

ROCKETDYNE CLEANUP COALITION

NEWS ADVISORY NEWS ADVISORY

immediate
May 1, 2001

for contact: Daniel Hirsch
(310) 478-0829

Agencies to Announce Breaking Promises Regarding Cleanup of Contaminated Rocketdyne Nuclear Site

**Inter-Agency Meeting Wednesday May 2, 6:30- 10 pm
Grand Vista Hotel, 999 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley**

The Bush Administration's Energy Department and EPA will announce at a public meeting Wednesday evening in Simi Valley that they are breaking longstanding promises by those agencies regarding the cleanup of a contaminated Southern California nuclear site.

Operated by Rocketdyne for the U.S. government, the Santa Susana Field Laboratory is located in the hills overlooking Simi Valley, Chatsworth, West Hills, and Thousand Oaks.

It is the site of a partial reactor meltdown in 1959 and has extensive radioactive and chemical contamination.

The Department of Energy is proposing to slash the cleanup budget by 25%. EPA officials will announce Wednesday that they are breaking longstanding promises to conduct independent radiation monitoring at the site.

The announcements will be made at a public meeting of the agencies responsible for the cleanup. The meeting is expected to be contentious, given the breached commitments and the concern of local community members about the contaminated site.

###