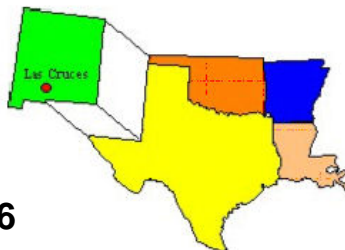


**Griggs & Walnut Ground Water
Plume Site
(Dona Ana County)
New Mexico**

**EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT 02**



**Contact:
Petra Sanchez 214-665-6686**

**EPA ID# NMD0002271286
Site ID: 0605116**

Updated: December 2009

Current Status

- EPA issued a “friendly Unilateral Order to the City and County to begin the remedial design for the ground water cleanup on October 19, 2009. Other actions include developing and finalizing a Consent Decree for remedial action of the remedy. The city and county continue working cooperatively from their end in maintaining a clean and compliant water supply system. An expedited process for completing the design and negotiating the remedial action is concurrently underway. Our collective goal is to expedite negotiations so that the remedy can begin as soon as possible in 2010.
- EPA continues to pursue other Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) concurrently as it works towards finalizing a Unilateral Order and Statement of Work to discuss with the City and County representatives. On May 21, 2009, EPA mailed a General Notice Letter to the New Mexico Army National Guard notifying them that they are PRPs and requesting their participation in the cleanup process at the site with the City of Las Cruces and Dona County.
- EPA and the City and County (PRPs) met in August 2008 to discuss the documents and current site status. Collective efforts are being made to expedite negotiations and complete necessary actions so that the remedial design activities can be completed before the end of the calendar year and remedial actions can begin in late 2010.
- The Joint Superfund Project (JSP), comprising of the City and County are continuing to maintain water supply demand that meets the drinking water standards. The JSP is also maintaining control of the plume through hydraulic control, based on information obtained from their ground water model. The ground water model has been a useful tool toward strategically maintaining plume control and water supply.
- A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by EPA on June 19, 2007. A concurrence letter was signed by the Secretary of Environment was received on the ROD on May 29, 2007. The City and County provided concurrence letters on the proposed remedy on January 22, 2007. EPA will enter into informal discussions with the City and State regarding the remedy and next steps and collectively prepare for final negotiations on the remedy design and implementation tentatively scheduled for late summer 2007. Discussions will also include NMED and the Department of Justice.
- The Proposed Plan identifying the site remedy was released for public review and comment on December 4, 2006. The comment period closed on Jan 5, 2007.
- EPA, through collaboration with the City of Las Cruces, and Dona Ana County, and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) hosted a public meeting on December 7, 2006, to discuss the alternative options for the Site identified in the Proposed Plan, along with EPAs preferred alternative. A community factsheet was mailed to the community on November 16th and a newspaper notification was printed in the local newspapers prior to the public meeting,

scheduled for December 7th, notifying the public about the upcoming meeting and comment period. The public meeting was held at Sierra Middle School, located on Spruce Avenue.

- The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) documents were finalized in November 2006 and will also be made available at the Site repositories during the public comment period. The local repository is located at Branigan Library, located on Picacho Avenue, the State repository is located at the NMED Santa Fe office, and on the 12th floor at the EPA office in Dallas, Texas.

Benefits

- The affected ground water is contaminated with PCE. The affected area lies in the vicinity of Griggs Avenue and Walnut Street and affects the municipal water supply. As a result of sampling detections, the City of Las Cruces (City) maintains a sampling program, in addition to sampling required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The City also enacted a blending program in order to meet the Drinking Water Standards for PCE.
- There are currently no issues associated with the site hindering re-use or on-site construction. Residential and recreational facilities located on-site are also safe and unrestricted.

Population Protected and Volume of Contaminated Media

The population for Las Cruces, NM was estimated at 91,865 as of July 1, 2008 according to US Census Bureau, Population Division. 2009-07-01.

The total mass of PCE estimated to be affecting ground water is between 110 and 160 kilograms or between 242 and 357 pounds. The estimated volume is between 1,928 and 2,892 acre-feet (or 6.82 to 9.42 billion gallons.) The approximate volume of ground water with PCE concentrations greater than 5 micrograms that will be remediated is estimated to be between 735 and 1,102 acre-feet or (2.39 to 3.59 billion gallons.)

National Priorities List (NPL) History

Site Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Score: 50
Proposed Date: January 11, 2001
Final Date: June 14, 2001

Location: The Site is located within the City, in an area approximately 2,500 feet by 4,000 feet. The effected wells range from 576 feet to 730 feet deep. The depth to water in the effected wells ranges from 102 to 250 feet.

The center of the Site was taken to be the latitude, halfway between the northern and southern most wells and longitude halfway between the eastern and western most wells. The coordinates of the site are 32 degrees, 19 minutes, 08 seconds latitude and 106 degrees, 45 minutes and 16 seconds longitude.

The current boundary was defined by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) using ground-water samples from four municipal supply wells, 16 monitoring wells, and one private well, all meeting observed release criteria. The SDWA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is exceeded in one municipal supply well and 14 monitor wells. The exact extent of the plume has not yet been defined but is estimated to be 1.5 miles by 1.5 miles and lies within the central district of the City. The plume extends vertically from the water table to the depth of the water supply wells. To date, only the dissolved-

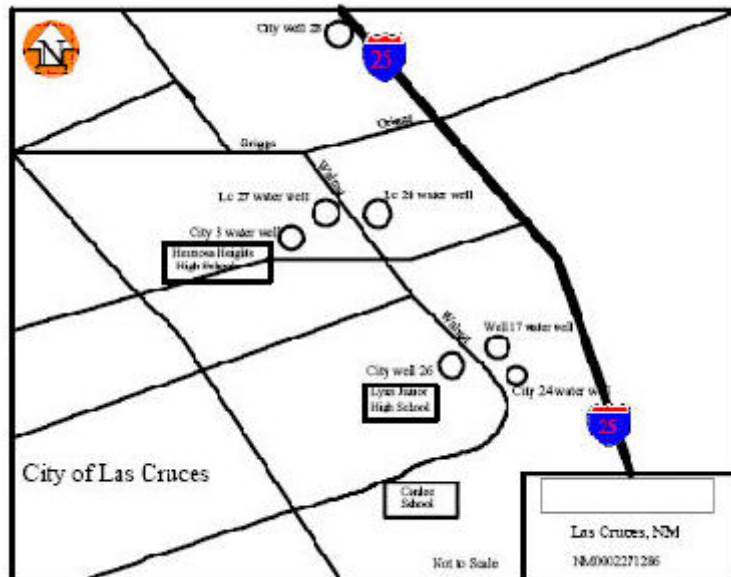
phase of the contaminant has been detected. No non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPLs) have been found. Dissolved PCE was detected both up-gradient and down-gradient from the affected municipal supply wells. The City supplies water to the community from 28 wells.

Population: The population of Las Cruces is approximately 83,000 individuals.

Setting: The City municipal water supply utilizes a total of 28 wells to provide drinking water to approximately 83,000 residents in the community. The City's water supply wells are completely within the Santa Fe Group aquifer. The Santa Fe Group aquifer is a sole source aquifer for the region and produces most of the ground water used in metropolitan and industrial centers, as well as a significant proportion of the ground water used to supplement surface irrigation supplies. The Griggs and Walnut Plume (GWP) is centered near the intersection of Griggs Avenue and Walnut Street. Four municipal drinking water supply wells are currently impacted at the Site, although only one, Well No. 18 (out of service since 1996), has demonstrated concentrations of PCE above the MCL.

Principal Pollutants: Perchloroethylene, commonly referred to as PCE or perc.

Site Map



Human Health and Ecological Considerations

A risk assessment has been completed for the site and determined PCE could pose a current or future risk to human health in the absence of any remedial action, should ground water be ingested.

Record of Decision

A Record of Decision will be issued following completion of the RI/FS.

Site Contacts

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