Dear Resident:

I am writing to you because you live near an area being investigated by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). You are not at risk, but I want to inform you about our ongoing work and respond to concerns you may have. Cleanup of the environment is part of NDEP’s mission to preserve and enhance the environment of the State in order to protect public health, sustain healthy ecosystems, and contribute to a vibrant economy.

We are investigating how pollutants from property formerly owned by Tronox and Kerr-McGee have affected the Las Vegas Wash and nearby soil and water. NERT — short for the Nevada Environmental Response Trust — now owns the former Tronox/Kerr-McGee property (NERT Site) and is responsible for the investigation.

The investigation covers three main areas:

- The NERT Site.
- Unincorporated parts of Clark County.
- Land in Henderson between the NERT Site and the Las Vegas Wash.

See the back of this packet for a map of these areas.

The main chemical we are concerned about is perchlorate, which was made at the NERT Site before 1998. Perchlorate is used to produce rocket fuel, missiles, fireworks, flares, and explosives. Another chemical of concern is hexavalent chromium, which was also used on the NERT Site.

I have attached a fact sheet that describes the NERT Site and our plan for cleaning it up. We update and distribute these on an annual basis to keep you up-to-date on cleanup status.

I also want to personally thank you if you completed our questionnaires or attended one of our public meetings concerning the NERT Site. My colleagues and I appreciate your input, questions, and concerns. We anticipate scheduling our next community meeting in late 2020 and will send a letter at that time with additional details.

If you have any questions about our investigation or questions not answered in this packet, please contact me at (702) 486-2850 x 235 or jdotchin@ndep.nv.gov. For concerns related to your health, I encourage you to see your health care professional.

Sincerely,

James (JD) Dotchin
Chief Environmental Programs
Bureau of Industrial Site Cleanup
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Learn more about the site

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.

Read about our efforts online:

- www.NERT-Trust.com

For info about other, unrelated cleanups within the Black Mountain Industrial complex:

- https://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
Cleanup Process at the Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT) Site

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manage all cleanup and investigation activities at the NERT Site. The NERT Site is part of the Black Mountain Industrial Complex in Henderson, Nevada. NERT was created in 2011 as part of Tronox Inc.’s bankruptcy. Today, NERT owns the Site and handles efforts to clean up contamination caused by operations before 2011. NERT is only responsible for cleanup and investigation activities associated with the NERT Site. This is consistent with the specifics of the Tronox bankruptcy. Environmental cleanup at nearby properties within the Black Mountain Industrial Complex are also overseen by NDEP, but these are outside the scope of this fact sheet.

Fast Facts:
- Groundwater is not a source of drinking water in Henderson.
- Since 1987, officials have cleaned up much of the contamination at the NERT Site.
- NERT collected nearly 2,000 samples in 2019 to help inform final cleanup efforts.

Cleanup at the NERT Site follows the environmental rules of the EPA. These requirements are part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). It is designed to identify, investigate, and clean up sites to protect the public and the environment. The CERCLA cleanup process is shown in the figure on the right and is summarized below.

Overview — Historical operations at the NERT Site contaminated the soil and underlying groundwater with two primary chemicals. Groundwater is not a source of drinking water in Henderson. Perchlorate — the main contaminant — was historically manufactured at the Site. Perchlorate is often used to produce rocket fuel, missiles, fireworks, flares, and explosives. Hexavalent chromium, another chemical that was used on the Site, is another contaminant of concern. Some of this contamination moved off-site, as far north as the Las Vegas Wash.

NERT is investigating this contamination in an established study area, called the NERT Remedial Investigation Study Area. This study area includes the NERT Site and areas to the north and northeast of the NERT Site (see the map included in this packet).

Removal Actions — NERT cleanup technologies have already significantly cut contamination on and around the NERT Site. These first cleanup actions are not the final remedy, but they did greatly reduce risks at and around the NERT Site (see next page):

CERCLA Clean Up Process

1. Discovery of Contamination/Initial Investigation
2. Removal Actions
3. Remedial Investigation
4. Risk Assessments
5. Feasibility Study
6. Selection of Proposed Remedy and Record of Decision
7. Remedial Design and Action Implementation

NERT has three main goals:
1) Keep additional contamination from leaving the NERT Site. 
2) Address contamination at the NERT Site. 
3) Address contamination that has moved off-site.

1. Discovery of Contamination/Initial Investigation — Historical operations at the NERT Site affected soil and groundwater beneath the property. Wastewater from historical operations also moved northeast of the NERT Site through unlined ditches into unlined disposal ponds. Since then, the NERT Site and surrounding area have been part of many environmental investigations:
- **Late 1970s**: EPA, NDEP, and Clark County examined how the entirety of Black Mountain Industrial operations (i.e. not limited to what NERT is currently investigating) might have affected the environment.
- **Early 1980s**: Officials discovered groundwater contaminated with hexavalent chromium under the NERT Site.
- **1997**: Officials discovered groundwater contaminated with perchlorate near the Las Vegas Wash.

2. Removal Actions — NERT cleanup technologies have already significantly cut contamination on and around the NERT Site. These first cleanup actions are not the final remedy, but they did greatly reduce risks at and around the NERT Site (see next page):
• Since 1987, over 25 tons of hexavalent chromium have been removed from the environment.
• Around 5,700 tons of perchlorate have been removed through active treatment since 1999, which has significantly reduced the amount of contamination entering the Las Vegas Wash.
• From 2010 to 2019, officials removed around 585,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the NERT Site.

As a result, there are no immediate health risks to the public or environment near the NERT Site. The same is true for the nearby Cadence development, which NDEP cleared for safe development in 2015. However, NERT’s actions are not connected to or in any way affect the status of the Cadence development.

3 Remedial Investigation — Remedial Investigation reports due: one in mid-2020 and a second in mid-2021

In late 2014, NERT began a broad environmental study called a Remedial Investigation. The investigation builds on earlier studies and will help NERT understand the extent of the contamination throughout the entire study area as depicted on the attached map. NERT has been installing groundwater monitoring wells, and collecting samples of the soil, soil gas, groundwater, and surface water. Since last year NERT has collected:
• 400 soil samples
• 1,475 groundwater and surface water samples
• 68 soil gas samples

As part of the investigation, NERT has identified areas that need more sampling to help define the extent of contamination, and such efforts are currently in progress. None of these efforts have or will occur on private property, and officials will be careful not to disturb residents in nearby neighborhoods. When the investigation is complete, all information will be published in two Remedial Investigation reports.

4 Risk Assessments — Risk Assessment reports due: in late 2020 and in late 2021

Human health and ecological risk assessments help officials measure health risks to the public and environment. NERT is preparing risk assessments using data from the Remedial Investigation to find the best cleanup solution. The risk assessments will be performed immediately following completion of the Remedial Investigation reports.

5 Feasibility Study — Feasibility Study reports due: Both in late 2022

A Feasibility Study will help NERT find the best tools and technologies for addressing soil and groundwater contamination. In the end, it will help officials propose a final remedy for the NERT study area. Several studies are already underway to evaluate different cleanup approaches. As with the Remedial Investigation reports, two Feasibility Study reports will be prepared for the NERT study area.

6 Selection of Proposed Remedy and Record of Decision — Records of Decision due: Both in late 2023

Following the Feasibility Study, NERT will create reports that explain the proposed remedy. The public will be able to review and comment on these reports. After addressing comments, officials will approve documents that describe the final remedy. Officials call these documents Records of Decision, or RODs. The final remedy will likely address the contamination by combining technologies, monitoring, and administrative actions (e.g., deed restrictions). Two RODs will be prepared for the NERT study area.

7 Remedial Design and Remedial Action Implementation — Design and construction begins: following issuance of RODs

After officials issue the RODs, NERT will put the approved final remedy into action. Depending on the remedy, NERT will make this happen through engineering and design efforts, construction, and administrative actions. The design and construction efforts will begin following issuance of the RODs.

Where can I find more information about the NERT Site?

If you have additional questions, please contact the Community Involvement Coordinator at NDEP:
James (JD) Dotchin
Chief Environmental Programs
Bureau of Industrial Site Cleanup
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
2030 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 230
Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 486-2850 x235
jdotchin@ndep.nv.gov

Where can I find more information about other investigations within the Black Mountain Industrial (BMI) Complex?

NDEP is overseeing additional cleanup programs in other parts of the NERT study area and other areas of Henderson. These programs are being implemented by the Basic Remediation Company, Titanium Metals Corporation, Pioneer Americas, LLC d/b/a Olin Chlor Alkali Products, Stauffer, Montrose, and Endeavour, LLC (PEPCON/AMPAC).

Background information and key documents are available via NDEP’s website at http://ndep nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/site-cleanup-program/active-cleanup-sites/bmi-complex.