

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Release date: March 10, 2005
Contact: Cindy Petterson, 775/ 687-9395
Email: pio@ndep.nv.gov
Page 1 of 2



KENNY C. GUINN, *Governor*
Allen Biaggi, *Director*
Leo Drozdoff, *Administrator*

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NEWS RELEASE

STATE DIRECTS CLEANUP OF STEAD SOLVENT CONTAMINATION *State-of-the-art remediation system is now extracting trichloroethene (TCE)*

CARSON CITY— The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection announced that the state-of-the-art equipment used to clean up trichloroethene (TCE) solvent contamination in the shallow groundwater at the Stead Solvent Site is now operational. Following extensive investigation into the potential causes of the spill and scientific sampling to determine the type, extent and depth of contamination, a plan was developed including passive and active remediation.

The active remediation system includes a dual phase extraction system to remove TCE through groundwater extraction and soil vapor and groundwater pumping to control migration of the solvent plume. Once extracted, the groundwater is treated with a low-profile air stripper and vapors are treated using carbon filters. The passive system of phyto-remediation is a biological technology that utilizes the natural properties of plants to hydrologically remediate certain contaminants. This system acts as a barrier to plume migration.

“NDEP scientists and engineers are encouraged by the level of understanding of the contamination at this site and the remedial design plan to extract the solvents and control migration of the shallow ground water plume,” NDEP Administrator Leo Drozdoff said. “We’re pleased with the technology of the remediation system that began extracting solvents earlier this month.”

NDEP first became aware of the spill in 1989 following a phase II environmental study involved in a real estate transaction. A detailed and methodical investigation ensued to determine the potential sources of contamination, the boundary of the cleanup and parties responsible for cleanup costs. The Appropriate parties of the Consent Agreement—City of Reno, Airport Authority of Washoe County and the Lear Family Trust—contracted with American Environmental Engineering Consultants to develop a groundwater-monitoring plan.

Groundwater monitoring wells were installed to collect data on the type and extent of contamination. Remediation plans were proposed and a Record of Decision was signed July 21, 2000 to define the remedial action objectives and components. Throughout the characterization process and design and approval of the remediation system, the plume has been stable and NDEP has maintained oversight of results from groundwater monitoring wells.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone: 775/687-4670
Fax: 775/687-5856

STATE DIRECTS CLEANUP OF STEAD SOLVENT SITE (continued)

Release date: March 10, 2005
Contact: Cindy Petterson, 775/ 687-9395
Email: pio@ndep.nv.gov
Page 2 of 2

“This site is very well characterized with data from 86 shallow to deep groundwater monitoring wells and hydro-geologic information on the extent of TCE contamination and potential for migration,” project engineer Art Gravenstein said. “The results of the active and passive systems will be closely monitored and reported during the remediation process.”

The active remediation system is expected to proceed for approximately three years or as long as the system is working effectively. The passive phyto-remediation system and monitoring are ongoing.

For more information on the Stead Solvent cleanup, visit the NDEP corrective actions Web page at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bca/stead05.htm>.

###