



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Santa Susana Field Laboratory *Special Update*

September 21, 2012

This e-mail will inform you of steps the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is taking to address public outreach for the SSFL site.

Community interaction and input are a vital component of our work at SSFL. We know that many in the SSFL community have dedicated much of themselves to ensuring that this site is investigated and cleaned up to the most protective standards possible as established in our Administrative Orders of Consent (AOCs) and other agreements with the responsible parties. DTSC would like to thank everyone who has taken the time and made the effort to provide us with their ideas and input and for their patience as we have wrestled with these very important decisions regarding public outreach.

Last fall, DTSC Director Debbie Raphael met with a number of community members (both at a meeting of the SSFL Public Participation Group (PPG) and individually) to introduce herself. More importantly, she wanted to better understand your community and your relationship to DTSC and its efforts at SSFL. She was being pressed to make a number of key decisions about DTSC's public participation efforts at SSFL (related to the PPG, the Interagency Workgroup and previous requests for a Community Advisory Group (CAG)). Since then, DTSC has continued to evaluate options to provide your community with information about the project, ways that you have said you'd like to receive that information and methods to provide feedback. While many DTSC outreach and involvement efforts have continued

(numerous technical roundtable discussions, monthly email project updates, etc.), neither the PPG nor the Interagency Workgroup have been convened. DTSC and Director Raphael sincerely appreciate your patience as we have carefully considered all of the information and input we have received.

Some recent events have created an opportunity for DTSC to be even more responsive to the many opinions that have been expressed and to allow your community more control over public participation efforts rather than being led and controlled by DTSC.

On September 13, 2012 DTSC received a petition to form a CAG. A CAG is a type of community group that is provided for in DTSC's statute. For all sites DTSC oversees, the department is required to provide opportunities for meaningful public participation. There is a particular section of law that allows a community to petition DTSC to form this type of group and requires DTSC, when it receives a petition, to help the community form the CAG. DTSC has determined that the petition meets the statutory requirements. So, in the coming weeks, DTSC will be assisting in the formation of a CAG.

DTSC also has decided to dissolve the PPG and conclude its work.

Why is DTSC taking this step? Apart from DTSC's legal obligation to help in the creation of a CAG, DTSC sees this as an opportunity for the community to tailor its forum and decide its informational needs on its own, rather than having those needs translated by DTSC's cleanup team. (The PPG was operated by DTSC and its facilitator).

The CAG process allows the community the opportunity to set the agenda for dialogue, while allowing DTSC and other regulatory agencies the opportunity to focus on addressing community questions and consider feedback to our decisions. Further, because the roles and goals of a CAG and the PPG are nearly identical and because DTSC's resources are limited, it does not make sense nor is it affordable for DTSC to continue to operate the PPG.

We appreciate the members of the community who volunteered their time to serve on the PPG, and to the extent that they would like to continue in a similar capacity on the CAG, encourage them and anyone else who is interested to apply for a CAG position when that opportunity is made available.

DTSC has also made a decision about the SSFL Interagency Workgroup. We have received considerable input from community members who want to see the Workgroup continue. We recognize that the Workgroup has served an important role in serving the community for many years. We also recognize that the Workgroup's function and format is different than that of a CAG or the PPG. Based on this input, DTSC has decided to honor the wishes of a large portion of the community to continue the operation of the Interagency Workgroup. There are, however, some fundamental changes that we need to make in our relationship with the group.

Similar to changing our roles and relationships by switching from a DTSC-led PPG to a community-led CAG, DTSC believes there needs to be a similar shift in the Workgroup - from being led by DTSC or another agency to being community-led. DTSC will be meeting with community members who sit on the Workgroup in the next few weeks to discuss the changes that will help us move forward.

It is important for everyone in the community to know and understand that DTSC receives feedback and comments through many avenues, and there is no obligation for anyone to participate in these forums in order to have input into DTSC's cleanup decisions. In addition, DTSC does not intend the formation and operation of two different community groups to in any way diminish the role or importance of the other to receive input from the community on site-related issues. DTSC equally values and takes into account input it receives from any person who shares their views with us.

There are many instances in which the public's viewpoints and insights have led us to make changes to investigation or cleanup plans because we've been presented with new or different information that we may not have considered. It is important to note that we value good information that supports our decision making process, no matter where that good information comes from.

We want to remind everyone that while the community forum elements of DTSC's relationship with the public are important, there are myriad other ways that DTSC has been and will continue to provide the community with site-related investigation and cleanup information, and where the community can offer its feedback on plans and reports being presented.

The following is a brief listing and description of all of the components of DTSC's public outreach efforts.

Public Forums

- Community Advisory Group
- Community Workgroup

DTSC Presentations

- Technical Roundtable Discussions
- Community Updates/Open Houses

Information posted to the Website

- Overviews of activities
- Calendar of events
- Document Library
- Public Involvement documents
- Response to comments

Public comment Periods

- Public comment periods are held for draft documents for significant milestones of the project
 - Site investigation plans
 - Site cleanup plans
 - Environmental Impact reports

Mail & Email information

- Community Updates emailed and/or Hard copy mailed to more than 900 community members

Information Placed in local Repositories

- Technical and community documents are placed in local repositories for review
- Repositories are located in Simi Valley, Chatsworth (at the DTSC office), Woodland Hills & Northridge

Public Notices

- Public Notices are printed in the Los Angeles Daily News, Ventura County Star and Simi Valley Acorn

We believe that through all of these opportunities, the community can obtain the information they desire in the form and format that is most comfortable for them. We welcome feedback from the community so that we can make our efforts better and more useful.

We hope through these different forums and methods that we are meeting the community’s needs and helping everyone to see the tremendous amount of work being done to accomplish those goals.

DTSC Staffing of SSFL Project

In order to facilitate communication, we are providing you with a list of DTSC contacts. A talented team has been assembled to complete the SSFL project. The team is “housed” in DTSC’s Cleanup program, overseen by Deputy Director Stewart Black. Team members include:

Team Member	Title & Specialty	E-mail address
Mark Malinowski	Project Team Manager	Mark.Malinowski@dtsc.ca.gov
Rick Brausch	will continue serve in an advisory role, working with the project team and DTSC’s management	Rick.Brausch@dtsc.ca.gov
Zenzi Poindexter	Public Participation Specialist	Uzenzile.Poindexter@dtsc.ca.gov
Paul Carpenter	Sr. Engineering Geologist – DTSC Project Manager-NASA	Paul.Carpenter@dtsc.ca.gov
Roger Paulson	Sr. hazardous Substance Engineer – DTSC Project Manager-Boeing	Roger.Paulson@dtsc.ca.gov
Laura Rainey	Sr. Engineering Geologist – DTSC Project Manager-DOE	Laura.Rainey@dtsc.ca.gov
Tom Seckington	Sr. engineering Geologist – Site-Wide Groundwater Investigation	Tom.Seckington@dtsc.ca.gov
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