

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Department of Toxic Substances Control** – Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Soil Smarts: DTSC's Interactive Learning Series on the Soil Cleanup at SSFL

**PUBLIC WORKSHOPS: November 20, 2024 and December 10, 2024**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites the public to attend a workshop series about the next steps to continue the cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). Following this spring's Groundwater U workshops, this series will focus on implementation of the soil cleanup.

SSFL is a 2,850-acre site in Simi Valley where rocket engine testing and nuclear research activities contaminated soil and groundwater. The primary chemical contaminants include a variety of solvents (primarily trichloroethylene), metals, and petroleum hydrocarbons. Radionuclides from nuclear research activities have also impacted the area. The Boeing Company (Boeing), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are the three Responsible Parties for the cleanup, each responsible for the areas identified on the map in Figure 1. DTSC is the lead regulatory agency overseeing cleanup at SSFL, with support from multiple state, federal, and local government agencies.

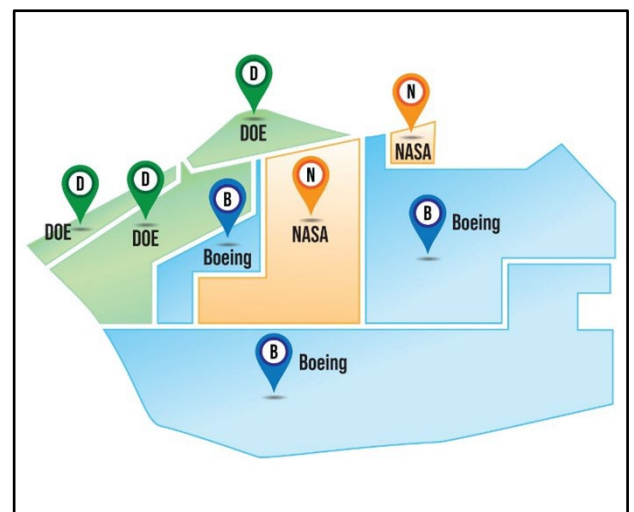


Figure 1: Responsible party administrative areas at SSFL

## Soil Cleanup

Soils at SSFL will be cleaned up to one of two standards depending on the impacted area – both standards will lead to a final cleanup that is amongst the most health protective ever required by DTSC.

First, Boeing is responsible for cleaning up chemical contamination in soil in its designated areas based upon a risk-based standard that considers all potential future uses, including making the land safe for people to live onsite and eat from a backyard garden. Boeing's soil cleanup is on schedule as agreed upon in the 2022 Settlement Agreement between Boeing and DTSC. DTSC anticipates releasing Boeing's draft soil cleanup plan for public review and comment in Summer 2025.

Second, DOE and NASA are responsible for cleaning up in their areas of responsibility both radiological and chemical contamination in soil to "background" levels. Background refers to concentrations of substances in soil that are not influenced by facility operations. A background level was previously developed by analyzing and sampling soils in this area that were unaffected by operation at SSFL. In its review of the proposed methodologies for completing this soil cleanup to the

background levels of chemicals previously set, DTSC has identified potential challenges with the proposed process.

### Workshop Series

DTSC is launching an educational series, "Soil Smarts," on the next phase of implementing the soil cleanup at SSFL, focusing on the DOE and NASA background cleanup of chemical contaminants in soils. At the first workshop, DTSC will provide an update of the overall SSFL Cleanup, an overview of the background study previously done for the area, describe how the background cleanup levels for the DOE and NASA soils cleanup were established, and discuss challenges associated with the process for this background cleanup. Future workshops will discuss laboratory capabilities and backfill availability to restore the site after soil removal.

DTSC is committed to a soil cleanup to local background levels for the DOE and NASA areas of SSFL. These workshops will give the community a chance to learn about the next phase of the SSFL soil cleanup, ask questions, and share ideas. Community feedback will help DTSC with future cleanup decisions at SSFL.

### Workshops Details

Please RSVP for the workshops: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RSVPSoilSmarts>

#### Soil Smarts Workshop #1 (Zoom online)

- **Topics:** SSFL Cleanup Update and DOE and NASA Background Soil Cleanup
- **Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024
- **Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Location:** Online via Zoom **Registration Link:** <https://bit.ly/SoilSmartsWS1>

#### Soil Smarts Workshop #2 (In person)

- **Topics:** Open House to discuss the DOE and NASA Background Soil Cleanup
- **Date:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024
- **Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Location:** DTSC Office, 9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth

### Project Contacts and Information

#### For public participation inquiries, please contact:

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For more information about the SSFL site, please refer to the following webpages.

DTSC SSFL site information: [https://dtsc.ca.gov/santa\\_susana\\_field\\_lab/](https://dtsc.ca.gov/santa_susana_field_lab/)

DTSC EnviroStor Database: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

Subscribe to the SSFL E-List to receive site updates and information: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtsc-e-lists/>



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.

Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#).

