



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Barbara A. Lee, Director
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

December 22, 2016

The Honorable Matthew M. Dababneh
California State Assemblymember, 45th District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0045

BRANDEIS-BARDIN CAMPUS

Dear Assemblymember Dababneh:

Thank you for your November 16, 2016 letter requesting clarification of the information presented in Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) September 15, 2016 letter regarding the safety of the Brandeis-Bardin Campus located near to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site. First I would like to assure you that the safety of the students, staff and visitors of Brandeis-Bardin Campus is of the utmost importance and concern to DTSC, and I apologize if some of the information contained in DTSC's letter was not provided in a more accurate form to avoid any need for clarification. I want to also assure you that this letter does not change our finding that DTSC's assessment of all the available data continues to be that Brandeis-Bardin Campus is safe for use by students, faculty and visitors.

You have questioned the reference in DTSC's letter on whether the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) concluded that there was no migration of contamination north from the Santa Susana site. I would like to clarify that although this statement was DTSC's conclusion, and not the U.S. EPA's, the conclusion was based on the U.S. EPA's testing and findings conducted in this area. The U.S. EPA's testing included comprehensive sampling of Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone (NBZ) to determine the extent of radionuclide impacted soils. The U.S. EPA study found the highest radiological areas to be within Area IV of the SSFL property and made the important finding that radionuclide areas of interest in the NBZ were isolated, and showed no grouping or patterns. Based on these results, it is DTSC's belief that the limited numbers of these very low-level concentrations in the NBZ do not indicate a contaminant migration pathway from SSFL source areas into the NBZ. This information, along with other multiple lines of evidence evaluated, leads to DTSC's conclusion that there was no migration of radiological contamination north of SSFL.

I would like to emphasize that, if contaminants were detected at concentrations that posed an imminent threat to human health or the environment at Brandeis-Bardin Campus, DTSC would have issued an order for an immediate cleanup. In 2007, DTSC ordered Boeing to remove debris from a recreation shooting range at SSFL that had migrated offsite and did pose a potential threat to human health and the environment. The available Brandeis-Bardin data does not indicate any such cleanup action is necessary on the Brandeis-Bardin property.

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Further, you have questioned the statement in DTSC's letter that Boeing is responsible for preparing a Resources Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation report that will address the Santa Susana site and the NBZ. Please note that while the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and not Boeing, is responsible for the NBZ soils investigation, all three SSFL responsible parties, DOE, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration and Boeing are responsible for completing the SSFL site-wide groundwater investigation, including the NBZ.

Thank you again for your further inquiry and I would like to reassure you that DTSC takes its responsibility to protect public health and restore the environment very seriously and is committed to cleanup SSFL. I also appreciate your offer to advocate for additional resources and DTSC will continue to work with the community and all stakeholders to ensure a successful cleanup of this site and other contaminated sites in the state.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Mohsen Nazemi, Deputy Director in charge of the contaminated site remediation and cleanup program at (714) 484-5321/mohsen.nazemi@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Lee
Director