

Fact Sheet

Nevada Environmental Response Trust Site

HENDERSON, NEVADA

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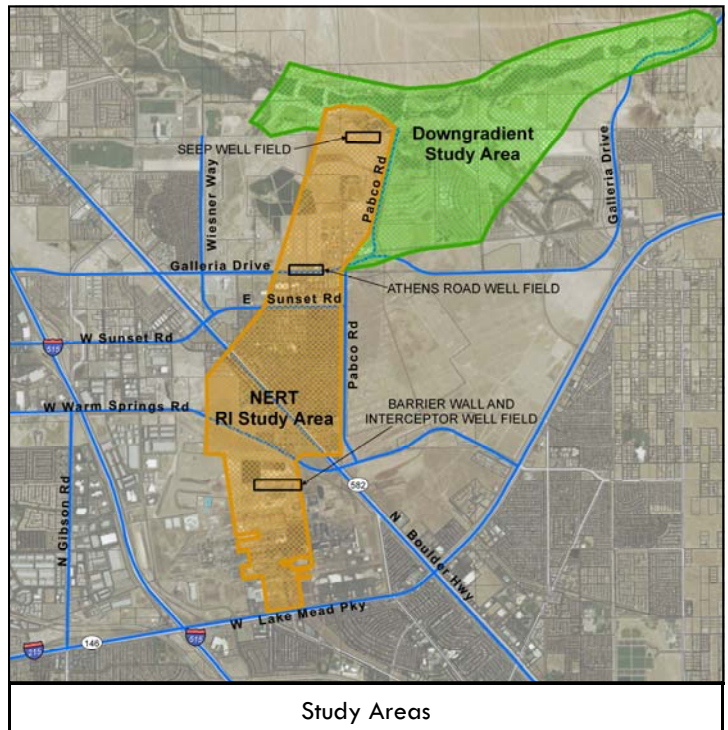
Update on the NERT Remedial Investigation and Downgradient Study Areas

Background Information

The Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT) site, which was previously known as the Tronox LLC (Tronox) site and the Kerr-McGee Chemical LLC (Kerr-McGee) site, is located within the Black Mountain Industrial (BMI) Complex in unincorporated Clark County and surrounded by the City of Henderson, Nevada. The NERT site is currently approximately 346 acres.

Soil and shallow groundwater in the vicinity and downgradient of the NERT site is contaminated with perchlorate and hexavalent chromium as a result of industrial operations dating back to 1942. Investigations of chromium-impacted groundwater began in late 1983. Treatment of hexavalent chromium in the groundwater began in mid-1987 and is on-going today. In 1997, perchlorate was discovered in the vicinity of Las Vegas Wash. Removal and treatment of perchlorate using a groundwater extraction and treatment system (GWETS) has occurred continuously since 2002.

Currently, impacted groundwater is pumped from three well fields; one located on-site and two located off-site and downgradient (north-northeast) between the site and Las Vegas Wash. These well fields pump the impacted groundwater out of the ground and convey it to on-site treatment systems through underground pipelines. The current treatment system uses a chemical reduction process to remove chromium from groundwater and fluidized bed reactors (FBRs) to biologically remove perchlorate. The treated groundwater is discharged to Las Vegas Wash under a National Pollutant Discharge Elim-



ination System (NPDES) permit. Remedial performance reports are submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) semi-annually.

Details about the site history, prior site investigations, remediation, current activities, and prior fact sheets can be found at <http://www.NERT-Trust.com>.

Current Activities

In accordance with the Interim Consent Agreement between NERT and NDEP (effective February 14, 2011), NERT initiated a Remedial Investigation (RI) in 2014. The NERT RI Study Area is shown on the figure above.

The objectives of the RI are to characterize the NERT RI Study Area conditions and the nature and extent of environmental impacts, assess potential risks to human health and the environment, and to identify potential remedial actions. In 2015, extensive sampling of soil and groundwater, including the installation of additional monitoring wells, was conducted in the NERT RI Study Area. The data collected in 2015 are currently being compiled and evaluated.

The RI will support the upcoming Feasibility Study (FS). The objectives of the FS are to develop and evaluate clean-up options and technologies to address soil and groundwater contamination originating from the NERT site prior to the selection of a final remedy.

Concurrent with NERT's RI, NDEP is leading an investigation to evaluate potential NERT site-related impacts to the subsurface and Las Vegas Wash in an area outside the current NERT RI Study Area. This area is known as the Down-gradient Study Area and is shown on the figure on the previous page. Perchlorate and other contaminants found in groundwater in this area were primarily transported from the NERT site through a series of unlined ditches which conveyed process wastewaters from the former operations at the NERT site and surrounding industrial facilities and discharged to a series of unlined waste disposal ponds located near and within the Down-gradient Study Area. The purpose of the NDEP-led Downgradient Investigation is to collect additional data to evaluate the nature and extent of perchlorate (and other NERT-site related contaminants) in groundwater in this expanded area.

Investigation within the NERT RI Study Area is ongoing and the investigation within the Downgradient Study Area is currently being planned and will begin in February 2016. The investigations will likely include drilling, well installation, and sampling of soil, groundwater and surface water. Below are pictures of the type of drill rig you might see in your neighborhood and what a typical monitoring well looks like from the surface. This effort will be conducted with minimal disturbance to the residences in the area. After the field investigations are complete, collected data will be evaluated. A fact sheet providing an update of these activities will be distributed in 2017.

Where can I find more information?

A summary of important information and milestone documents can be found at <http://www.NERT-Trust.com> and <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmi/tronox.htm>.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Community Involvement Coordinator at NDEP:

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Typical Drill Rig to Be Used



Typical Monitoring Well Surface Completion