



## Department of Toxic Substances Control



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

Maureen F. Gorsen, Director  
1001 "I" Street  
P.O. Box 806  
Sacramento, California 95812-0806



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

May 18, 2007

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6011  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0041

### **Santa Susana Field Lab Closure Plan**

Dear Assembly Member Brownley,

I have received your May 4, 2007 letter concerning the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site. In your letter, you expressed concerns about the process the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) was following in considering the cleanup and closure of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (RMHF) at SSFL. I appreciate the interest that you, other elected representatives, and members of the community continue to express regarding the cleanup of the SSFL site and the closure of the RMHF. I apologize that DTSC's communications regarding closure of the RMHF have not been clear, and have led to concerns about DTSC's regulatory role in protecting public health and the environment.

Per your request, I have enclosed copies of the April 6 and April 30 letters, and other documents regarding the meeting and the issues that were discussed. After reviewing these documents and reflecting on telephone conversations with community activists, I am concerned that instead of serving to clarify and resolve concerns, our exchanges seem to be increasing the level of concern and confusion regarding our role and responsibilities related to the RMHF, and by extension, the rest of Area IV. Although we are very willing to provide you with information we have related to the RMHF closure and the cleanup of Area IV, I would like to offer to meet with you, your staff, and others from the community to discuss DTSC's statutory authorities and role, and to hear from you and others regarding concerns you may have about our interpretations. We truly desire to understand issues that others see in the way we are interpreting our authority that may lead to limitations or shortcomings we have not anticipated. My hope is that discussing these issues in a more open way will facilitate a better working relationship between DTSC, the community, and your office.

Assembly Member Brownley,  
May 18, 2007  
Page 2

As for the March 19, 2007 meeting between DTSC and DOE and Boeing representatives, I understand that undisclosed meetings and activities can cause concerns, especially in light of the level of community interest and mistrust that preceded my appointment. Although this meeting took place prior to my appointment as Project Director on April 4, 2007, one of my primary goals in taking over management of this project is to create a culture of transparency and openness so that information about the site is fully available, including schedules and agendas for meetings and other site activities. I want all of DTSC's work to be open and accessible to the public. One measure I plan to initiate immediately is the distribution of a weekly report that will provide information on all DTSC activities from the previous week and describe any planned activities for the next two weeks. This window of timing will allow anyone to raise questions about planned activities and provide an opportunity for resolution prior to the activities occurring. I am also developing a variety of other communication elements that I plan to share with you and the community that I hope will open channels of communication and lead to a better relationship between DTSC and the community surrounding SSFL.

If you would like to meet as suggested or if you have any additional questions for me regarding this matter, please have your staff contact me at (916) 327-8642 or write to me at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,



Norman E. Riley  
Project Director

cc: Leonard Robinson  
Chief Deputy Director  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 806  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806

Rick Brausch  
Legislative Director  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 806  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806

Assembly Member Brownley,  
May 18, 2007  
Page 3

cc: continued

Chris Kahn  
Legislative Secretary  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dan Skopec  
Undersecretary  
Cal/EPA  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814