



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Governor



Linda S. Adams  
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Environmental Protection

November 8, 2007

Mr. Scott Ouellette  
Executive Vice President  
KB Home  
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Valencia, CA 91355

Mr. Dave Maggiora  
Woolsey Canyon Development Group, LLC  
439 West Avenida De Las Flores  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Dear Sirs:

I am writing you to discuss concerns over the possibility of chemical and/or radioactive contamination from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) occurring on properties outside the boundaries of that facility. As you know, the 2,850-acre SSFL operated for nearly 50 years as a research facility for rocket engine testing, and for the development of fuels and propellants, nuclear power, and lasers. As a result of those activities, chemical and radioactive contamination occurs at the site. The nature of the contaminants and the manner in which the SSFL operated combine to raise the possibility that some contamination may have migrated from the SSFL facility onto and/or beneath properties outside the boundaries of the facility. For example, we know that there is a groundwater contamination plume extending in a northeasterly direction approximately 500 yards beyond the limits of the facility.

Members of communities surrounding the SSFL and various elected officials representing those communities are greatly concerned about the existence and potential impacts of contamination at the SSFL and beyond its borders. As you may know, many have raised questions about the possibility of contamination in the direction of Dayton Canyon to the east, Runkle Canyon to the west, and Woolsey Canyon to the east and downgradient of the SSFL. We have received several public inquiries about the safety of proposed developments in each of these areas. We take those concerns seriously.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the State regulatory agency charged with overseeing the investigation and cleanup of the SSFL to assure that public health and the environment, both on and off the facility, are protected. DTSC works cooperatively with other regulatory agencies, e.g., local agencies, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Public Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and with the owners and tenants of the SSFL, i.e., The Boeing Company, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Department of Energy, to assure that the extent of the contamination at and beyond the SSFL is understood and that cleanup, when and

Mr. Scott Ouellette  
Mr. Dave Maggiora  
November 8, 2007  
Page 2


where required, is conducted and completed to meet public health and environmental protection goals.

DTSC recently entered into an agreement with Centex Homes to evaluate the Dayton Canyon area which is scheduled for residential development. Through such agreements, using experts in the fields of engineering, geology, chemistry, toxicology, and other relevant disciplines as needed, DTSC works with private corporations, developers, and others to investigate sites and oversee any cleanup that may be required. For more information about the "Voluntary Cleanup Program," please visit DTSC's website at:  
[http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields/index.cfm#CP\\_JUMP\\_13298](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields/index.cfm#CP_JUMP_13298).

We are aware of the fact that investigative work of limited extent and independent of DTSC oversight has been conducted in the Runkle Canyon and Woolsey Canyon areas. If you are interested in discussing those findings with DTSC, or would like DTSC's assistance in the review of sampling and analysis plans prior to performing any additional work that may be planned, please contact me at the letterhead address or telephone number. I strongly encourage you to do so.

Ultimately, DTSC must respond to questions and concerns posed about the adequacy of environmental investigation and review at SSFL and locations surrounding SSFL. In the near future, we expect to receive a report from SSFL owners and operators regarding environmental investigations conducted by those entities outside the SSFL. DTSC will evaluate those data and, if necessary, using authority granted in the Health and Safety Code, direct responsible parties to perform additional work to address any unanswered questions about off-site contamination. DTSC will keep you informed of any findings and directions affecting either Runkle Canyon or Woolsey Canyon. If we discover, at those locations, contamination at levels that pose an unacceptable risk to public health or the environment, we will also use our authority to require removal or other remediation of the contaminants from the affected property to levels considered safe for the intended land uses. In the case of planned residential developments, such actions, if necessary, may be required prior to construction.

Sincerely,

  
Norman E. Riley  
SSFL Project Director

cc: Mike Sedell  
City Manager  
City of Simi Valley  
2929 Tapo Canyon Road  
Simi Valley, CA 93063-2199