

Allen Elliott  
SSFL Program Director  
NASA MSFC AS01  
Building 4494  
Huntsville, AL 35812

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON SSFL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Mr. Elliott,

We, the undersigned, submit this comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the cleanup of NASA's portion of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL).

For decades, NASA ignored fundamental environmental requirements in operating SSFL, creating a toxic mess in the soil and groundwater. Dioxin, perchlorate, PCBs, TCE—all sorts of horrible hazardous materials were just spilled on the ground and released into the air. That contamination has already migrated offsite. A TCE plume extends off the property, and nearly every time it rains or the wind blows, toxic material spreads to the communities nearby. Elevated cancer rates have been found by federal and state studies associated with living near SSFL.

After years of resisting its fundamental obligations to clean up the toxic contamination it created, finally, in 2010, NASA signed a legally binding agreement to cleanup all the contamination that could be located.

Now NASA has issued for public comment a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the cleanup. But it appears that some at NASA are working to try to break the solemn commitment the agency made, break out of the cleanup agreement, and walk away from most of the contamination.

We strongly urge NASA to live up to its promises. You polluted our community through irresponsible environmental practices; you finally agreed to cleanup all the contamination you created. Do not break your word. Do not leave contamination in our community, posing a threat to us for decades to come.

If test stands have to come down to cleanup contamination beneath them, then they have to come down. If trucks have to take contaminated soil out of our community, then that must be done. NASA's own analysis shows it would take only a few trucks an hour, far fewer than have been going in and out of SSFL for decades while it was operating. By having some trucks take one route and others other routes, it would be only a couple trucks an hour on any main road. Consider using electric or natural gas trucks to avoid diesel emissions and have lower greenhouse gas emissions.

But the fundamental point is to live up to your commitments, to the full cleanup agreement. Clean up all the contamination you created. Behave honorably. Rigorously adhere to the cleanup agreement you signed.

Sincerely,

Karen Fautt  
Shirley M. Matthews  
Pauline Posner  
Cue Pitt  
M. Peterson  
Lillian E. Newman