

# Fact Sheet

## Nevada Environmental Response Trust Site

HENDERSON, NEVADA

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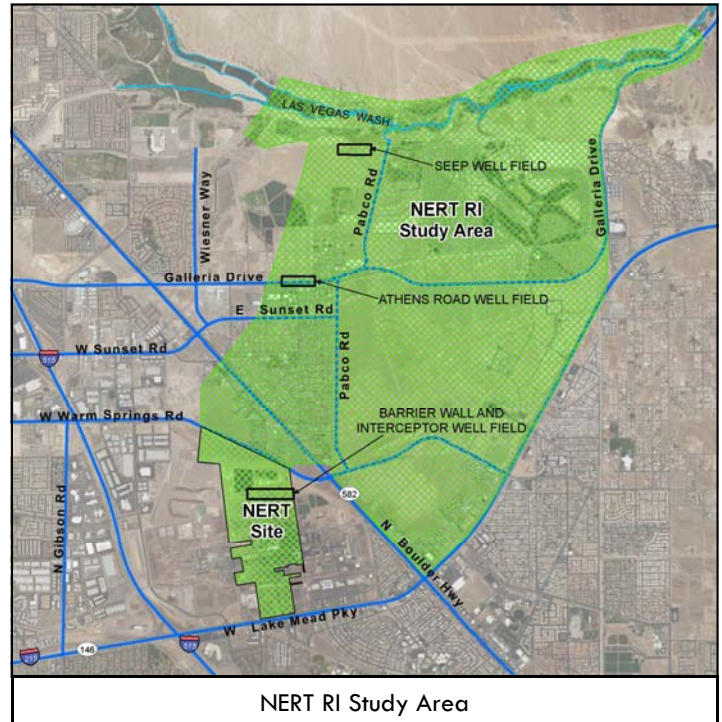
### Update on the NERT Remedial Investigation

#### 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.

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 1941. 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 the Las Vegas Wash. Removal and treatment of perchlorate using a groundwater extraction and treatment system (GWETS) has occurred continuously since 2002.

Currently, under the oversight of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), 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 the treatment systems through pipelines. Treatment of chromium occurs on-site at the Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) which chemically reduces hexavalent chromium and removes total chromium through chemical precipitation. Treatment of perchlorate occurs biologically in the on-site fluidized bed reactors (FBRs) treatment plant



and in an off-site ion exchange (IX) unit. The combined treated groundwater is discharged to Las Vegas Wash under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Remedial performance reports are submitted to the NDEP and U.S. EPA 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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and pursuant to the Interim Consent Agreement between NERT and NDEP (effective February 14, 2011), NERT initiated a Remedial Investigation (RI) in 2014. The current NERT RI Study Area is shown on the figure above. The

objectives of the RI are to characterize the NERT RI Study Area and the nature and extent of environmental impacts, and assess potential risks to human health and the environment. 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 and recommend a final remedy to NDEP and U.S. EPA for review and to NDEP for approval.

From late 2014 through 2016, extensive sampling of soil and groundwater, including installation of additional monitoring wells, was conducted on the NERT site, as well as in some off-site down-gradient areas between the site and Las Vegas Wash. Perchlorate and other contaminants found in groundwater in these areas 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 north and northeast of the NERT site.

Remedial investigations to evaluate potential NERT site-related impacts to the subsurface are continuing in 2017 throughout the NERT RI Study Area. Additional investigations will be conducted throughout 2017, with an increased focus on locations outside the NERT-site boundaries. The investigations will 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.

Community information and interview meetings will be held on June 21, 2017 to provide information about the NERT site and the RI to community members and to solicit input from the community regarding concerns they may have and how and when the community would like to receive future information and updates about ongoing investigations. A fact sheet providing an update of the remedial investigation activities will be distributed in 2018. Information collected from investigation activities in the NERT RI Study Area will be incorporated into a comprehensive RI report.

### 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