



Nevada Environmental Response Trust Remedial Investigation FAQ Sheet

November 2018

Officials continue to investigate an area in Henderson that is a source of historic contamination. This document answers common questions about the Remedial Investigation by the Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT). Many of these questions were asked in community interviews and surveys and at prior community meetings.

i Una versión en español de este documento también está disponible en el sitio web www.NERT-Trust.com o al contactar a James Dotchin (JD) por teléfono (702-486-2850 x 235) o por correo electrónico (jdotchin@ndep.nv.gov).

1. What is NERT?

NERT is short for the Nevada Environmental Response Trust and was established in 2011. NERT's goal is to manage and clean up contamination related to historic chemical plants on property formerly owned by Tronox Inc. This property is now owned by NERT and is called the "NERT Site."

NERT is not a business, and all its decisions are made to successfully clean up the NERT Site. All work performed by NERT is managed and overseen by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

2. What is the purpose of the NERT Remedial Investigation?

The purpose is to fully investigate contamination at and around the NERT Site. The main contaminant is a chemical called perchlorate. NERT will use this information to do three things:

1. Keep contamination from leaving the NERT Site
2. Address contamination at the NERT Site
3. Address contamination that has previously moved off-site

3. What is the source of the contamination?

Investigators first detected perchlorate in the Lower Colorado River in 1997. They traced the contamination up the Las Vegas Wash to the NERT Site and a second area to the southwest called the PEPCON Site. Factories at both sites historically produced perchlorate. Perchlorate is used to make rocket fuels, missiles, fireworks, flares, and explosives.

Fast facts.

- ✓ You and your family are **not at risk**
- ✓ Perchlorate is a chemical used in rockets, fireworks, and explosives
- ✓ NERT continues to study the area to find the best cleanup remedy

NERT is not responsible for cleanup efforts at the PEPCON Site. Visit our website to learn more about the PEPCON Site cleanup:

- ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/site-cleanup-program/active-cleanup-sites/bmi-complex/american-pacific-ampac

4. Is my water safe to drink?

Yes — **your water is safe**. Drinking water for Henderson and the Las Vegas Valley comes primarily from Lake Mead, not groundwater, and **meets all safe drinking water standards**. Your drinking water is regularly tested, and water quality reports are accessible to the public.

Based on guidance from EPA, the State of Nevada has determined that water is safe to drink if it has less than 18 parts per billion (ppb) of perchlorate. On average, drinking water in the Las Vegas Valley only has 0.7 ppb of perchlorate.

Another contaminant that NERT is addressing is hexavalent chromium. EPA has determined that water is safe to use if it has 100 ppb or less of total chromium. On average, water in the Las Vegas Valley only has 0.27 ppb of total chromium. There is no EPA standard for hexavalent chromium, but total chromium adds both trivalent and hexavalent chromium together. The average hexavalent chromium level in the Las Vegas Valley is 0.20 ppb.

You can learn more about the quality of your water in the Las Vegas Valley Water District 2018 Water Quality Report:

- www.lvwwd.com/assets/pdf/water-quality-report-las-vegas-valley-current.pdf
- www.lvwwd.com/assets/pdf/water-quality-summary-las-vegas-valley.pdf

5. Are my family members or pets who live near the NERT Site at risk?

No — **you, your family, and your pets are not at risk**. The contamination is underground and dissolved in groundwater, which isn't the source of drinking water anywhere in greater Henderson. Studies also show that at least the top 10 feet of soil in residential areas around the site are free of contamination. The average depth to the groundwater in your neighborhood is 25 feet below the ground, well below the surface.

6. Is it safe for humans and animals to play in their yard near the NERT Site?

Yes — **you and your family may safely play in your yard**. Studies show that at least the top 10 feet of soil in the residential areas around the site is no different from soil elsewhere in the Las Vegas Valley. All soils meet health safety standards. The perchlorate and other contaminants being investigated in the area are dissolved in groundwater, which on average is 25 feet below the ground.

7. Can I grow and eat my own vegetables?

Yes — **it's safe to grow food in your garden**. Soil in your yard is similar to soil found across the Las Vegas Valley, which meets health safety standards.

8. Has there been a soil or groundwater study near my home, and will there be more in the future?

Not necessarily. Depending on where you live, there may have been or may be future studies near your home:

- **Neighborhoods within** the NERT RI Study Area (see blue area on the included map) may be part of a study. NDEP has already taken samples around the area and has plans to sample soil and groundwater again.
- **Neighborhoods outside** the NERT RI Study Area will not be part of a study. Only land in the study area is part of the NERT investigation. NDEP sent this information packet to all residents within a mile of the study area.

- If your home is **in the Cadence development**, your neighborhood has been investigated closely in a previous study. From this study, NDEP determined that the area is a safe, risk-free place to build a residential community. The NERT investigation does not affect this decision.

You may find the results of past and future investigations in your neighborhood in two upcoming remedial investigation reports, which will be available at www.NERT-Trust.com in early 2019 and 2020.

If you would like to know if there has been an investigation in your neighborhood, you may review the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available for review in the NDEP Las Vegas office located at 2030 E. Flamingo Rd, Suite 230, Las Vegas, NV, 89119. Key documents are also available online:

- ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/site-cleanup-program/active-cleanup-sites/bmi-complex/nevada-environmental-response-trust-nert
- www.NERT-Trust.com

9. Is there an air risk inside or outside of my home?

The air in and outside your home poses no immediate risk. Most contaminants being investigated in the study area have no effect on the air inside or outside your home. All investigations to date have not identified indoor or outdoor air risks. As part of the current NERT investigation, NDEP is collecting additional samples to confirm previous investigations. There are no health concerns in the Cadence development related to the NERT investigation.

Air emissions from operations at the NERT Site, including dust, are regulated and permitted by the Clark County Department of Air Quality. Activities conducted by NDEP at the NERT Site comply with all Clark County air regulations. The current site tenant conducts industrial operations on a portion of the NERT Site. Air emissions from these operations are the responsibility of the tenant and are permitted separately by the county. For more information on the tenant's air permits, please contact Mr. Richard Beckstead, Permitting Manager, Clark County Department of Air Quality, at 702-455-1669.

10. Do developers have information to inform potential buyers?

Yes, developers in the study area have been given access to information about these issues.

11. Will this contamination or cleanup efforts affect my property values?

Because NDEP staff are not experts in property values and real estate, we recommend that you contact a real estate expert to discuss these issues. NDEP is a Nevada government agency that focuses on environmental matters.

12. Is perchlorate from the NERT Site getting into the Las Vegas Wash or Lake Mead?

Yes, but **perchlorate levels have dropped by over 95%** since it was first discovered in 1997. Based on EPA guidance, the state of Nevada has determined that 18 ppb of perchlorate in drinking water is a safe level for all uses. The average perchlorate level in the Las Vegas Valley drinking water is a fraction of that — only 0.7 ppb.

You can learn more about the quality of your water in the Las Vegas Valley Water District 2018 Water Quality Report:

- www.lvwd.com/assets/pdf/water-quality-report-las-vegas-valley-current.pdf
- www.lvwd.com/assets/pdf/water-quality-summary-las-vegas-valley.pdf

13. What is the timing for the NERT investigation and cleanup?

We will continue to investigate groundwater, soil, soil gas, and surface water through 2019. NERT will submit the results of these investigations to officials in two reports in early 2019 and mid-2020. We will use our findings to begin feasibility studies in 2021. These studies will help NERT determine the best strategies and technologies to

address soil and groundwater contamination coming from the site. By 2022, officials will decide on a final remedy and anticipates NERT starting the final cleanup by late 2024. You can track NERT's progress at www.NERT-Trust.com.

14. Is all of this information public knowledge?

Yes — all information about the NERT investigation is available to the public. NERT held its third community meeting about the investigation in June 2017. NERT will continue to hold community meetings as the project continues.

15. Are there other investigations or contamination in Henderson?

Yes — NDEP is overseeing the cleanup efforts of several other organizations in the area:

- Basic Remediation Company
- Titanium Metals Corporation
- Pioneer Americas, LLC d/b/a Olin Chlor Alkali Products, Stauffer, & Montrose
- Endeavour, LLC (formerly PEPCON/AMPAC)

These efforts address contamination in parts of the NERT study area and other areas of Henderson. See the final section below on how to find more information about these programs. While NERT is only responsible for the impacts related to historic operations at the NERT Site, all of NERT's actions are coordinated through NDEP. NDEP oversees all cleanup programs within the Henderson area.

Questions and More Information

If you have additional questions or concerns, contact James Dotchin – NDEP Chief Environmental Programs, Bureau of Industrial Site Cleanup at **(702) 486-2850 x235** or jdotchin@ndep.nv.gov.

View official files at our office:

NDEP Las Vegas Office
2030 E. Flamingo Rd. Suite 230
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Contact Christa Smaling at 702-486-2850 x 254 or csmaling@ndep.nv.gov to schedule a file review. Please tell us a day in advance if you want to review files at our office.

For further details about NERT history, investigations, remedial efforts, and current activities:

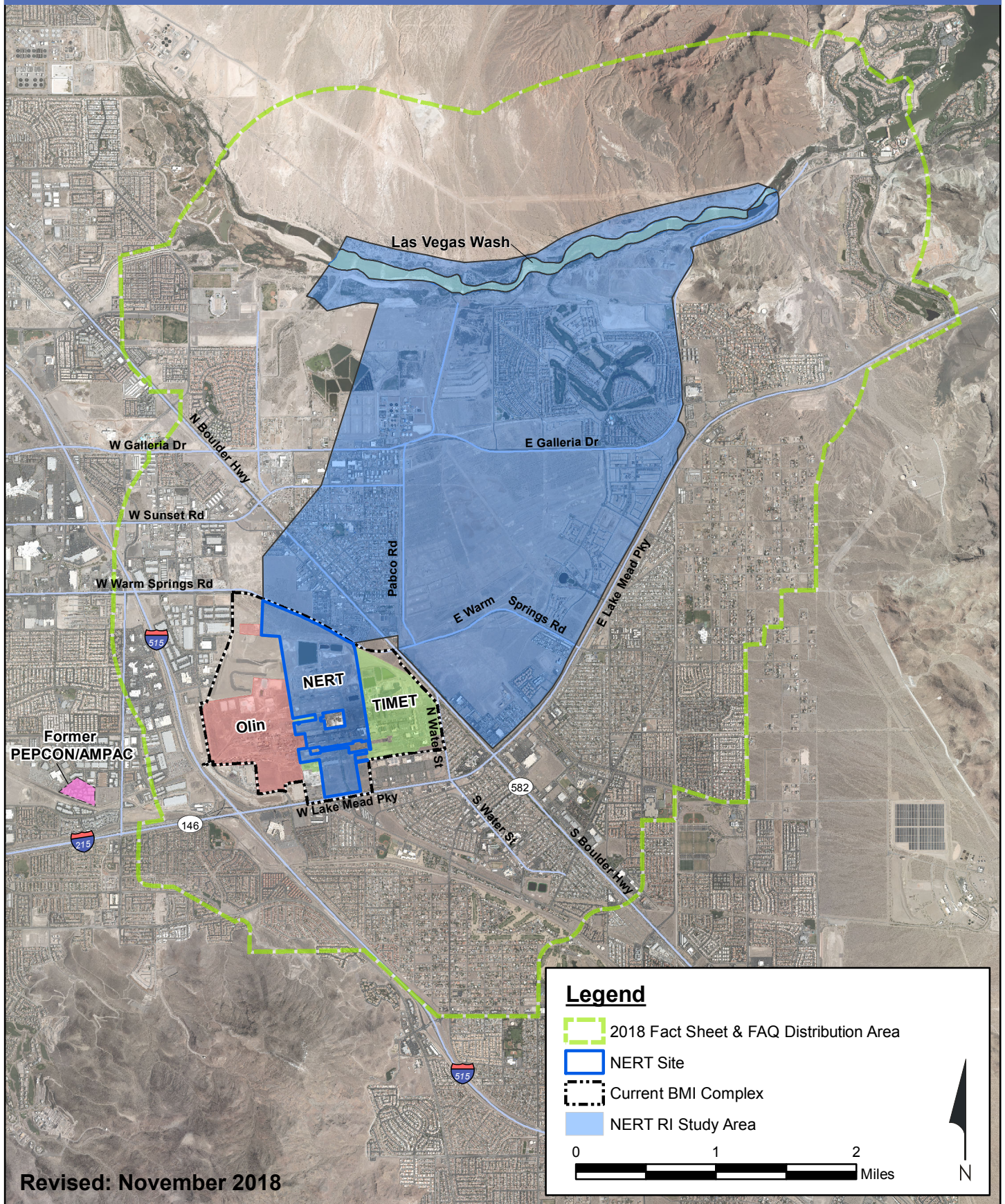
- www.NERT-Trust.com
- ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/site-cleanup-program/active-cleanup-sites/bmi-complex/nevada-environmental-response-trust-nert.

For info about other cleanups within the Black Mountain Industrial complex, visit ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/site-cleanup-program/active-cleanup-sites/bmi-complex.

Computers are available, free of charge, for public use at all Henderson libraries:

- James I. Gibson Library — 100 W. Lake Mead Parkway
- Paseo Verde Library — 280 S. Green Valley Parkway
- Green Valley Library — 2797 N. Green Valley Parkway
- Heritage Park Senior Center Library — 300 S. Racetrack Road

Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT) Remedial Investigation (RI) Study Area 2018 Fact Sheet & FAQ Distribution Area



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