

ATTACHMENT A

DTSC reserved its right to require the Department of Energy (DOE) to undertake interim response actions at Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in a 2010 Administrative Order on Consent (2010 AOC) executed between the two parties for the cleanup and removal of radioactive and hazardous waste at the SSFL Administrative Area IV site pursuant to Chapter 6.5 (commencing with section 25100), Chapter 6.8 (commencing with section 25300) of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code, and other applicable state and federal statutes and regulations. Through the attached Order on Consent for Interim Response Action at the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility Complex (Order), DTSC has exercised its reserved jurisdiction to require immediate interim response at SSFL. DTSC has determined there is imminent and substantial endangerment to people and the environment because unanticipated and increasingly likely fires could result in the release of radioactive and hazardous substances from the RMHF Complex that poses a risk to the public and the environment. The Order implements section 7.13 of the 2010 AOC by directing DOE to remove the above ground portions of the RMHF Complex as defined in the attached Order as soon as possible, so that fire and erosion risk do not result in contaminant migration to surrounding communities and the environment.

Fires in California have become increasingly severe since 2010. California has begun to recognize the real and ongoing emergency of more intense and longer fire seasons in recent years, dedicating significant resources to what has become a persistent and significant problem of statewide concern. (See, e.g., <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2019/10/02/governor-newsom-signs-bills-to-enhance-wildfire-mitigation-preparedness-and-response-efforts/>.) Moreover, droughts and changing environmental conditions that were less prevalent in 2010 have resulted in emergent risk at the SSFL site relative to fuels that, given delays in cleanup, were not anticipated in the original 2010 AOC. The Order makes findings about both the recent Woolsey and Easy Fires, one of which scorched a building in Area IV but not within the RMHF Complex, and finds that a failure to require immediate response action could result in public endangerment. Future fires have the potential to further burn the existing buildings, potentially resulting in a release of radioactive and hazardous substances.

The following hazardous substances were identified in the Draft RCRA RMHF Closure Plan as being present in Buildings 4021, 4022, and 4621: heavy metals, solvents, oils and greases, lead-based paint, and asbestos-containing materials. In addition, radionuclides are present, as some buildings still contain radionuclides embedded in

building material. An electrical substation was present at the RMHF Complex and as a result, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are considered present as well. These and other potentially hazardous substances are considered applicable to the entire RMHF Complex. These observed hazardous substances may represent a threat to human health through ingestion, inhalation, and dermal contact exposure pathways. The observed hazardous substances may represent a threat to the environment, as they may potentially migrate off site.

Plutonium has been historically associated with activities throughout Area IV and was associated with historical operations at the RMHF Complex (HGL, October 2012). U.S. EPA's Historical Site Assessment indicates that according to a 1989 U.S. EPA report, the air emissions from RMHF Complex Buildings 4021 and 4022 historically consisted primarily of surface radioactive particles resulting from decontamination processing, packaging activities in Building 4021, and from storage and handling activities in Building 4022. This particulate matter contained uranium, plutonium, cesium-137, strontium-90, krypton-85, and promethium-147 as mixed fission products; and cobalt-60 and europium-152 as activation products. The particulate matter in air was controlled through filtration by High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters. Operations at the RMHF Complex that generated airborne radioactivity in the buildings included decontamination of equipment, repackaging of radioactive waste, evaporation of radioactively contaminated water, and packaging of the resultant residue. These operations were performed inside a building, with workplace air sampling, equipped with a ventilation system that exhausted to the atmosphere through a HEPA filter system. DOE's Record of Decision for building demolition, dated September 23, 2019, states that the deteriorating buildings have the potential to release contamination (e.g., heavy metals) and could be a safety risk to wildlife attempting to enter or occupy them. The Record of Decision also states that some buildings still contain radionuclides embedded in building material. Based on DOE's 2011 Radiological Survey Plan, findings from prior radiological surveys, DOE determined that Building 4021 would have to be surveyed and decontaminated at the time of RMHF Complex closure.

Given the historical operations conducted in the RCRA-permitted buildings and their proximity to the remaining seven buildings at the RMHF Complex, all buildings within the RMHF Complex should be removed. DTSC cannot wait for final cleanup documents and environmental review of those documents to be complete before it directs interim response at the RMHF Complex. As a new fire season approaches, the risk of these buildings becoming compromised increases, and DTSC has determined this risk is unacceptable. Given DTSC's determination that an imminent and substantial endangerment to people and the environment exists, preparation of the Notice of Exemption is justified under the Emergency provisions of CEQA.

References:

DTSC's SSFL Web Site: https://dtsc.ca.gov/sitecleanup/santa_susana_field_lab/,

[California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Ventura County, California \(ESA, September 2017\)](#): located at:

https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_ceqa/DPEIR_SEP2017/67833_SSFL_Draft_Program_EIR.pdf

[Final Historical Site Assessment Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site Area IV Radiological Study Ventura County, California \(HGL, October 2012; Redacted\)](#): located at:

https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_ceqa/ref_draft_peir/Chap3_ProjDesc_vol2/67892_1_Final_HSA_Text_10_2012_Redacted.pdf

[Final Technical Memorandum Subarea HSA-7, Subarea HSA-3, Subarea Northern Buffer Zone Historical Site Assessment Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site Area IV Radiological Study Ventura County, California \(HGL, October 2012; Redacted\)](#): located at:

https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_ceqa/ref_draft_peir/Chap3_ProjDesc_vol2/67919_1_Final_HSA-7-3-NBZ_TM_Text_10-2012_Redacted.pdf

[RCRA Closure Plan Radioactive Materials Handling Facility Buildings 4021, 4022, and 4621 ETEC Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Area IV, Ventura County, California, Revision 0. \(NorthWind, Inc. July 16, 2015\)](#): located at:

[https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_permit_active/radioactive_mat_han_/66710_RMHF_RCRA_Closure_Plan_Rev_0_\(final\)_8.13.15.pdf](https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_permit_active/radioactive_mat_han_/66710_RMHF_RCRA_Closure_Plan_Rev_0_(final)_8.13.15.pdf)

[Record of Decision for Final Environmental Impact Statement for Remediation of Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, California \(DOE, September 23, 2019\)](#): located at:https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_doe_area_iv/FinalEISRemAIV_NBuffZone/Record_of_decisions/69072_ETEC_Building_ROD_Sept_23.pdf

[Record of Decision for Final Environmental Impact Statement for Remediation of Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, California \(DOE, September 23, 2019\)](#): located at:https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_doe_area_iv/FinalEISRemAIV_NBuffZone/Record_of_decisions/69072_ETEC_Building_ROD_Sept_23.pdf

[Draft Radiological; Survey Plan for Buildings and Consolidated Materials within Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Ventura County, California \(DOE, September 2011\)](#): located at:

https://www.etec.energy.gov/Library/Cleanup_and_Characterization/SSFL%20Building%20Rad%20Survey%20Plan%20-%20Sept%202011%20Draft.pdf

[Department of Energy Standard Operating Procedure for Demolition of Facilities in Area IV at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Revision C](https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_permit_active/radioactive_mat_han_/67594_ETEC_DD_SOP_2016_Rev_4a_-_Aug_9_Final.pdf), (DOE, August 2016); located at: [https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_permit_active/radioactive_mat_han_/67594_ETEC_DD_SOP_2016_Rev_4a - Aug 9 Final.pdf](https://www.dtsc-ssfl.com/files/lib_permit_active/radioactive_mat_han_/67594_ETEC_DD_SOP_2016_Rev_4a_-_Aug_9_Final.pdf)

Department of Energy Standard Operating Procedure for Demolition of Facilities in Area IV at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Revision D (DOE, January 2020)

RMHF-PLA-10784 Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (RMHF) D&D Plan Energy Technology Center Santa Susana Field Laboratory Simi Valley, California Revision 1", (NorthWind Portage, Inc. January 8, 2020)

WMP-10784 Waste Management Plan Energy Technology Engineering Center Energy Technology Engineering Center Santa Susana Field Laboratory Simi Valley, CA Revision 2 (NorthWind Portage, Inc., February 14, 2019)