

PUBLIC NOTICE



U.S. EPA Region 6

Grants Chlorinated Solvent Plume Superfund Site Third Five Year Review April 2024

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) completed the Third Five-Year Review of the remedy for the Grants Chlorinated Solvent Plume Superfund Site (GCSP) located in Grants, Cibola County, New Mexico. The review is required by law under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to assure that human health and the environment are being protected by the cleanup actions taken at the Site.

The GCSP Site consists of an approximately 30-acre soil and groundwater contamination plume containing chlorinated solvents (perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE)) at concentrations greater than EPA Drinking Water Standards. The presence of chlorinated solvents in groundwater at the Site is a result of past releases from historic dry cleaning operations.

The cleanup remedies at the site include: 1) destruction of contaminants in soil using extreme heat at the high concentration source area in a process called in-situ thermal treatment, which is now completed, 2) ongoing injections of emulsified vegetable oil with nutrients mixed with water into groundwater, a process called in-situ enhanced bioremediation, to breakdown groundwater contaminants, and 3) the completed installation of vapor intrusion mitigation systems (VIMS) at 15 buildings to prevent Superfund Site related contamination into indoor air.

Summary of Five-Year Review Findings

Groundwater monitoring indicates that by 2022, the dissolved-phase contaminant mass has decreased by approximately 86% since the beginning of remedial activities. For the Third Five-Year review, the remedy is protective in the short term. The remedy currently protects human health and the environment because

there is no known exposure to contaminated groundwater. Permitting and drilling of new wells within the affected groundwater contamination area is prohibited. There are no known contaminant vapors present in indoor air at concentrations above EPA's health-based screening levels. Previous vapor intrusion remedial actions continue to be protective for those homes where VIMS have been installed.

For the remedy to be protective in the long-term, periodic testing of soil gas and indoor air quality is needed to verify that future intrusion of contaminant vapors into homes does not arise with changing conditions. Additional groundwater monitoring wells are needed to delineate edges of the contaminant plume. If needed, focused in-situ enhanced bioremediation injections should be applied to prevent groundwater contaminant plume migration and to complete aquifer restoration.

The Third Five-Year Review report provides a detailed description of the review findings. This report, as well as other Site information, will be available to the public on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/grants-chlorinated-solvents>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Third Five-Year Review report, as well as other Site information, will also be available to the public at the Grants Chlorinated Solvent Plume Site's information repositories:

New Mexico State University, Grants Campus Library

1500 Third Street
Grants, NM 87020

New Mexico Environment Department

Ground Water Quality Bureau
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N2300
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If you have any questions, please contact:

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