



Department of Toxic Substances Control



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Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Fran Pavley
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Los Angeles, Third District
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

The Honorable Mitchell Englander
Council President Pro-Tempore
Councilmember, Twelfth District
200 North Spring Street, Room 405
Los Angeles, California 90012

CLEANUP OF THE SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY

Dear Senator Pavley, Supervisor Kuehl, and Councilman Englander:

Thank you for your letter regarding The Boeing Company's (Boeing) cleanup of its portion of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). Your long-term interest in the SSFL cleanup has helped to hold Boeing and other responsible parties accountable for cleaning up their contamination. As Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), I share your commitment in ensuring the cleanup protects human health and the environment and complies with state, federal and local laws and regulations.

DTSC's mission is to protect California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources and enforcing hazardous waste laws. I take this mission very seriously, as do the people at DTSC. The cleanup process for this site is complex and involves significant data collection and analysis. DTSC will utilize its scientific expertise to ensure the cleanup at SSFL protects public health and the environment.

The Honorable Fran Pavley, et al.
April 21, 2016
Page 2

I would like to help explain the status of the investigation and cleanup to update you on the progress made thus far at SSFL.

Sampling

The sampling of contaminants at SSFL is largely complete. Boeing will submit the results of these investigations in nine draft reports, which DTSC will review for accuracy. Boeing submitted two of these draft reports in June and July 2015.

In the draft reports, Boeing recommended a number of potential areas for "No Further Action." Boeing's recommendations have no binding legal effect. DTSC toxicologists will review and evaluate the sampling data and risk assessment calculations. DTSC is requiring an evaluation of the excess lifetime cancer risk for a resident who eats homegrown fruits and vegetables at the site. DTSC will use this and other information to establish cleanup goals for contamination at the site, and then decide the cleanup level for each individual area at SSFL.

Corrective Measures Study and Cleanup Decision Document

The next phase of the cleanup will be the Corrective Measures Study (CMS), which will include an evaluation of cleanup alternatives. Boeing will produce a draft CMS, and DTSC will provide the public with a summary of this study and will post the complete study on its website. DTSC will also review the CMS to assure that it complies with all legal requirements.

As you correctly stated in your letter, DTSC has worked closely with Ventura County to collect the information DTSC needs to determine the reasonably foreseeable future uses at SSFL; DTSC will consider such uses in evaluating potential risks. DTSC will establish cleanup goals based, in part, on a risk assessment developed consistent with USEPA guidance and other published criteria.

Preliminary screening of cleanup remedies and alternatives is already underway. DTSC anticipates the first draft CMS will be available in late 2016.

A draft decision document that includes a cleanup goals and cleanup actions to achieve those goals will be prepared. DTSC will hold community meetings to take public comments on this document. DTSC expects the draft cleanup decision document to be available for public comment in early 2017.

The Honorable Fran Pavley, et al.
April 21, 2016
Page 3

DTSC will consider, incorporate as appropriate, and address significant public comments, and then issue a final cleanup decision document and direct Boeing to implement the cleanup.

DTSC is also in the process of conducting a review of potential environmental impacts associated with cleanup activities and preparing environmental documents in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Cleanup Implementation Workplan

After DTSC approves the remedy, Boeing will develop a workplan that describes the specific actions needed to implement the cleanup, including a schedule of key milestones for the cleanup. If additional design documents for the cleanup are needed, Boeing will submit them for DTSC review and approval. This step will be completed following finalization of the cleanup decision document in 2017.

Boeing's Risk Estimates

Your letter identifies that Boeing documents report "extraordinary" high risk estimates. DTSC's review of the document identifies several errors with the risk assessment procedures used by Boeing that need to be corrected by Boeing prior to resubmittal of the report. However, we want to reemphasize, contamination at SSFL requires cleanup and DTSC is committed to ensuring that this cleanup protects human health and the environment.

I want to thank you again for your continued commitment to ensuring the cleanup at SSFL protects public health and the environment. Your interest and that of the surrounding community is critically important to me. I want to assure you that my staff and I take your concerns and comments very seriously. If you have any follow-up questions, or any other concerns, please contact me directly or Mr. Ray Leclerc, via email RLeclerc@dtsc.ca.gov, or (916) 255-3582.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Lee
Director

cc: See next page.

The Honorable Fran Pavley, et al.
April 21, 2016
Page 4

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