our first **FieldNOTE** update.

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NASA's Field Sampling Plan INVESTIGATIONS

As part of cleanup at SSFL, NASA and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are implementing a series of Field Sampling Plan (FSP) investigations under the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) signed with the California Environmental Protection Agency in December 2010. The AOC defines the process for the characterization and cleanup of soils at SSFL sites administered by NASA. The purpose of the FSP sampling is to complete field investigations for soil chemical contamination at the NASA SSFL sites in comparison to soil chemical background concentrations or AOC-required Look Up Table concentrations - both of which are currently in development by DTSC, with opportunities for SSFL public stakeholder input. Through this FSP evaluation and review process, DTSC will determine if and where additional sampling is necessary to complete the chemical investigation of soils at the NASA sites.

The NASA-administered property at SSFL has been divided into five FSP subgroups (see list below). Site features, chemical use areas, operational histories, release histories, and past soil removals for each FSP subgroup area have been documented using a variety of resources. These include historical documents and drawings, site inspections and interviews with personnel, and decades' worth of aerial photographs of SSFL. Details derived from this review together with NASA's previous soil sampling results form the basis for determining if current sampling is sufficient to characterize the site or if additional sampling is needed. The proposed additional soil sampling approach is outlined in a Draft FSP for each of the five subgroups.



In the photo, left, NASA on-site contractor Randy Dean is shown in the middle of about a dozen people. They stand in front of a large rock outcrop near the former Liquid Oxygen Plant (LOX) on a January 26, 2012 tour of the FSP-4 area.

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COMMUNITY Involvement

The five Draft FSPs have been made available for public review on the DTSC SSFL Website http://dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Santa_Susana_Field_Lab/index.cfm followed by a public comment period. DTSC prepared a written response to all public comments received for the FSPs. Between August 2011 and March 2012, NASA and DTSC sponsored a series of five public technical roundtable meetings providing detailed reviews of each newly-developed Draft FSP. These provided opportunities for community members to learn more about current site characterization and the proposed data gap sampling. Web and phone links were available for those unable to attend the meetings. Each meeting was followed by a group tour of the respective FSP areas. "The technical meetings were a great way for the public to learn about the site histories and our planned sampling work," said Peter Zorba, SSFL Project Manager for NASA. "At the meetings we covered the features, operational history, previous sampling results, and the proposed sampling at each NASA site. We visited each site and the public was able to see our proposed sampling points, ask questions, and provide comments to DTSC."

Field Sampling Plan AREAS

FSP-1

(Public meeting August 4, 2011)
Alfa/Bravo Fuel Farm
Propellant Load Facility
Coca/Delta Fuel Farm

FSP-2

(Public meeting October 13, 2011)
Area II Incinerator Ashpile
Building 515 Sewage Treatment Plant Area
Building 204
Storable Propellant Area
Skyline Road Area

FSP-3

(Public meeting December 8, 2011)
Alfa Test Stands
Bravo Test Stands

FSP-4

(Public meeting January 26, 2012)
LOX Plant
Area 2 Landfill
ELV

FSP-5

(Public meeting March 8, 2012)
Coca Test Stands
Former Delta Test Stands
R-2 Ponds



In the photo, above, members of the tour gather around NASA on-site contractor Randy Dean who uses a large map as part of his explanation of the Expendable Launch Vehicle site - one of the FSP-4 areas.

In the photo, right, Dean and a group of about six people in conversation stand in front of a very large rock outcrop located at the Area II Landfill site - part of the FSP-4 area - part of the tour in January of this year.



Next Steps

DTSC has approved FSPs for subgroups 1, 2, 3 and 4. Soil and soil vapor sampling began at Alfa/Bravo Fuel Farm in September 2011 and is expected to continue through mid-2012. The public can continue to submit comments to DTSC throughout the FSP process. The schedule also includes a "Site-wide Data Gap" study to be conducted from late 2012 through early 2014 - to be followed by a Final Chemical Data Report scheduled in 2015. When that report is approved, a comprehensive soil cleanup effort will be proposed and implemented.

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FOR MORE
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