

12 November 2021

Mr. Adrian Breitfeld, MAJCS, MBA.
Vice President
American Jewish University, Brandeis-Bardin Campus
1101 Peppertree Lane
Brandeis, CA 93064

RE: Environmental Summary
American Jewish University, Brandeis-Bardin Campus
1101 Peppertree Lane
Brandeis, California

Dear Mr. Breitfeld:

GSI Environmental Inc. (GSI) has prepared this letter to summarize historical and current environmental conditions on the Brandeis-Bardin Campus property (the “Campus”) as they relate to potential chemical and radiological impacts resulting from the former rocket science research and testing activities at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL).

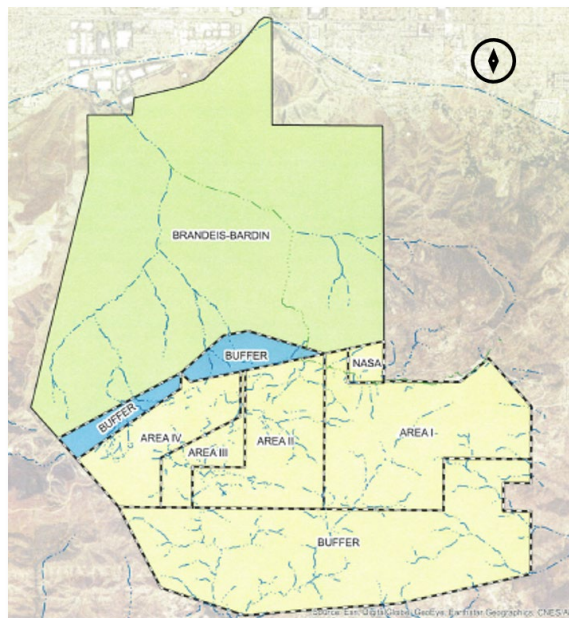
In summary:

1. Historical environmental investigations beginning in 1992 have uniformly found that there has been no significant migration of any contaminants from the SSFL to the Campus.
2. In 2017, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) analyzed the historical data and concluded that contaminants from the SSFL did not pose a health risk to users of the Campus.
3. GSI’s annual sampling, conducted at the Campus’ southern border and in high-use areas of the property since 2019, confirm that there has been no significant migration of contaminants from the SSFL.
4. The evidence shows that the monitoring and mitigation measures implemented at the SSFL are effectively containing contaminants and preventing off-site migration.

We provide a brief overview of activities, data, and conclusions that support the above summary statements.

Background and Historical Investigations

Activities at SSFL included rocket engine testing starting in the late 1940s and nuclear energy research starting in the 1950s. Most of the nuclear research-related activities ceased in 1988 and rocket engine testing ended in 2005. These activities are known to have resulted in the release of certain chemicals and radionuclides on the SSFL property. (DTSC, 2017¹) Investigations to evaluate potential impacts at and near SSFL were initiated in 1992 under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) oversight; from this and subsequent investigations, limited radiological and chemical impacts were observed within the watershed in what was then the border area on the southernmost portion of the Campus. The USEPA concluded that the detected impacts did not pose a health risk to Campus campers or staff.² This strip of property was purchased in 1997 by Rocketdyne to separate the Campus from the former SSFL operational areas and is designated the Northern Buffer Zone, shown in blue on the inserted area map.



In the decades following the initial investigative activities, extensive environmental sampling has been conducted at and around the SSFL, including the Campus, by entities that formerly operated SSFL. Additionally, American Jewish University (AJU) has routinely conducted its own independent sampling and analysis of media on the Campus property, and also performed an independent environmental and radiological investigation and health risk assessment in 2016.³

DTSC's 2017 Analysis of the Data

In 2017, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) – now the lead regulatory agency overseeing the investigation and cleanup at the SSFL – conducted a thorough review of all data collected over the preceding decades and reached the following conclusions (DTSC, 2017⁴):

- “Contamination at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) does not pose a health threat to users (e.g., campers, visitors, students, faculty, administrators, or staff) of Brandeis Bardin Institute, or other off-site areas”

¹ California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), 2017, Review of Radiological and Chemical Data from Investigations Conducted at and Near the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and the American Jewish University – Brandeis Bardin Campus 2 May.

² USEPA, 1995, EPA Update, The U.S. EPA Announces Results of Rocketdyne's Off-Site Sampling Program for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, July.

³ Tetra Tech, Inc., 2016, Environmental and Radiological Data Summary and Health Risk Evaluation for the American Jewish University Brandeis-Bardin Campus at Simi Valley, California, April.

⁴ <https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2016/05/SSFL-Community-Fact-Sheet-on-the-Brandeis-Bardin-Campus-2.pdf>

- “Evaluation of sample results from the Brandeis Bardin property confirmed that levels found do not pose a threat to users”; and
- “Contamination from SSFL is controlled at the Northern Buffer Zone and is not entering the Brandeis Bardin Property.”

GSI’s Monitoring Work

GSI has conducted annual sampling of soil, sediment and surface water within watersheds and campsites annually since 2019. During this time, we also have collected and analyzed food crop samples. The data we have collected substantiate the previous findings, that is, the analytical results appear consistent and confirm there has been no significant migration of contaminants from SSFL onto the Campus.⁵ GSI also is following publicly available technical literature detailing the steps that are being taken under regulatory oversight to monitor, mitigate, and remediate SSFL site conditions. The results obtained from the independent sampling conducted at the Campus by GSI and others confirm that SSFL contaminants are being effectively contained and monitored.

Sincerely,
GSI Environmental Inc.



Susan Gallardo, PE
Principal Engineer

⁵ <https://www.aju.edu/about-aju/our-campuses/brandeis-bardin-safety-data>