

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Comment Period
Proposed Plan for Cleanup of Soil
at the National Aeronautic Space
Administration**

Jet Propulsion Laboratory

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will hold two public meetings to discuss the proposed cleanup of soils at its Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. The public meetings will be held at the following location and on the following dates:

Von Karman Auditorium,
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91101

May 12, 2001

Information forum will be open from
1:00-4:00 p.m.

A summary presentation will begin at
2:30 p.m. and will be followed by a
formal comment session.

May 14, 2001

Information forum will be open from
6:00-9:00 p.m.

A summary presentation will begin at
7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a
formal comment session.

During the "information forums," the public will have the opportunity to speak with NASA and federal and local regulatory agency representatives on a one-on-one basis about the proposed cleanup actions. Following the summary presentations, attendees can formally address questions to these representatives that will be included in a transcript which will become part of the final decision made for the proposed action.

JPL is a federal facility owned by the NASA and is located between the city of LaCanada-Flintridge and the unincorporated city of Altadena, near Pasadena, California. JPL covers about 176 acres of land and includes more than 150 buildings and other structures. The JPL site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1992 after an initial inspection revealed the presence of chlorinated solvents and other chemicals in the subsurface soil and groundwater. The purpose of this notice is to invite the public to provide comments and ask questions on the Proposed Plan for cleanup of subsurface or "vadose zone" soils at the site (which has been designated as Operable Unit 2 or OU-2).

The cleanup or "remedial action" objective for OU-2 is to prevent, to the extent practicable, the migration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from soil to groundwater. The Proposed Plan provides information about the alternatives considered to meet the remedial action objective and the rationale for selecting the proposed technology or "remedy." The Proposed Plan also serves to seek public input prior to making a final decision. NASA is proposing the following remedy as the preferred alternative:

NASA is proposing soil vapor extraction (SVE) as the preferred remedy for recovering VOCs from the soils at OU-2. SVE systems are designed to remove chemicals that have a tendency to evaporate or "volatilize" easily by applying a vacuum through a system of underground wells. The VOCs are then pulled from the subsurface in vapor form and treated before discharge to the atmosphere. SVE was shown to be effective based on pilot tests NASA conducted at OU-2.

Under this proposed remedy, up to five vapor extraction wells and vapor treatment systems would be installed. The extraction wells and vapor treatment systems would be operated until VOCs in soil vapor have been reduced to an agreed-upon level. To some extent, natural processes will also assist in the overall remediation of the soils. As part of the cleanup process, a soil-vapor monitoring program, currently in place, would be used to track concentrations and evaluate the extent of VOCs in soil vapor over time.

Final decisions on the cleanup plans will be made after public comments have been received and considered. The public comment period is May 7 through June 11, 2001. If requested, NASA may consider extending the public comment period. Written comments and requests for extension of the comment period should be mailed or e-mailed to Mr. Peter Robles, Jr. at the address provided in this notice, or brought to the public meeting.

An administrative record file has been prepared in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. CERCLA governs the cleanup of facilities where there has been a release of hazardous substances into the environment. The administrative record includes the site Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Proposed Plan. The administrative record is located at JPL and several local "information repositories." Local residents and other interested parties are encouraged to review the Proposed Plan at the following information repositories:

Altadena Public Library
600 E. Mariposa Ave.
Altadena, CA 91001

(626) 798-0833
LaCanada-Flintridge Public Library
4545 Oakwood Ave.
LaCanada-Flintridge, CA 91011

(818) 790-3330
Pasadena Central Library
285 E. Walnut St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 744-4052

Questions regarding the Proposed Plan, Feasibility Study, Remedial Investigation, administrative record, and/or other issues should be directed to the contact below:

Mr. Peter Robles, Jr.
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Propulsion Laboratory
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