



Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Soil Cleanup Activities

Background

In October 2019, NASA released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for soil cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Agency stakeholders, tribes, elected officials, and members of the public were invited to comment on the Draft SEIS during the official comment period from October 25, 2019, through January 8, 2020. NASA accepted written comments via email and traditional mail, as well as oral and written comments during two public meetings held in November 2019. NASA received a total of 1,215 comments, including 863 form letters during the public comment period. The Final SEIS reflects NASA's careful consideration and incorporation of comments received during the public comment period.

What is the purpose of NASA's Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Soil Cleanup?

The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Soil Cleanup is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that documents NASA's evaluation of the likely impacts that soil cleanup alternatives would have on the community and the environment. The final document reflects the agency's careful consideration of all scientific data, regulatory requirements, and input from the public on the Draft SEIS.

What is the decision being made with this Final SEIS?

No decision is being made at this time. In this document, NASA has provided formal responses to public comments and identified a Preferred Alternative. The next step in the process is for NASA to issue a formal Record of Decision for soil cleanup, completing the NEPA process. Next, the agency will finalize its soil cleanup implementation plans and can begin work once the Department of Toxic Substances Control completes its Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and issues its decision document and approves NASA's plans.

How did NASA respond to comments on the Draft SEIS?

NASA reviewed every comment received during the 75-day public comment period. The comments naturally broke down into thematic categories and NASA responded to comments by category. In addition to extending the public comment period and making references available online, NASA made substantive changes to the Final SEIS document based on public comments.

What is a Preferred Alternative and what has NASA selected as its Agency Preferred Alternative in the Final SEIS?

A Preferred Alternative is the alternative identified as the favored course of action by a lead agency during the NEPA environmental review process. Based on the findings in the SEIS, NASA identified both an Environmentally Preferred Alternative and an Agency Preferred Alternative. The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is *Alternative D: Recreational Cleanup*. The Agency Preferred Alternative is *Alternative C: Suburban Residential Cleanup*. A Suburban Residential cleanup would protect public health and the environment and is consistent with cleanup standards applied by DTSC throughout the State of California, and by the U.S. EPA across the country. Cleanup goals would be protective of a Suburban Residential exposure scenario, which assumes that both adults and children would be exposed to soil 24 hours per day, 350 days per year, for a total of 26 years.

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What Alternatives did NASA evaluate?

The SEIS evaluated the impacts of four soil cleanup alternatives, all of which comply with state and federal environmental laws and regulations and are protective of public health and the environment:

Alternative A: Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) Cleanup. After NASA signed the 2010 AOC, DTSC developed soil Look-up Table (LUT) values at SSFL for 130 chemicals. Under Alternative A, NASA would remediate the soil on the NASA-administered property at SSFL to these LUT values.

Alternative B: Revised AOC Look-Up Table Cleanup. Alternative B would utilize a LUT that uses existing state and federal soil cleanup standards, rather than the AOC investigation LUT values, for seven of the 130 contaminants of concern. All other AOC investigation LUT values would remain the same.

Alternative C: Suburban Residential Cleanup. Alternative C would clean up soil to meet standard Suburban Residential risk-based cleanup goals, developed using nationwide Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines and the DTSC approved risk-based methodology specific to SSFL. Cleanup goals would be protective of a Suburban Residential exposure scenario, which assumes that both adults and children would be exposed to soil 24 hours per day, 350 days per year, for a total of 26 years.

Alternative D: Recreational Cleanup. Alternative D would entail the cleanup of soil to meet standard Recreational risk-based soil cleanup goals, developed using nationwide EPA guidelines and the DTSC approved risk-based methodology specific to SSFL. Cleanup goals would be protective of a Recreational exposure scenario, which assumes that both adults and children would be exposed to soil while performing recreational activities for several hours per day, 50 days per year, for a total of 26 years.

What were the findings of the Final SEIS?

The table below provides a brief summary of some of the impacts of each of the soil cleanup alternatives evaluated in the SEIS.

	Alternative A: Administrative Order on Consent Cleanup	Alternative B: Revised Look-Up Table Cleanup	Alternative C: Suburban Residential Cleanup	Alternative D: Recreational Cleanup
Soil Excavation Volume	870,000 yd ³	384,000 yd ³	247,000 yd ³	176,500 yd ³
Soil Excavation Area	220 acres	78 acres	36 acres	26 acres
Significant Environmental Impacts After Mitigation	10	7	0	0
Backfill Soil Volume Needed	448,000 yd ³	253,000 yd ³	189,000 yd ³	141,000 yd ³
Total Truckloads	99,098	47,895	32,782	23,873
Total Duration of Cleanup	25 years	12 years	8 years	6 years
Uses cleanup standards recognized by CalEPA and U.S. EPA as protective of public health	✓	✓	✓	✓

For More Information Contact

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<http://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov>