

**McGaffey & Main Ground Water Plume Superfund Site
Roswell, New Mexico
Chaves County**

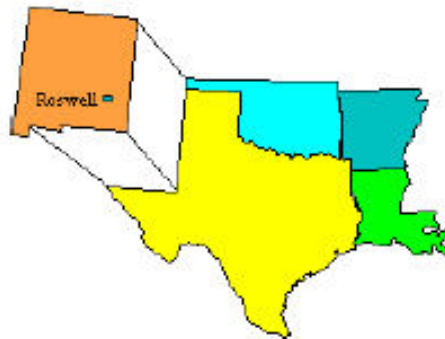
**EPA Region 6
Congressional District 2**

EPA ID# NM0000605386

Site ID: 0605386

Contact: Michael Torres 214-665-2108

Updated: March 2009



Current Status

- EPA completed and finalized the Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS) portions of the project that started in early 2002. The final reports were released to the public in September 2008.
- EPA would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all the residents, property owners, business operators, City and County officials and other stakeholders who were helpful and cooperative during the RI activities.
- The RI activities indicated that there are some public health risks that need to be addressed as a result of the soil, soil vapor, and ground water contamination present at the McGaffey & Main Ground Water Plume Superfund Site. The site is contaminated with mostly perchloroethylene, a hazardous chemical commonly used in the dry cleaning industry.
- EPA held an Open House Public Meeting at the Roswell Adult Center on November 29, 2007 to report on the RI and risk assessment findings.
- EPA released the final Proposed Plan to identify the preferred remedial action alternative to address the contamination at the site and solicit public review and comment on the remedial action alternatives and supporting analysis, at a Public Meeting held on May 29, 2008.
- EPA completed the public review and comments on the information contained in the Administrative Record File. The Public Comment Period began on May 23, 2008 and ended on June 22, 2008.
- The Record of Decision (ROD), which documents the preferred selected remedy, was issued on September 30, 2008. The ROD is contained in the Administrative Record File; it is available at the Roswell Public Library and the New Mexico Environment Department in Santa Fe, NM.

Benefits

- Remediation of the source area and site ground water will reduce the health risk associated with the perchloroethylene contaminants by protecting the public water supply wells and private residential wells from impacts from the site contaminants.

National Priorities List (NPL) Site History

- NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: September 13, 2001
- NPL Inclusion Final Date: October 24, 2002
- NPL Deletion Proposal Date: n/a
- NPL Final Deletion Date: n/a

- The McGaffey and Main Ground Water Plume Superfund Site (Site) is located within the city limits of Roswell, Chaves County, in southeastern New Mexico. The City of Roswell is home to about 45,000 residents, and is the county seat for Chaves County, which has a population of approximately 65,000.

- The contamination is primarily found in a shallow alluvial aquifer underlying a mixed commercial/retail and residential section of the City of Roswell, about two miles south of the central business district. The site consists of perchloroethene (PCE) contamination that has been identified as a ground water plume that extended about 1.5-miles in a southeasterly direction from the intersection of South Main Street and McGaffey Street.

- The suspected source of the PCE release is a series of defunct dry cleaning facilities, which operated from approximately 1956-1963. The precise extent of the plume has not yet been identified.

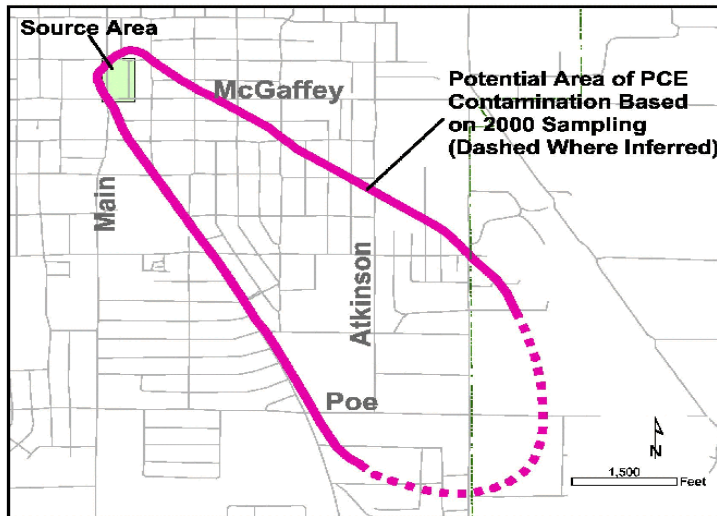
- The City of Roswell municipal supply system is composed of 20 municipal supply wells. The system serves a population of approximately 48,000 individuals. Approximately 9,600 individuals receive their drinking water from five City of Roswell municipal wells located within four miles of the site.

- The primary contaminant of concern is PCE, a chlorinated solvent. PCE has been found at levels up to 19,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) in the ground water. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) or Federal Drinking Water Standard that is allowed under the Safe Drinking Water Act is 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

- Chlorinated solvents are heavier than water and readily sink in ground water. An exact or calculated volume of PCE released into the ground water at the former site of several dry cleaners is unknown at this time. However, very small amounts of these chemicals can contaminate large volumes of soil and ground water.

- The primary media affected by PCE contamination is the ground water, although residual contamination is still found in the deep soils. Because the contamination is found only in the subsurface, it is safe for people to live, work, and visit the area in the immediate vicinity of the former dry-cleaning facilities.

- The 2001 City of Roswell Annual Drinking Water Quality Report states that the municipal drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements, which means that the city water is safe to drink. Recent site data also indicate that contamination from the Site is not affecting the City water supply, and will not do so in the near future.



Human Health and Ecological Considerations

- There are health risk levels associated with chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds like PCE and some of the breakdown products of that compound. PCE is the leading concern at this site because it is a probable human carcinogen, and because it has been found at concentrations that are above the safe levels for indoor air from vapor intrusion and drinking water standards in some wells.
- Thirteen of the 16 domestic ground water and irrigation wells downgradient of the site sampled in April through September 2000, contained PCE, some at concentrations higher than the Maximum Contamination Limit (MCL) of 5.0 µg/L. (These wells are not the sole source of water for these residences.)
- Three residences in the vicinity of the site whose sole sources of water (including drinking) were found to be contaminated with PCE above the MCL were connected to the city of Roswell municipal water system in 1995.

Record of Decision

Record of Decision: This document was issued on September 30, 2008.

Site Contacts

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