

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING CENTER

“2021 has shown great progress toward environmental remediation at ETEC, but our team realizes the toughest work is yet to come. Now that building demolition is complete, we look forward to keeping the momentum of this cleanup as we switch our focus toward groundwater remediation. The Department plans to continue working with the State of California to clean up the site, including groundwater and soil remediation. I am extremely proud of how well our team performed this year, accomplishing the 2021 EM priority to complete building demolition with a spotless safety record.”

– Josh Mengers, Acting Manager, Energy Technology Engineering Center

HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed the demolition of all DOE-owned buildings – an EM 2021 priority.
- Safely transported 350 shipments (22,000 cubic yards) of demolition debris for disposal out of the state of California.
- Maintained an excellent health and safety culture, resulting in 32,000 person-hours worked during building demolition with no recordable incidents, loss time accidents or on-site COVID-19 transmission.
- Continued groundwater interim measures by capturing and removing approximately 9,000 gallons of solvent-impacted groundwater, keeping it away from the deeper bedrock groundwater.

BUILDING DEMOLITION AT ENERGY TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING CENTER COMPLETE

Significant progress on cleanup at ETEC continued for a second straight year as the demolition of DOE-owned buildings was completed in 2021. This accomplishment is a direct result of multiple agreements between DOE and the state of California, as EM builds on good relationships that have enabled the current progress toward cleanup of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.



ETEC before final building demolition.

Shaped charges safely brought the final DOE buildings to the ground on October 1. All told, DOE safely demolished its final 18 buildings, covering approximately 75,000 square feet, in just over 15 months. With the buildings gone, workers sealed the vaults, basements and other remaining subgrade structures; those will be remediated in a future part of the project. DOE continues to work with state regulators on the formal closure of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitted buildings that were removed. Over the final months of 2021 and into the first few months of 2022, DOE continues to ship the building debris to an agreed-upon disposal facility outside the state of California.



ETEC's final building for demolition – the Sodium Pump Test Facility – amid blasts from shaped charges.

With a ROD for groundwater remediation published and a groundwater corrective measures study completed, 2021 saw DOE complete the design details for proposed groundwater remediation actions. These actions provide plans to remediate seven areas identified as having groundwater issues. Meanwhile, groundwater interim measures continued this year, removing a quantity of contaminants. DOE also made significant progress toward agreement on the groundwater implementation plan this year. Now that building demolition is complete, the DOE plans to ramp up groundwater remediation efforts to maintain momentum on site cleanup.