



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 25, 2026

Mr. Phil Rutherford
Phil Rutherford Consulting
8655 Delmonico Avenue
West Hills, California 19304

Dear Mr. Rutherford:

Thank you for your letter dated April 6, 2026, and email dated August 3, 2026, regarding Executive Order 14300, *Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission*, and the 2010 Administrative Order on Consent for Remedial Actions for Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). I am replying on behalf of the Secretary.

The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (EM) appreciates your interest in the cleanup of the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) at SSFL. EM is engaged in active discussions with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and The Boeing Company to address cleanup challenges and develop an implementable remediation standard.

EM continues to support comprehensive cleanup at ETEC using the best science available. As we execute that mission, our key guides and top priorities remain ensuring public safety, protecting human health and the environment, and preserving natural and cultural resources.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Joshua Mengers, Director, Energy Technology Engineering Center, at (805) 416-0994.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Timothy J. Walsh".

Timothy J. Walsh
Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

cc: Katherine Butler, DTSC
Melody Bell, EMCBC
Josh Mengers, ETEC
Joel Bradburne, EM-2
David Brunnert, COO
Alicia Stetin, EM-2.1 COS
John Howard, EM-2.1 DCOS
Gregory Sosson, EM-3
John Zimmerman, EM-4 (Acting)