

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORDavid Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****November 7, 2012**

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**Construction Complete On Treatment Systems  
For The Grants Chlorinated Solvent Plume**

(Grants, NM)-- The New Mexico Environment Department, along with the EPA, is pleased to announce the construction completion of all infrastructure for the required remediation treatment systems at the Grants Chlorinated Solvent site. The remediation systems are designed to treat the perchloroethylene (PCE) ground water plume that covers the approximately 34 acre site near 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Jefferson Avenue in Grants, New Mexico. PCE is a common solvent used in the dry cleaning industry.

The PCE was discovered in 1994 as part of a leaking underground storage tank investigation. The shallow ground water plume extends approximately 2500 feet to the southeast from the source area and extends to a depth of approximately 100 feet below ground surface. The plume consists of high concentrations of PCE, upwards of 20,000 parts per billion which is 4000 times the drinking water standard.

The \$17.5 million construction project, which includes 90 percent federal funds and 10 percent state matching funds, was completed in September 2012.

The cleanup of the Grants Chlorinated Solvent site consists of three remediation treatment systems:

- 1.) An In-situ Thermal Treatment System was installed to address the highest PCE concentrations in the source area. This system used powerful electrodes to heat the ground to boil and remove vapors from the soil. Those vapors were then captured through a process called soil vapor extraction and treated with carbon filters. The In-situ Thermal Treatment System was operated from November 2011 through June 2012. The system removed approximately 1000 pounds of contamination accounting for 99-percent of the source area contamination. The In-situ Thermal Treatment is

now complete. All electrodes, piping and related components have been subsequently removed from the site.

- 2.) Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Systems were installed at 14 structures (existing homes and apartment buildings) above the ground water plume to address indoor air issues. The Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Systems are designed to block contaminant plume vapors from entering the structures by extracting air from sub slabs or crawl spaces. The installation of all components for the Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Systems is now complete and operational.
- 3.) An In-situ Bioremediation System consisting of 700 nested injection wells was installed to treat the downgradient extent and deeper portions of the ground water plume. Full-scale operations of the bioremediation system began in March 2012 with the injection of 400,000 pounds (~4600 gallons) of biodegradable vegetable oil amendment. The vegetable oil amendment is added to the ground water in order to stimulate the biodegradation of the PCE to nontoxic end products. The initial injection took about six weeks to complete. Additional injections will continue approximately every 24 months until remediation standards are met. Some projections indicate the cleanup may take potentially 15 to 20 years to complete, though the exact timeframe is unknown.

The source of the PCE contamination was linked to a dry cleaning facility in the area. The business has reached a settlement agreement with the EPA.

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