THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IS CONDUCTING A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY'S LIVERMORE SITE

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) / National Nuclear Security Administration has initiated the seventh Five-Year Review of its environmental cleanup of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Livermore Site.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Superfund law requires that the protectiveness of cleanup actions be evaluated every five years when contaminants at a site remain above levels that allow unrestricted access. The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to evaluate the progress of the cleanup remedy toward achieving the Site's cleanup objectives, and whether the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

This Five-Year Review report will summarize the nature and extent of contamination, and describe the progress achieved by the Department of Energy toward cleanup of the Livermore Site. The draft Five-Year Review report will be available for public review at the Laboratory's Environmental Document Repository in the Livermore Public Library located at 1188 South Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 [telephone: (925) 373-5500]; the Laboratory Office of Government and External Affairs [(925) 423-3125]; and online at http://enviroinfo.llnl.gov. The 60-day review period will begin on March 10, 2027.

La Ley Superfund exige que las acciones para restaurar sitios sean evaluadas cada cinco anos mientras los contaminantes permanecen por encima de niveles que permiten el acceso sin restricciones al sitio identificado. El propósito de la Revisión Quinquenal es para evaluar el progreso hacia los objetivos establecidos para lograr la limpieza del sitio designado y si el remedio continua protegiendo la salud humana y el medio ambiente.

El informe de la Revisión Quinquenal resume la naturaleza y el alcance de la contaminación y describe el progreso logrado por el Departamento de Energía hacia la limpieza del Sitio de Livermore. El borrador del informe de la Revisión Quinquenal estará en el depósito ambiental del laboratorio localizado en la biblioteca pública de Livermore, 1188 South Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, [teléfono (925) 373-5500]; en el Oficina de Gobierno y Asuntos Exteriores del Laboratorio [teléfono (925) 423-3125]; y en línea en http://enviroinfo.llnl.gov. El período de revisión de 60 días comenzará el 10 de marzo de 2027.

SITE HISTORY

LLNL's Livermore Site is an applied science laboratory operated by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC. The Livermore Site is located approximately three miles east of the downtown area of Livermore, California. The 800-acre Livermore Site was converted from agricultural use into a Navy flight training base and aircraft assembly and repair facility in 1942. In the 1950s, the Atomic Energy Commission converted the site into a weapons design and basic physics research laboratory. Initial hazardous materials releases occurred at the Livermore Site when the site was the Livermore Naval Air Station. There is also evidence that localized spills, unlined landfills, and leaking tanks and impoundments contributed volatile organic compounds

(VOCs), fuel hydrocarbons, metals, and tritium to the groundwater and unsaturated sediments in the post-Navy era. By 1987, a plume of VOCs had migrated off site about 2,200 feet west of the current LLNL property. These past operations resulted in the Livermore Site being placed on the EPA National Priorities List in 1987. A Record of Decision was signed in 1992 that established the cleanup remedies and cleanup standards for the Livermore Site. Previous Five-Year Reviews were completed in 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022.

CLEANUP OBJECTIVES AND REMEDIES

The Livermore Site remedial action objectives are: (1) preventing present day and future human exposure to contaminated groundwater, soil, and soil vapor; (2) preventing contaminant migration at concentrations above cleanup standards; (3) reducing contaminant concentrations in groundwater to levels below the state and federal cleanup standards; and (4) minimizing contaminant migration in the unsaturated zone that would result in groundwater concentrations above a cleanup standards.

The Livermore Site remedy includes (1) strategically placing extraction wells near Livermore Site contaminant plume margins to intercept and hydraulically control groundwater with volatile organic compound concentrations exceeding cleanup standards; (2) use vacuum-induced venting to extract contaminant vapors from unsaturated sediments (i.e., soil vapor extraction) and treat the vapors by granular activated carbon; (3) minimize tritium migration in groundwater and prevent influent to any treatment system from containing tritium in concentrations above the cleanup standard; and (4) extract groundwater containing chromium and treat via ion-exchange resin.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW RESULTS

The results of the Five-Year Review analysis will be presented in the final version of the document after concurrence by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DOE. The results of the analysis will define how the remedies are protective of human health and the environment and any additional actions necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For further information, please contact:
Phil Wong
DOE Federal Project Director
AM for Environment Safety and Health
NNSA Livermore Field Office, P.O. Box 808, L-293, Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 422-0765 or phil.wong@nnsa.doe.gov