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**Agencies, Governments Mark Completion of System to Clean Up North Railroad
Avenue Plume**

(Santa Fe, NM) – Agencies and governments celebrated the completion today of the construction of a system that will clean up the North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund site in Espanola.

The New Mexico Environment Department, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, began operating the remediation system that will treat groundwater at the site.

“Results at the site show the cleanup is working – we are gratified that the process will restore the water to a usable condition for residents and improve the local environment,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary. “The cooperation between the department, EPA, the City of Espanola and the Pueblo of Santa Clara was key to the successful construction of the remediation system.”

The construction of the system began two years ago. The cleanup is estimated to take up to 30 years but could be completed much sooner. The department began full-scale operations at the site in May 2008 with the initial injection and recirculation of 2,200 gallons of biodegradable vegetable oil amendment in the PCE plume. The vegetable oil amendment is added to groundwater to stimulate the biodegradation of the PCE to nontoxic end products. The system will remediate the perchloroethylene (PCE) contaminated groundwater plume, which is three-fourths of a mile long by 260-feet deep.

The plume, first discovered beneath the former Norgetown Laundry and Dry Cleaners at 113 N. Railroad Ave. in 1989, contaminated at least 280 million gallons of groundwater. PCE is a common solvent used at the former dry cleaning business. The contamination also forced the shutdown of two city supply wells. The \$4.7 million construction project, which includes 90 percent federal and 10 percent state matching grants, consists of two bioremediation systems. Those systems will use in-situ bioremediation to destroy PCE contaminants in the high concentration hotspot area and deep zone aquifers. A third in-situ bioremediation system was installed to prevent the continued migration of PCE in the downgradient area of the plume and prevent contamination from impacting the Rio Grande.

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