

**From:** [DoNotReply](#)  
**To:** [email](#)  
**Subject:** DTSC has responded to your submission SCF000006  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:42:39 PM

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**Mathias, Mindy@DTSC has left a comment on your submission SCF000006**

Dear Mr. Rutherford,

Thank you for your email regarding the DTSC Soil Smarts Workshop #1 on November 20, 2024. Please see DTSC's response below.

Question 1: Why are these workshops focused on "background cleanup of chemical contaminants" but not also background cleanup of radionuclides?

Response 1: The cleanup of radionuclides at SSFL does not share the same technical issues as the chemical cleanup to background.

Question 2: Perhaps DTSC, with limited staff with experience with radiological issues, just chose not to address radionuclides?

Response 2: While DTSC cannot offer response to your personal opinions, we have explained above why the Soil Smarts workshop series does not focus on radionuclides. For additional awareness, DTSC as lead agency has staff with education and experience in radionuclides. DTSC's staff also coordinate with the California Department of Public Health Radiologic Health Branch. In addition, DTSC responded to your questions above to provide you with awareness of the role of the USEPA concerning radionuclides and DTSC's consideration of USEPA analysis and guidance.

Question 3: Could DTSC please explain its rationale for its "draft provisional" LUTV list, and does it imply that RPs (Boeing, DOE, NASA) need only analyze for these radionuclides during future remediation/closure activities?

Response 3: As indicated in Response 1, DTSC's Soil Smarts workshop series is addressing the method for determining background cleanup of chemicals only. Relevant to this question concerning the analysis of radionuclides, the USEPA completed a Radiological Background Study to determine local background levels, which resulted in the 2013 Draft Provisional Radiological look up table (LUT). There are 16 radionuclides included in the Draft Provisional Radiological LUT based on laboratory capabilities at the time of the USEPA study. Prior to SSFL soil remediation, the public will have opportunities to comment on decision documents to be released by DTSC. The decision documents will explain laboratory capabilities relevant to the 2013 Draft Provisional Radiological LUT values.

These 16 radionuclides will be analyzed for in DOE's area of responsibility based on USEPA's radionuclide characterization of Area IV. However, additional radionuclides (e.g., radium-226) have been identified in Boeing's areas of responsibility, and the additional radionuclides will also need to be analyzed for during Boeing's remediation and closure activities.

Question 4: SSFL stakeholders (including DTSC and CalEPA) were not satisfied with a 1-in-1,000,000 incremental risk goal, as evidenced by their 2008 refusal to follow EPA's recommendation that SSFL be listed as a Superfund Site. Instead the 2010 AOC demands a ZERO risk above the 2.5% background radiation risk.

Does DTSC have an opinion on this?

Response 4: DTSC cannot offer an opinion to your conclusions. The respective 2010

Administrative Orders on Consents (AOCs) entered into by DTSC, DOE, and NASA require cleanup to background levels.

Question 5. Can DTSC comment on its role in initiating this egregious overstepping of its regulatory authority?

Response 5: DTSC cannot offer an opinion to your conclusions.

Question 6: Does DTSC plan to acknowledge these documents and discuss the state of negotiations with DOE and NASA? Is it finally time for DTSC to throw out the 2010 AOC?  
Response 6: DOE and NASA are contractually bound to follow the 2010 AOCs. As identified in the AOCs, the environmental review required for the cleanup at SSFL is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Pursuant to CEQA, DTSC is the lead agency responsible for conducting such environmental review. DTSC remains committed to following the 2010 AOCs.

Question 7: On January 30, 2013, DTSC issued its Draft Provisional Look-up Table Values, for a short list of radionuclides.<sup>10</sup> These have been imposed on all the three RPs. Why are these still called “draft provisional” and not “final?”

Response 7: See response 3 above.

Question 8: Has DTSC considered using standard hypothesis testing methodology to determine if radionuclide background is achieved following remediation, rather than the flawed 2010 AOC single sample protocol?

Response 8: See response 6 above. DTSC remains committed to following the 2010 AOCs.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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