

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
CHAIRMAN

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
PAUL W. HODES, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JOHN P. SARBANES, MARYLAND
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
TTY (202) 225-6852

<http://oversight.house.gov>

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
BRIAN P. BILBRAY, CALIFORNIA
BILL SALI, IDAHO
--

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Karen Lightfoot: (202) 226-6550

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AGREES TO REP. WAXMAN'S REQUESTS FOR THE SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY CLEANUP

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Rep. Henry A. Waxman released a letter he received yesterday afternoon from the Department of Energy regarding the cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) and the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC). In the letter, the Department agreed to Rep. Waxman's request to commit to complying with the court order and honor its commitment that a radiological survey be undertaken at the site.

"This is good news for thousands who live near this site," said Rep. Waxman. "Just weeks ago, the Department of Energy had imminent plans to demolish buildings at the site. I am pleased that the Department has committed to abandoning these plans and to conducting an Environmental Impact Statement prior to conducting the cleanup. An ill-considered cleanup can cause more harm than good."

On May 2, 2007, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued a decision lambasting the Department's conduct at the site and ordered it to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) instead of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prior to remediating the ETEC. The court stated that "the DOE's decision to issue a FONSI rather than prepare an EIS was not in accordance with the law and constituted a clear error of judgment" and that "[c]haracterization as a cleanup doesn't exempt the remediation from [an] EIS requirement." Yet, the Department had refused to provide a confirmation to Congress that it would complete an EIS prior to continuing cleanup operations until yesterday.

"Given the Department's poor record at the site, I remain concerned about its cleanup approach," said Rep. Waxman. "I will continue to monitor its actions closely until it has taken the necessary steps to ensure the health and safety of those living near it."