

Environmental Impact Statement for Remediation of Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone Santa Susana Field Laboratory

SSFL Area IV Timeline

1950s

- Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) funds nuclear reactor research and development at Area IV
- Six research reactors begin operations, including the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE)
- SRE generates electricity for an hour for Moorpark, CA, making it one of the first cities to be lighted entirely with nuclear power
- Accident at SRE causes fuel damage
 - **1960s**
 - SRE decontaminated, refueled, and restarted
 - SRE and three other reactors complete objectives and are shut down
 - Other reactor research continues; two new reactors start up

← 1970s

1980s

 Nuclear reactor operations and research in Area IV cease and the focus shifts to decontamination and decommissioning

1990s

- ETEC ceases most operations and begins facility closure process
- Community members ask U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** (USEPA) for oversight and review
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issues order regulating and monitoring chemical cleanup
- DOE, NASA and Boeing sign Consent Order with DTSC regulating and monitoring hazardous chemical cleanup for soil and groundwater
- Federal court issues order prohibiting DOE from giving up control over Area IV until it has completed an environmental impact statement.
- DOE stops all decontamination and decommissioning work and initiates steps to prepare the SSFL Area IV Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

2009

2007

DOE surveys biological and cultural resources in Area IV

• U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) names its Area IV facility the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC)

- Decontamination and decommissioning of reactor buildings begins
- Three additional reactors complete objectives and are shut down

2003

• DOE issues an Environmental Assessment (EA) describing how it will clean up Area IV, and makes a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) related to the cleanup

• EA challenged in federal court

2008

2004

- DOE funds USEPA to perform radiological studies: a background study in areas not impacted by SSFL and a characterization of Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone (NBZ)
- USEPA initiates radiological background study
- DTSC, with DOE support, initiates a chemical background study
- DOE issues a Notice of Intent to prepare an Area IV EIS and holds scoping meetings

- and the NBZ to guide protection of these resources during characterization studies
- DTSC releases the draft Site-wide Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report and calls for public comment

2010

 DOE agrees to Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) governing Area IV soils cleanup. Note: 2007 Consent Order continues to govern Area IV groundwater cleanup

2012

- DOE initiates Soil Treatability Studies to evaluate soil clean-up technologies
- DTSC completes Soil Chemical Background Study
- USEPA completes radiological characterization study
- DOE holds community workshop series to develop alternatives

2014

- DOE, with DTSC oversight, completes chemical characterization studies
- DOE issues an Amended Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and holds a second series of scoping meetings

2017

 DOE submits Chemical Data Summary Report • DOE releases Draft EIS

2011 • USEPA issues SSFL Radiological Background Study

2013

- DTSC presents to the community the "Look-Up Tables" (LUT) with soil cleanup values
- DOE conducts additional groundwater studies and Groundwater Treatability Studies to evaluate clean-up technologies
- DTSC initiates preparation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

