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Mr. Sven Rodenbeck  
ATSDR  
Division of Community Health Investigations  
4770 Buford Highway, NE (MS-F59)  
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717  
Via email: [svr1@cdc.gov](mailto:svr1@cdc.gov)

Dear Mr. Rodenbeck,

I am writing ATSDR to petition for a completion of a previous ATSDR health assessment for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) reported in 1999. I am writing on behalf of the SSFL Community Advisory Group (CAG) established a year ago by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). I am a mostly retired engineer and the co-chair of the CAG Technical Subcommittee, and am quite familiar with many of the technical issues involved with cleaning up the SSFL site. I am attaching a brief summary of my work experience by way of introduction. As will be explained later, the CAG is requesting that ATSDR conduct an expert panel review of previous studies related to SSFL health effects, so that the peer review can clarify and resolve public misconceptions about the current risk to their health from contamination at SSFL. I have just completed a review (attached) of all of the previous studies including, the ATSDR study. It formed the basis of my recommendation to the CAG to conduct a neutral public peer review to hopefully resolve the community differences.

After the extensive preliminary study and report, ATSDR later contracted with a UCLA team lead by Dr. Yoram Cohen to do a more thorough study which was reported out in 2006. Using essentially the same data, Dr. Cohen's conclusions were exactly the opposite to those of ATSDR. Although he acknowledged extreme conservatism in his assumptions, he provided no rationale for the difference in his conclusions. Boeing provided 50 pages of comments and Dr. Alan Warren also commented on the document, concluding that the use of extremely conservative assumptions throughout the study "*result not in a worst-case scenario but one that is highly improbable, if not impossible, and pertains to no single individual or group of individuals.*" Dr. Cohen never responded to the comments/questions and, unfortunately, his report has been used to fan the fears of residents of neighboring communities. Studies by Dr. Morgenstern have been similarly misused, although he concluded "*There is no direct evidence from this investigation, however, that these observed associations reflect the effects of environmental exposures originating at SSFL.*"

The idea for this peer review evolved from a recent public meeting held by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on the same subject. Dr. Thomas Mack of the USC Keck School of

