

At Boeing, we are committed to protecting our communities. Cleaning up environmental impacts from past business practices is our highest priority.

Additional Information

The State of Nevada, Division of Environmental Protection and the Washoe County Health Department oversee environmental investigation and cleanup at the former NFL site.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mary Siders, Bureau of Corrective Actions, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, at (775) 687-9496, and Bob Sack, Washoe County District Health Department, at (775) 328-2434.

Boeing also welcomes community input on this project. For more information about our activities, please contact Bryan Meyers, Boeing Project Manager, at (916) 803-3307 or at Bryan.J.Meyers@boeing.com.



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FACT SHEET

Environmental Investigation and Clean up at the Former Nevada Field Laboratory

Palomino Valley, Washoe County, Nevada

At Boeing, we are committed to safety, respect for the environment and the well-being of the communities.

This fact sheet is intended to provide accurate and updated information about the status of the ongoing environmental investigation and cleanup at the former Nevada Field Laboratory (NFL) site.

What's New

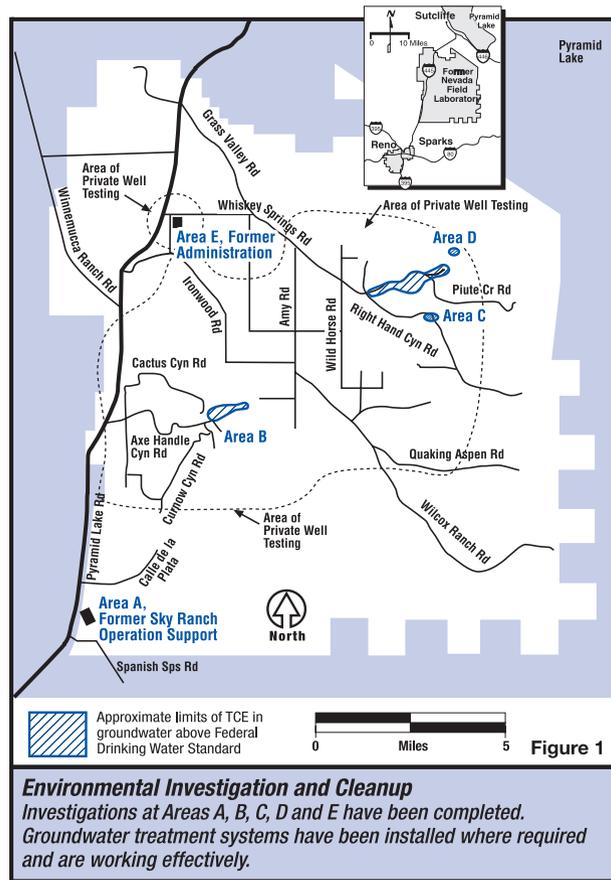
Boeing is pleased to announce that the clean up of Area C was determined to be complete by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in August 2012 (see Figures 1 and 2).

Boeing will continue monitoring and operating groundwater cleanup systems at Areas B and D through the NDEP-approved groundwater monitoring program.

History

From 1962 to 1970, Rocketdyne, then a division of North American Aviation, operated a rocket engine test facility known as the Nevada Field Laboratory (NFL). The rocket test facility was located approximately 20 miles north of the Reno/Sparks area.

Approximately 1,600 acres, or one percent of the property was used for rocket test or support facilities. The former NFL site was divided into five distinct operational areas, identified as Areas A, B, C, D and E, with Areas B, C and D used for rocket engine testing (see Figure 1). The rocket engines tested at the former NFL site supported various history-making programs, including Gemini, Lunar Module, Apollo and the Space Shuttle. In order to meet the strict specifications required by the space program, a variety of solvents were used to clean different pieces of equipment. Rocketdyne was later acquired by Boeing for a short time, from 1996 to 2005. In the early 1970s, 126,000-acre property was sold to McCulloch Properties, Inc. McCulloch subdivided this property and sold parcels to private parties.



Environmental Investigation

In 1980, and again in 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency evaluated the site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Although further action under CERCLA was not recommended, Rocketdyne elected to undertake a voluntary investigation of the site for the protection of human health and the environment.

In early 1991, Rocketdyne conducted private well quality sampling within a half-mile radius of Areas B, C, D and E. The survey determined that contamination in groundwater had impacted three private wells at the former NFL site, one located in Area B and two near Area D. Rocketdyne promptly notified Washoe County and provided area residents with bottled drinking

water. In addition, treatment systems to remove the solvents from the well water were immediately installed. These wells were later removed from service and new wells were installed to provide clean drinking water.

Under the direction of the State NDEP and the Washoe County Health District, investigations have been performed to identify whether solvents were present in soil and groundwater. Areas E and A showed municipal supply wells have not been impacted by Rocketdyne's previous operations.

- Testing conducted at **Area A** showed that the nearby municipal supply wells have not been impacted by previous operations.
- At **Area B**, solvents were found in groundwater beneath the former rocket test stand and in the adjacent eastern canyon.
- At **Area C**, solvents and perchlorate were detected in groundwater where rocket testing took place.
- At **Area D**, solvents were found beneath a portion of the facility adjacent to the former rocket test stand, and in the narrow valley along Whiskey Springs Road.
- The investigation of **Area E** indicated no further cleanup or future investigation was needed.

Investigation and Cleanup

To date, a variety of cleanup activities have been completed, including the removal of waste disposal sites, underground storage tanks and contaminated soils and debris from former landfills and rocket test locations at the site. Demolition and surface restoration activities have been completed, returning all former rocket test locations to a natural state. These processes have been completed at Areas B, C and D (see Figure 1).

No Further Action has been granted by NDEP at Areas E and C. Groundwater clean-up continues at Areas B and D. Operation of the systems does not affect use of the surrounding drinking water wells. Data from Areas B and D has shown the systems are working effectively.

Well Sampling

An extensive groundwater monitoring program has been implemented to continue evaluating groundwater conditions at the site. To date, approximately 130 groundwater monitoring and extraction wells have been installed at the three former rocket test areas. Many of the monitoring wells are located around the perimeters of areas at the site where groundwater has been impacted. Those wells are sampled quarterly. Monitoring performed since 1991 indicates none of the areas of contamination are spreading. To date, Boeing has not discovered any adverse impact to groundwater quality in the other areas of the Palomino Valley from former NFL activities.

Community Involvement

We are committed to keeping the community informed of ongoing cleanup efforts through former NFL site meetings, fact sheets and document repositories. Cleanup reports and work plans are available for review at the Washoe County Public Library or at the State and County Environmental offices. In addition, we have been conducting community briefings in conjunction with the State and County since 1991. We do this to maintain open communication between Boeing, its neighbors and the regulatory community.

