



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

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August 7, 2008

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

Mr. Kevin Shannon  
Hawthorne Army Depot  
1 South Maine Street, Building 5  
Hawthorne, NV 89415-9404

RE: Reopening of Solid Waste Management Unit I15 at the Hawthorne Army Depot for Groundwater Investigation

Dear Mr. Shannon:

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Corrective Actions (NDEP) has determined that Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) I15, the Building 101-42 Catchment Pit, should be reopened for investigation of contamination in groundwater. This determination was made as a result of additional site characterization activities undertaken at SWMU B20, which is downgradient of Buildings 101-41 and 101-42 that lie within the SWMU I15 boundary. Previous investigations and remediation at SWMU I15 were for explosive-contaminated soil. Explosive-contaminated soil was remediated with windrow composting, and a closure decision document was approved by the NDEP in August 2000.

Four soil borings were advanced to groundwater, and groundwater samples were taken during additional site characterization activities within the SWMU B20 boundary. Groundwater samples taken from the four borings had trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations of 11 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), 37  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 200  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , and 510  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , all exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . It is the NDEP's determination that the most likely source for concentrations of TCE in groundwater are a result of releases that may have occurred from either Building 101-41 or 101-42 in SWMU I15. The *Final Remedial Investigation Report, Solid Waste Management Unit I15, October 1998* indicated that solvents were used as a cleaning fluid near SWMU I15 based on the history of operations for Buildings 101-41 and 101-42. Because the source of groundwater contamination most likely originated from the buildings within SWMU I15, groundwater investigation and cleanup activities will be handled under SWMU I15. The NDEP considers SWMU I15 open for the investigation of groundwater contamination. The Hawthorne Army Depot should proceed with a work plan to characterize the extent of TCE in groundwater. If you should have any questions or wish to discuss any of these items, please feel free to contact me at (775) 687-9443 or [rdiedrichsen@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:rdiedrichsen@ndep.nv.gov).

Sincerely,

Raquel M.K. Diedrichsen  
Department of Defense Branch  
Bureau of Corrective Actions

cc: Scott Smale, Supervisor, Department of Defense Branch, Bureau of Corrective Actions, NDEP  
Jeff Armstrong, US Army Environmental Center, 5179 Hoadley Road, APG, Maryland 21010  
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