



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 5, 2012

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## New Data Show Radioactivity Still Lurks in "Cleaned Up" Soil at Santa Susana Field Lab

SACRAMENTO— Fifty-three years after a partial nuclear meltdown at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site in the Chatsworth Hills, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has just released data finding extensive radioactive contamination still remains at the accident site.

"This confirms what we were worried about," said Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, D-Oak Park, a long-time leader in the fight for a complete and thorough cleanup of this former Rocketdyne rocket engine testing laboratory. "This begins to answer critical questions about what's still up there, where, how much, and how bad?"

Data show exceedance levels ran as high as 1,000 times the "radiation trigger levels" ("RTLs") agreed to by the Department of Energy and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control in a historic cleanup agreement signed in December 2010. The findings are extremely disappointing especially because the site has already undergone two cleanup efforts by its owner, The Boeing Company, and the Department of Energy. Each declared the land fully cleaned.

Santa Susana Field Laboratory was the site of rocket and missile testing, and munitions development considered too dangerous to conduct in more populated areas. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, at least four of the reactors were involved in accidents, the worst of which was a partial meltdown of the Sodium Reactor Experiment in an uncontained building. The meltdown continued for two weeks until officials were able to find the cause of the problems.

After fierce resistance from officials at the federal Department of Energy, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control finally obtained at the end of 2010 the necessary official signatures on an agreement to clean up whatever contamination EPA found.

"The community cheered the agreement with the Department of Energy" Brownley said. "It looked like they would finally see the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site clean and free of the radioactive waste, and their worries about the unknown risks to their health and safety would be over. Now we have these findings of elevated levels of cesium-137, strontium-90, tritium, plutonium, and carbon-14 and other radioactive materials.

"I call again on the Department of Energy to comply with the agreement that it signed, fully and unconditionally. I also call on The Boeing Company to drop its lawsuit against the state and to clean up the site under its responsibility as the landowner. These findings by the EPA completely undercut any arguments that a lesser level of cleanup will be safe."

The EPA summary data is attached.

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# Subarea 6 Summary of Results Exceeding RTLs

Sample Type	total	surface	subsurface	drainage
Samples Collected	437	167	246	24
Samples Exceeded	75	50	24	1
NORM Exceedances	4	4	0	0
Radionuclides Found	Cs-137 (60), C-14 (9), Sr-90 (9), H-3 (8), Eu-152 (2), Cs-134 (1), Co-60 (1), Np-239 (1), Pu-239/240 (1)			
Exceedance Ratios	1000 – 100 = 7 exceedances			
(= Activity / RTL)	100 – 10 = 26 exceedances			
	10 – 1 = 60 exceedances			



Subarea 6  
Samples above RTLs  
and Step-out Locations

U.S. EPA Region 9



Legend

Step-out Locations

SampleType

- Drainage Subsurface
- Surface
- Surface Subsurface
- Subsurface
- Samples above R.T.L.s

Soil Sample Locations

SampleType

- Drainage
- Subsurface
- Surface Subsurface

ScreenLayer

- Chemical Likely Remediation Zones
- D & D Likely Remediation Zones

- Location ID: 237  
Sample ID: 60367  
Sample Depth: 0.00 - 0.50  
Nuclide: Cs-137  
Activity: 0.325 pCi/g  
RTL: 0.207 pCi/g  
1 - 10 x RTL value
- Location ID: 314  
Sample ID: 60464  
Sample Depth: 0.00 - 0.50  
Nuclide: Cs-137  
Activity: 4.81 pCi/g  
RTL: 0.207 pCi/g  
10.001 - 100 x RTL value
- Location ID: 308  
Sample ID: 60478  
Sample Depth: 0.00 - 0.50  
Nuclide: Cs-137  
Activity: 198 pCi/g  
RTL: 0.207 pCi/g  
100.001 - 1000 x RTL value

Geophysical Anomalies

- Terrain Conductivity

- Magnetometer

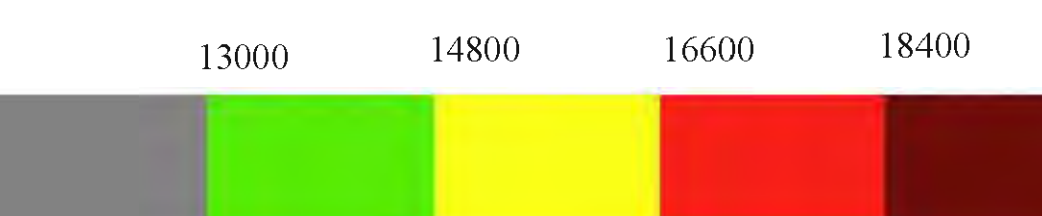
- Cut and Fill Boundaries

- Magnetometer Anomaly Linear

- Terrian Conductivity Anomaly Linear

- Point Source Magnetometer Anomaly
- Point Source Terrain Conductivity Anomaly

Gamma Total Count (cps)



PRELIMINARY

Subarea 6  
Samples above RTLs  
and Step-out Locations

U.S. EPA Region 9



Legend

Step-out Locations

SampleType

- Drainage Subsurface
- Surface
- Surface Subsurface
- Subsurface
- Samples above R.T.L.s

Soil Sample Locations

SampleType

- Drainage
- Subsurface
- Surface Subsurface
- Chemical Likely Remediation Zones
- ScreenLayer
- D & D Likely Remediation Zones

- Location ID: 237  
Sample ID: 60367  
Sample Depth: 0.00 - 0.50  
Nuclide: Cs-137  
Activity: 0.325 pCi/g  
RTL: 0.207 pCi/g  
1 - 10 x RTL value
- Location ID: 314  
Sample ID: 60484  
Sample Depth: 0.00 - 0.50  
Nuclide: Cs-137  
Activity: 4.81 pCi/g  
RTL: 0.207 pCi/g  
10.001 - 100 x RTL value
- Location ID: 308  
Sample ID: 60478  
Sample Depth: 0.00 - 0.50  
Nuclide: Cs-137  
Activity: 198 pCi/g  
RTL: 0.207 pCi/g  
100.001 - 1000 x RTL value

Geophysical Anomalies

Terrain Conductivity

Magnetometer

Cut and Fill Boundaries

Magnetometer Anomaly Linear

Terrian Conductivity Anomaly Linear

Point Source Magnetometer Anomaly

Point Source Terrain Conductivity Anomaly

Gamma Total Count (cps)

