

Fact Sheet

Nevada Environmental Response Trust Site

November 2018

HENDERSON, NEVADA

Una versión en español de este documento también está disponible en el sitio web www.NERT-Trust.com o al contactar a James Dotchin (JD) por teléfono (702-486-2850 x 235) o por correo electrónico (jdotchin@ndep.nv.gov).

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.

Cleanup efforts at the NERT Site follow 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.

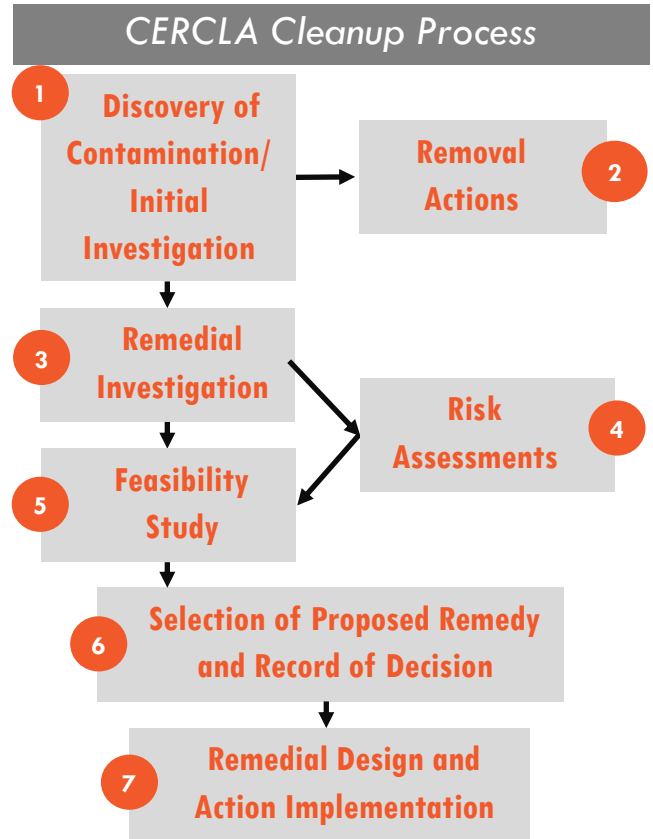
Overview — Historical operations at the NERT Site contaminated the soil and underlying groundwater with chemicals. Groundwater in Henderson is not a source of public drinking water (see the FAQ document in this packet). Perchlorate — the main contaminant — was historically manufactured at the site. Perchlorate is often used to produce rocket fuel, missiles, fireworks, flares, and explosives. Hexavalent chromium, which was also 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 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 site (See the map included in this packet). NERT has three main goals:

1. Keep contamination from leaving the NERT Site
2. Address contamination at the NERT Site
3. Address contamination that has previously moved off-site

1 Discovery of Contamination/Initial Investigation —

Historical operations at the NERT Site made a chemical called perchlorate. Perchlorate is often used in rocket fuel. These operations affected soil and groundwater beneath the property. Wastewater from the industrial operations moved northeast of the 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 Black Mountain Industrial operations might have affected the environment.
- **Early 1980s:** Officials discovered groundwater contaminated with hexavalent chromium.
- **1997:** Contamination from the NERT Site was first discovered near the Las Vegas Wash.

2 Removal Actions — Since the early 1980s, contamination on and around the site has been significantly reduced. Treatment of hexavalent chromium began in mid-1987, continues today and has eliminated over 23 tons of chromium from the environment. Treatment of perchlorate has occurred regularly since 1999, resulting in the removal from the environment of around 4,900 tons of perchlorate and significantly reduced the amount of contamination entering the Las Vegas Wash. During 2010 and 2011, officials removed around 568,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the NERT Site. Outside of the NERT Site, other responsible parties have removed large amounts of soil after extensive soil sampling.

These first removal actions are not the final remedy, but they did greatly reduce risks at and around the 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 Cadence development, which NDEP cleared for safe development.

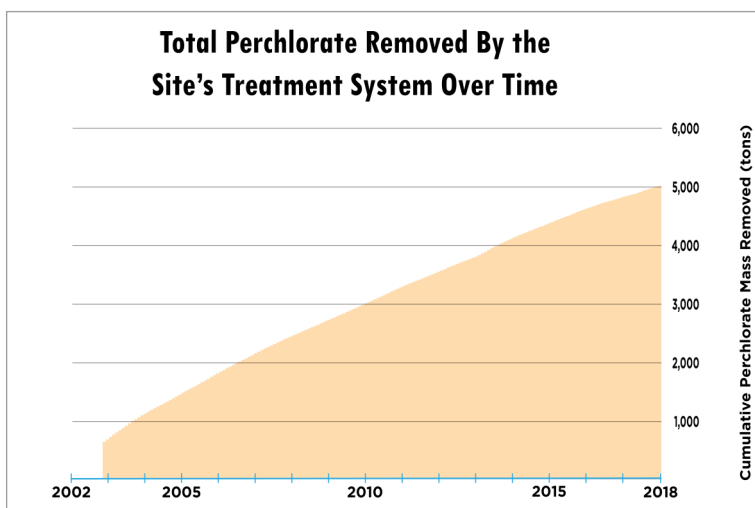
3 Remedial Investigation — In late 2014, NERT began a broad environmental study, called a Remedial Investigation. The investigation builds on earlier studies and will give NERT an understanding of the extent of the contamination. NERT has been drilling below the ground, installing groundwater wells, and collecting samples of the soil, groundwater, and surface water. None of these efforts will occur on private property, and officials will be careful not to disturb residents in nearby neighborhoods. When the investigation is over, all information will be published in Remedial Investigation reports which are scheduled for submittal in early 2019 and another in mid-2020.

4 Risk Assessments — 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 investigations to find the best cleanup solution. The risk assessments will be performed immediately following completion of the Remedial Investigation reports and are scheduled for submittal in mid-2019 and late 2020.

5 Feasibility Study — 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 treatability and pilot studies are already underway. As with the Remedial Investigation reports, two Feasibility Study reports will be prepared for the NERT study area and will be submitted in early 2021 and late 2021.

6 Selection of Proposed Remedy and Record of Decision — 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 and are scheduled for completion in 2022.

7 Remedial Design and Remedial Action Implementation — 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 final remedy is scheduled to start in late 2024.



Where can I find more information about the NERT Site?

A summary of important information and milestone documents can be found at www.NERT-Trust.com and <http://ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/site-cleanup-program/active-cleanup-sites/bmi-complex/nevada-environmental-response-trust-nert>.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Community Involvement Coordinator at NDEP:

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

NDEP is overseeing additional remedial programs 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) within portions of the NERT RI Study Area and other areas of Henderson.

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>.