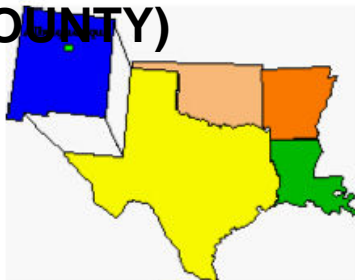


# FRUIT AVENUE PLUME (BERNALILLO COUNTY) NEW MEXICO

**EPA REGION 6**  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 01

EPA ID# NMD986668911  
Site ID: 0604068



Contact:  
Bart Cañellas 214-665-6662

Updated: May 2009

## Current Status

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- The construction of the Air Stripper Treatment Plant (ASTP) was completed in 2004. Operation of the ASTP started in January 2005. The system operates on a full-time basis. The influent concentrations of TCE are about 15 ppb; TCE has not been detected in effluent samples.
- On January 28, 2005, EPA held a ceremony at the site with the startup of the pump and treat system. Attendees included the Congresswoman Heather Wilson, Mayor Chavez of the City of Albuquerque, Ron Curry, Secretary of State, Sam Coleman, Director of EPA Superfund Division and various local and State dignitaries.
- The EPA signed on September 18, 2006, an Explanation of Significant Differences to the original remedy. A fact sheet was issued in August 2006 explaining the details and an open house was conducted on August 31, 2006 in Albuquerque. A Preliminary Close Out Report was signed on December 5, 2006.
- The first 2009 semi annual ground water sampling event was conducted in April 2009.

## Benefits

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Remediation of the contaminated media will reduce the health and ecological risk associated with the contaminants.

Although only the sub-surface earth material and ground water are contaminated with TCE and PCE, the total land value will rise and the cleanup will encourage future business investments in the downtown Albuquerque business district.

## National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

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Proposal Date: July 22, 1999  
Final Date: October 23, 1999

Location: The Fruit Avenue Plume Site is located within the city limits of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Central New Mexico.

Population: 187,327 people receive their drinking water from wells within a four-mile radius of the source site. Within one mile of the site, the total population is approximately 6,000, a large percentage of which are workers, not full-time residents. There are two hospitals and two City of Albuquerque municipal wells located 1 to 1 3/4 miles from the source site.

Setting: The contamination is contained in an aquifer underlying a portion of downtown Albuquerque, predominantly in the central business district.  
The suspected primary source of the Trichloroethane (TCE) is a defunct dry cleaning facility, Elite Cleaners, which operated from approximately 1940-1970. The estimated size of the plume is 2/3 mile long, 550 to 1300 feet wide, and at least 544 feet deep.

## Principal Pollutants:

The primary contaminant of concern is TCE, a chlorinated solvent, found at levels up to 90 micrograms per liter (ug/L) in the ground water. The maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) that is allowed under the Safe Drinking Water Act is 5 ug/L. Tetrachloethene (PCE), cis-1, 2-Dichloroethene (cis-DCE), and trans-1, 2-Dichloroethene (trans-DCE) are also found in some areas of the ground water plume, but these contaminants are below their respective MCLs.

Chlorinated solvents are heavier than water and readily sink in ground water. An exact or calculated volume of the chlorinated solvent (TCE) released into the ground water at the former site of Elite Cleaners is unknown at this time. However, very small amounts of these chemicals can contaminate large volumes of soil and ground water.

The area of contamination consists only of the subsurface soils and ground water. Therefore, the ground surface conditions are safe for people who live, work, and visit the area in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

## Health Considerations

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There is a potential for elevated health/ecological risk levels associated with two types of chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds, TCE and PCE, involved in dry cleaning spot removal and machine shop/industrial equipment degreasing activities.

TCE and PCE are the leading concerns at this site because they are known carcinogens recognized by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- The Coca-Cola production well had to be removed from service in 1989 when TCE levels exceeded the MCL of 5.0 ug/L.
- The St. Joseph Hospital well was removed from service in December 1996 when TCE levels approached the MCL. In 1997, this well exceeded the MCL for TCE.
- The Presbyterian Hospital well showed levels of TCE below MCL in 1999.
- The City of Albuquerque municipal well Yale 1, exhibited trace levels of TCE and PCE in 1999. It is unknown whether the contamination source of Yale 1 is from the Site; however, Yale 1 well is located down gradient of the Site.

## Record of Decision (ROD)

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**Record of Decision Signed: September 27, 2001**

**Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD): September 18, 2006**

The major components of the Selected Remedy, as modified by the ESD, Shallow, Intermediate, and Deep Zone Restoration through Pump and Treat Technology with a Re-injection Component, consists of:

- Extraction and treatment of contaminated shallow, intermediate, and deep zone ground water by using a pump and treat system consisting of air stripping and granulated activated carbon, and by re-injecting a portion of the treated water,
- Implementation of ground water use restrictions until remediation goals for ground water are met, and
- Ground water monitoring (semiannual, annual, biannual) to assess the extent of contamination and risks to human health.

## Site Contacts

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