



Santa Susana Field Laboratory
Environmental Cleanup and Closure

- Home
- About
- News
- History
- Cleanup
- Community
- Search

Cleanup Overview

The 2,850-acre Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is located in California's Simi Hills in Ventura County, roughly 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The facility opened in 1948 and is divided into four administrative areas and two areas of undeveloped land. Area II and a 41.7-acre portion of Area I are owned by the U.S. government and administered by NASA. The rest of Area I and all of Areas III, IV and the undeveloped lands, are owned and operated by the Boeing Company. DOE leased a portion of Area IV for energy research.

Area II was used for research, development and testing of rocket engines associated with the Apollo and Space Shuttle Programs through the 1980s. Some of the historic operations resulted in the release of chemicals into the environment. NASA continues to make progress investigating and cleaning up Area II and its Area I parcel. NASA also is working cooperatively with the Boeing Company and the Department of Energy (DOE) as they conduct cleanup in areas they own, as well as the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup.



Drilling groundwater monitoring well

In August 2007, NASA, Boeing, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and DTSC signed a [Consent Order for Corrective Action](#) that addressed the cleanup of soils and groundwater at SSFL. Subsequently, in December 2010, NASA entered into an agreement with DTSC known as an [Administrative Order on Consent \(AOC\)](#), prescribing NASA activities and deadlines for the environmental remediation of the property. The AOC requires NASA to clean up soils to [Look-up Table](#) values established by DTSC.

NASA has completed its soil and groundwater investigations and is currently waiting for DTSC to complete its [California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\)](#) process. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is expected in the second quarter of 2017, with a Final EIR anticipated in 2018. The CEQA process will conclude with a state-issued decision document outlining the cleanup remedy and actions they have selected. NASA then will be authorized to implement remediation actions in line with overall cleanup responsibilities.

In the meantime, NASA is analyzing results from [treatability studies](#) to assess treatment in place (also known as *in situ* treatment) technologies, and other methods to achieve the required cleanup levels. NASA looks forward to moving ahead with final cleanup activities as soon as the state issues its decision document.

More Information



Groundwater



Soil



Demolition

