



Making your Voice Heard: Details on Public Scoping Comments

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites stakeholders to comment on the scope and issues related to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Remediation of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Comments are due to DOE by March 10, 2014.

DOE proposes to clean up contamination left from past nuclear reactor and liquid metals research in Area IV. Prior to evaluating potential impacts of various cleanup alternatives and examining related issues, DOE is seeking public input on what options and issues should be examined.

How to Comment

DOE encourages stakeholders to contribute comments in person during public scoping meetings, or in writing. Comments will be considered equally, whether presented orally or in writing. Stakeholders may comment in person at either of the two public scoping meetings scheduled for the locations, dates, and times below. Each meeting will include an open house, a brief presentation on the EIS, followed by public comment.

Locations

Simi Valley, California:
Simi Valley City Council Chambers
Simi Valley City Hall
2929 Tapo Canyon Road

Dates

February 27, 2014

Times

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Calabasas, California:
Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center
27040 Malibu Hills Road

March 1, 2014

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Stakeholders may deliver written comments at any of these meetings or send them by regular mail, fax, or email to:



Ms. Stephe Jennings
NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
4100 Guardian Street, Suite 160
Simi Valley, CA 93063



Fax: 855-658-8695



e-mail: SSFL_DOE_EIS@emcbc.doe.gov (use "Scoping comments" for the subject)

Reminder: The due date for scoping comments is March 10, 2014.

Making Your Comments Count: Helpful Hints

Commenting on public policy issues or documents as a private citizen can be daunting, especially if the issues are technical. Consider the suggestions below to help make it a little easier and more effective to participate in the development of the EIS for Remediation of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. You may also refer to the following link for additional guidance: http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/nepapub/nepa_documents/RedDont/G-CEQ-CitizensGuide.pdf

For Scoping, offer ideas for issues to be considered and alternatives to be evaluated.

- As you're considering your scoping comments, remember that scoping is designed to gather input for the development of draft EISs. The most useful scoping comments will focus on the topics of this EIS. Make a checklist of the issues you want addressed. Explain how proposed actions may affect you. Give examples.
- Confine comments to the Amended Notice of Intent.
- Keep comments targeted to the issues within the scope of the proposed action.

During scoping, write your comments, or make notes if you are presenting them orally. Cover the following:

- If you represent an interest group, state the name of the group. If you have a particular background or knowledge (science, engineering, public policy), you may want to indicate such. If you are a concerned citizen, state as such. If you are an oral commenter, state your name first.
- Present additional information or specific knowledge you may have that is relevant to the action being proposed in the EIS or alternatives to the proposed action that could be considered in the EIS's environmental analyses.
- For extensive comments, summarize your major concerns first, then describe them in detail.
- Offer solutions – draw on your expertise as an interested stakeholder to suggest innovative ideas.
- Consider these format and style suggestions:
 - Start by offering general or summary comments
 - Even if you are commenting orally, use headings, topic sentences, and short sentences
 - Avoid asking questions – rather, pose your questions as comments to be considered
 - Be respectful of your fellow commenters and agency representatives

Finally, understand comment deadlines and processes. Find out how your comments will be used and considered and how responses will be provided.

Note: *For the EIS for Remediation of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, scoping comments will be used to help define the overall scope of the EIS, to identify issues for analysis, and to develop alternatives to be evaluated.*

Excerpted and adapted from "Successful Advocacy: Tips for Public Comment" by Wendy L. Wilson, and Elizabeth D. Mullin, from the Environmental Law Institute website at <http://www.eli.org>.