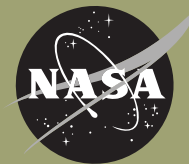


JUNE 2017

FieldNOTE

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



DEMOLITION UPDATE:

NASA continues to make progress toward cleanup of Area II at SSFL

As part of its cleanup obligations, NASA is conducting demolition activities to remove inactive and obsolete structures located in NASA-administered areas at SSFL. NASA completed Phase 2-A of its demolition in April of this year and is continuing work on Phase 2-B in the former Delta Test Area. In 1982, the Delta Test Stands and some supporting structures were demolished. The current work consists of removing obsolete buildings and tanks, and other infrastructure that remains. NASA estimates it will complete Phase 2-B by the end of 2017.

Phases 1 and 2 of demolition focused on portions of Area II outside of the historic test areas. In Phase 3, NASA will move into the Alfa, Bravo, and Coca Test Areas. The six existing test stands and control houses will not be demolished at this time [see adjacent]. Other obsolete structures such as inactive storage tanks, asphalt parking areas, and dormant office buildings will be removed in Phase 3 to prepare the site for a cleanup that meets the requirements of the 2010 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC).

Project Director Peter Zorba notes that NASA's progress with demolition has presented many opportunities to learn. "Each phase of demolition has provided invaluable technical and practical knowledge that we've been able to apply to subsequent activities, which means we are continually improving our efficiency and approach," he said.

Phase 3 demolition will begin in the Alfa and Bravo Test Areas (Phase 3-A), and then move to the Coca Test Area (Phase 3-B).

NASA's demolition contractor for Phase 3-A is Central Environmental Inc. (CEI), with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducting field oversight. CEI is currently developing the Work Plan describing the safety procedures and mitigation measures that will be implemented to protect the health and safety of workers, the public, and the environment.

Phase 3-A is expected to begin this summer. The projected start date for Phase 3-B is Fall 2017.

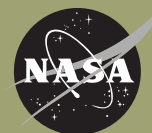


NASA will continue to defer demolition of historic Test Stands

NASA's 2014 [Record of Decision for the Demolition and Environmental Cleanup Activities at SSFL \(ROD\)](#) described NASA's proposed demolition of inactive and obsolete facilities that no longer support NASA's mission. The historic test stands were among the facilities included in the demolition scope. Recognizing the importance of preserving historical resources, NASA agreed in the 2014 ROD to preserve at least one test stand for historic preservation, provided the AOC cleanup goals could be met. In 2015, at the request of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, NASA agreed to defer demolition of all historic test stands, including those in the Coca Test Area (pictured above) for as long as possible without impacting cleanup responsibilities.

On March 24, 2017, NASA received a bipartisan letter from Representative Steve Knight and several members of the California congressional delegation urging NASA to protect the historic test stands. NASA's overarching goal at SSFL is to protect human health and the environment. We are equally committed to preserving the rich history and cultural legacy of the site. As a result, NASA plans to continue to defer demolition of the test stands and their associated control house structures, unless the test stands pose risks to safety health or the environment that cannot be mitigated.

The deferral includes all six test stands remaining in Area II at SSFL: Alfa Test Stands I and III, Bravo Test Stands I and II, and Coca Test Stands I and IV, as well as three Control Houses, one in each of the Test Areas. These nine structures are considered individually eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for their significant historical contributions in the contexts of the Cold War (Military) and Space Exploration, as well as their achievements in engineering and design.



New Project Manager Joins NASA SSFL Team



**Dr. Keith Thomsen, SSFL
Project Manager**

In January, NASA welcomed Dr. Keith Thomsen as the Remedial Project Manager for the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL). Thomsen is working alongside NASA SSFL Project Director Peter Zorba, managing the day-to-day technical operations for NASA's cleanup at SSFL. Thomsen is an Environmental Engineer with over 30 years of experience in environmental remediation, renewable energy, and sustainability.

One of his primary responsibilities for NASA is to guide the development of soil and groundwater cleanup plans for SSFL. Thomsen is working with a team of contractors to ensure NASA implements an efficient and effective cleanup that complies with appropriate state and federal laws and regulations.

"Ultimately, my goal is to make sure that NASA is ready to begin cleanup activities as soon as the Department of Toxic Substances Control selects and approves final cleanup plans," said Thomsen. He is also responsible for the oversight of NASA's air monitoring, stormwater management, and hazardous waste management programs at SSFL.

Prior to his appointment to Project Manager at SSFL, Thomsen was the Assistant Director of the Center for Bioproducts, Science, and Engineering Laboratory at Washington State University's Tri-Cities campus, where he ensured the lab was compliant with all environmental regulations. He was also responsible for sustainability, something he is bringing with him to the SSFL project.

"I want to make sure we use the most cutting-edge, sustainable remediation technologies so that we can maintain a clean environmental footprint and minimize impacts to the community while we conduct our cleanup," said Thomsen. That includes cleaning as much soil onsite as possible. "We want to treat in place wherever we can to minimize the amount of soil that would require transport and disposal at a landfill."

Thomsen is a Board Certified Environmental Engineer, and a registered Civil Engineer in three states. He holds a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering from Oregon State University, a Master of Business Administration from California State University-Fresno, and an Environmental Science and Engineering doctorate from UCLA.

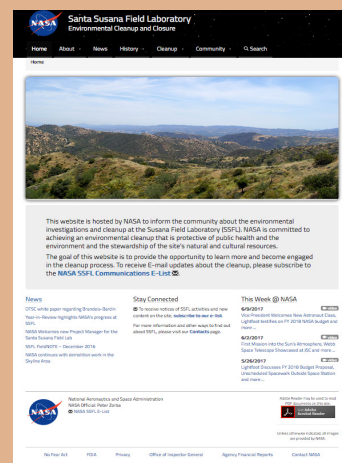
NASA launches new SSFL website

NASA recently launched its new SSFL website at <https://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov>. In line with NASA's commitment to transparency and engagement with the community, the website was re-designed with a focus on improving aesthetics, simplifying content, and streamlining navigation. Among the enhanced features is a new search toolbar located at the top of the homepage that allows users to search for technical documents, outreach materials, and news updates. The new NASA SSFL website is also more mobile-friendly, making it more readily available to the growing number of users who access website content via smart phones and other mobile devices.

"Our goal is to be the direct source of information about NASA to SSFL stakeholders, and this new website helps us better achieve that objective," said Peter Zorba, NASA SSFL Project Director.

NASA continues to provide project news and updates through its SSFL Communications E-List. Subscribers to this list receive prompt email notifications when NASA updates the website with project news or documents and other project updates. To subscribe to the E-List, please visit: <http://go.nasa.gov/1NCtSIK>.

We welcome any feedback, comments, questions, or suggestions for how we can continue to improve the website and better meet the needs of the SSFL community and stakeholders. If you have any feedback, please contact Lori Manes at lori.manes@nasa.gov or (818) 806-8834.



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