



January 29, 2016

**Re: Community Information – Perchlorate Investigation
NDEP-led Downgradient Investigation and Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT)
Remedial Investigation (RI)**

Dear Resident:

You are receiving this correspondence because you live in the vicinity of an area being investigated by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to evaluate potential perchlorate and other contaminant impacts to the subsurface and Las Vegas Wash related to the Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT) site, formerly known as the Tronox site and Kerr-McGee site. The areas being investigated by NERT (known as the “NERT RI Study Area”) and the area being investigated by NDEP (known as the “Downgradient Study Area”) are located in an unincorporated section of Clark County and the City of Henderson, Nevada. Attached is a Fact Sheet with some background information on the NERT RI Study Area and Downgradient Study Area. Also enclosed is the Downgradient Investigation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet, prepared in response to questions received from residents during the Community Interview Meetings held at the Henderson Convention Center on September 2, 2015, as well as those questions that have been provided in Community Interview Questionnaires and via telephone.

If you have any questions regarding the NERT Remedial Investigation or the NDEP-led Downgradient Investigation, please contact James (JD) Dotchin of NDEP, at (702) 486-2850 x 235 or jdotchin@ndep.nv.gov. Consistent with the Community Involvement Plan for the NERT RI Study Area and the Downgradient Study Area, documents related to the NDEP-led Downgradient Investigation and the NERT RI Study Area can be viewed during normal business hours at NDEP's Las Vegas office, 2030 E. Flamingo Rd. Suite 230, Las Vegas NV 89119. File reviews generally require one business day notice. Please contact Christa Smaling at 702-486-2850 x 254 or csmaling@ndep.nv.gov to schedule a file review. In addition, milestone and other NERT site-related documents may be viewed online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmi/tronox.htm> and <http://www.NERT-Trust.com>. Computers are available, free of charge, for public use at the James I. Gibson Library at 100 W. Lake Mead Parkway in Henderson, Nevada and other Henderson area libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Dotchin", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

James (JD) Dotchin
Chief Environmental Programs
Bureau of Industrial Site Clean-up
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
2030 E Flamingo Rd, Suite 230, Las Vegas, NV 89119
702.486.2850 x 235

Enclosures

Fact Sheet

Nevada Environmental Response Trust Site

HENDERSON, NEVADA

January 2016

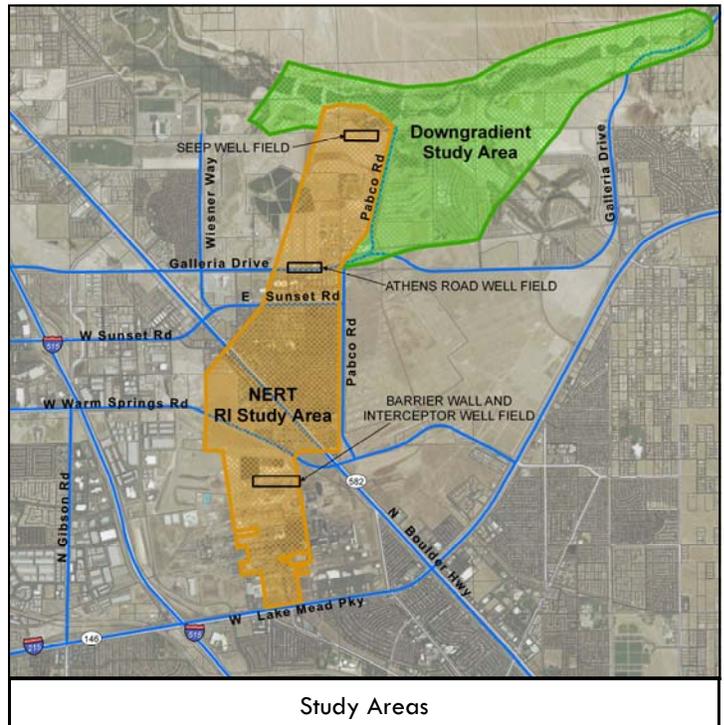
Update on the NERT Remedial Investigation and Downgradient Study Areas

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

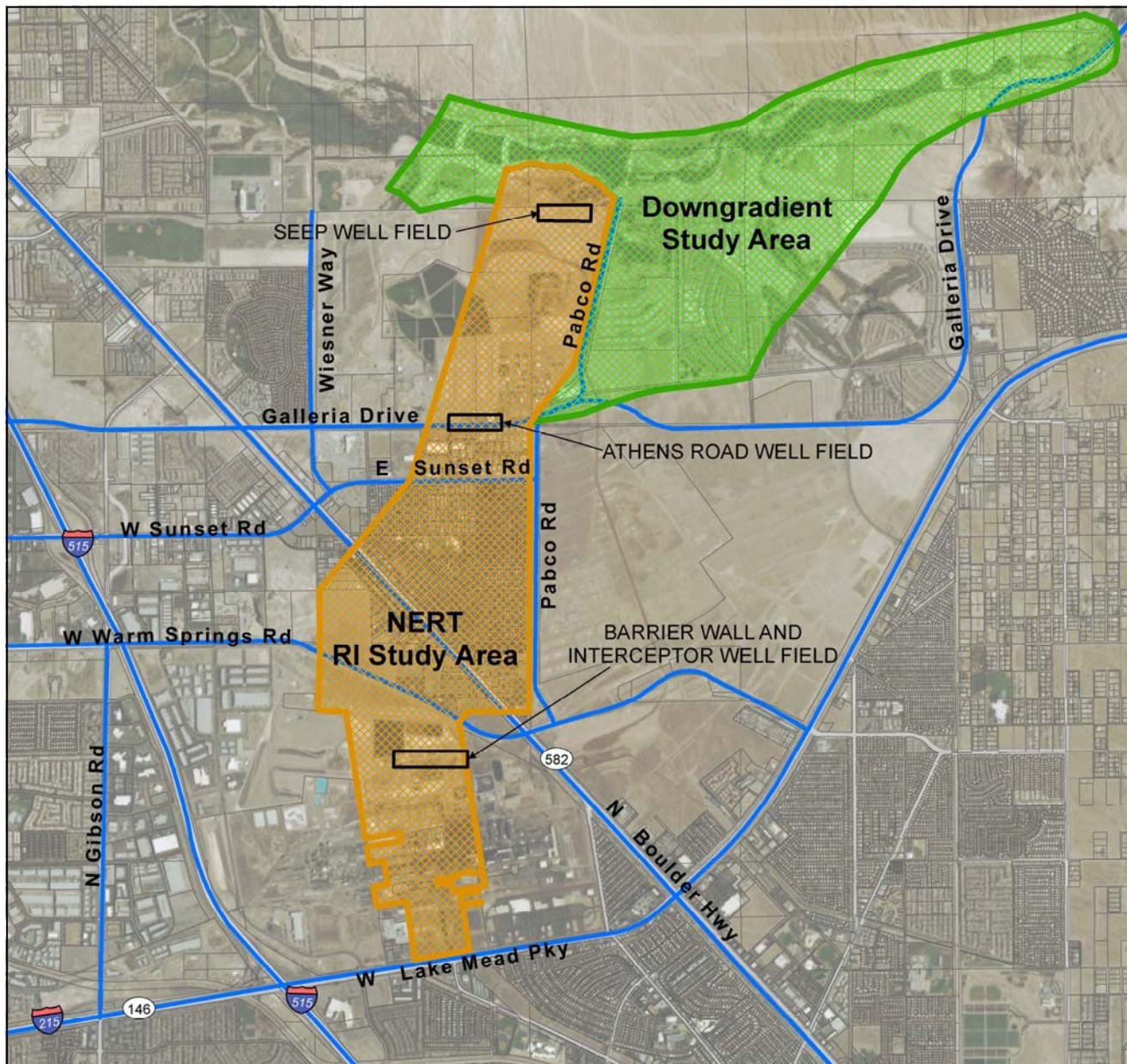
Study Area Map

Nevada Environmental Response Trust Site

HENDERSON, NEVADA

January 2016

Study Area Map for NERT Remedial Investigation and Downgradient Study Areas



NERT Remedial Investigation and Downgradient Study Area Locations

This map shows the Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT) Remedial Investigation (RI) Study Area and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Downgradient Study Area, in the City of Henderson, Nevada. Information about the RI activities for these areas can be found at <http://www.NERT-Trust.com>.

Downgradient Investigation FAQ Sheet

1. *What is the purpose of the Downgradient Investigation?*

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's (NDEP) main purpose and focus is to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination in the area between Galleria Road and the Las Vegas Wash impacted by historic contamination via former ditches and other pathways originating from the former Kerr-McGee and Tronox Site. The Downgradient Investigation is being conducted by NDEP as part of the Nevada Environmental Response Trust's (NERT) ongoing Remedial Investigation, which focuses on the source areas and core plume south of Galleria Road.

2. *What is perchlorate?*

Perchlorate is a white crystalline salt that dissolves readily in water. In its commercial form as a solid, ammonium perchlorate serves as a powerful chemical that contributes to combustion of solid rocket propellant.

3. *What is the source of the perchlorate?*

The source of the perchlorate being investigated as part of the Downgradient Investigation is the NERT Site (formerly owned and operated by Kerr-McGee and Tronox), located within the Black Mountain Industrial Complex on Lake Mead Parkway in Henderson. Kerr-McGee/Tronox ceased production of perchlorate in 1998.

4. *Is my drinking water safe to consume?*

Yes, drinking water for Henderson and the Las Vegas Valley comes from Lake Mead which meets all drinking water standards.

5. *Is perchlorate or other chemicals from the NERT Site getting into the Las Vegas Wash or Lake Mead?*

Yes, perchlorate was discovered in Lake Mead in 1997. Since that time, levels of perchlorate have been reduced by over 90%. The purpose (as stated above) of this investigation is to investigate the nature and extent of perchlorate present in groundwater in the Downgradient Study Area. The Downgradient Study Area is shown on the enclosed map.

6. *What is the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) drinking water standard for Perchlorate?*

In 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency determined that perchlorate is a contaminant under the Safe Drinking Water Act and is in the process of setting a Maximum Contaminant Level for perchlorate in drinking water. Until the US EPA drinking water standard is set, the State of Nevada NDEP has established 18 parts per billion (ppb) in drinking water as a provisional action level based upon an US EPA drinking water advisory. The State of Nevada has determined that 18 ppb of perchlorate in drinking water is a safe level for all uses. The average perchlorate concentration in Lake Mead over the last 10 years has been less than 2.5 ppb.

7. *Has there been or will there be a soil or groundwater study in the area of my home?*

There have already been several rounds of sampling and investigation in the Downgradient Study Area. Depending on the location of your home, an investigation may have already occurred and there may be a report summarizing the environmental conditions in your area. If you would like to know if there has been an investigation in an area of interest you can review the Administrative Record for the Site. As investigations are completed they become a part of the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available for review in our NDEP Las Vegas office located at 2030 E. Flamingo Rd, Suite 230, Las Vegas, NV, 89119 and key documents are available on our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmi/tronox.htm>. For future investigations, we will provide community notification of the area of the investigation and post the information on our website.

8. *Is there an imminent health risk to humans or animals in the Downgradient Study Area?*
No, there is no imminent health risk to humans or animals in the Downgradient Study Area. The perchlorate is found dissolved in groundwater and has not been identified in the soils in or around the Downgradient Study Area. Since the groundwater in the Downgradient Study Area is far below any residence and the groundwater is not a source of drinking water there is no imminent health risk to anyone in the Downgradient Study Area.
9. *Can I grow and eat my own vegetables?*
Yes, all information compiled to date shows that the soils in the Downgradient Study Area and in the surrounding residential areas are not dissimilar to any other soils in the Las Vegas Valley. Elevated levels of perchlorate have not been found in any soil samples within the Downgradient Study Area.
10. *Are my plants and landscaping affected by the perchlorate plume?*
No, elevated levels of perchlorate have not been found in any soil samples within the Downgradient Study Area.
11. *Do developers have information to inform potential buyers?*
Yes, current developers in the area have been given information about this issue and have procedures in place to inform potential buyers.
12. *What are the main perchlorate health risks related to humans and animals?*
Perchlorate is an endocrine disrupter; that interferes with the function of the thyroid gland. Additional information and links to other research can be found on our website here:
<http://ndep.nv.gov/bca/perchlorate05.htm>.
13. *Does the perchlorate plume impact the air in my home or outside?*
No, perchlorates are salts and they do not volatilize (evaporate and disperse into vapor). Perchlorate does not affect the air inside homes or the ambient air outside.
14. *Does perchlorate contamination in the groundwater pose an imminent health risk to humans or animals within the Downgradient Study Area?*
No, there is no imminent health risk to anyone in any of the homes or property in or around the Downgradient Study Area. The perchlorate is in the groundwater under the study area and this groundwater is not a source of drinking water, therefore, there is no exposure to humans or animals in the Downgradient Study Area to the perchlorate in the groundwater.
15. *What is the Nevada Environmental Response Trust?*
The Nevada Environmental Response Trust ("NERT") was established by the Bankruptcy Court as part of the settlement agreement entered into in Tronox Incorporated's Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The exclusive purposes and functions of NERT are to own the former Kerr-McGee/Tronox property in Henderson (NERT Site) and fund the remediation of environmental impacts related to historic operations at the NERT Site.
16. *Who provides oversight over the Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT)?*
The NDEP is the lead agency and US EPA is the non-lead agency for purposes of overseeing administration of the NERT and NERT's implementation and funding of environmental actions related to the NERT Site.
17. *Will this affect my property values? Do I need to disclose this to a potential buyer of my home?*
The NDEP is a State of Nevada environmental agency and focuses on environmental matters. NDEP does not have expertise in real estate disclosure requirements. The NDEP recommends you contact your real estate professional to discuss these issues and make an informed decision.
18. *Is all of this information public knowledge?*
Yes, the Administrative Record is available for review in our NDEP Las Vegas office located at 2030 E. Flamingo Rd, Suite 230, Las Vegas, NV. 89119 and key documents are available on our NDEP website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmi/tronox.htm>.



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STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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