

# Fact Sheet

## Nevada Environmental Response Trust Site

December 2019

HENDERSON, NEVADA

Una versión en español de este documento también está disponible en el sitio web [www.NERT-Trust.com](http://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](mailto: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. NERT is only responsible for cleanup and investigation activities associated with the NERT Site. This is consistent with the specifics of the Tronox bankruptcy. Environmental cleanup at nearby properties within the Black Mountain Industrial Complex are also overseen by NDEP, but these are outside the scope of this fact sheet.

#### Fast Facts:

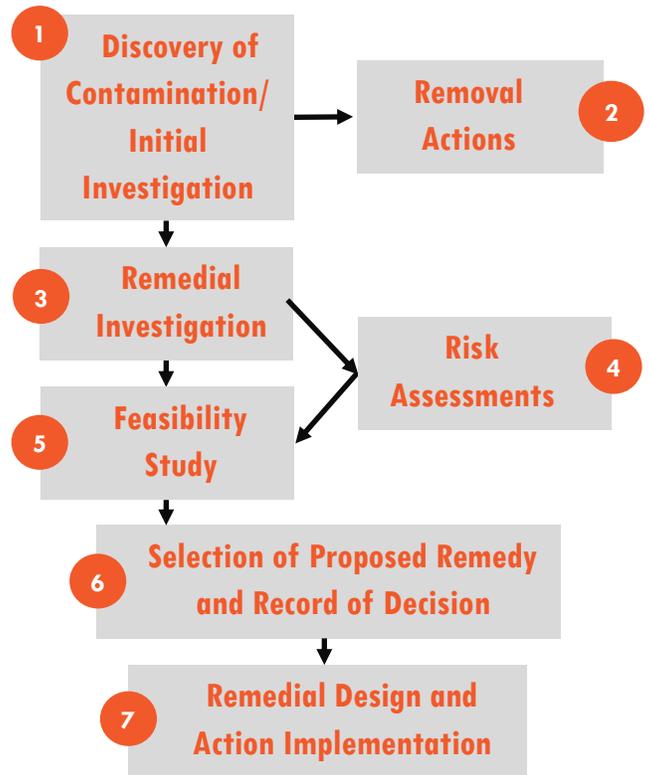
- Groundwater is not a source of drinking water in Henderson.
- Since 1987, officials have cleaned up much of the contamination at the NERT Site.
- NERT collected nearly 2,000 samples in 2019 to help inform final cleanup efforts.

Cleanup at the NERT Site follows 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 two primary chemicals. Groundwater is not a source of drinking water in Henderson. 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, another chemical that was 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 this 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 NERT Site (see the map included in this packet).

### CERCLA Clean Up Process



NERT has three main goals:

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

#### 1 Discovery of Contamination/Initial Investigation —

Historical operations at the NERT Site affected soil and groundwater beneath the property. Wastewater from historical operations also moved northeast of the NERT 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 the entirety of Black Mountain Industrial operations (i.e. not limited to what NERT is currently investigating) might have affected the environment.
- **Early 1980s:** Officials discovered groundwater contaminated with hexavalent chromium under the NERT Site.
- **1997:** Officials discovered groundwater contaminated with perchlorate near the Las Vegas Wash.

**2 Removal Actions** — NERT cleanup technologies have already significantly cut contamination on and around the NERT Site. These first cleanup actions are not the final remedy, but they did greatly reduce risks at and around the NERT Site (*see next page*):

- Since 1987, over 25 tons of hexavalent chromium have been removed from the environment.
- Around 5,700 tons of perchlorate have been removed through active treatment since 1999, which has significantly reduced the amount of contamination entering the Las Vegas Wash.
- From 2010 to 2019, officials removed around 585,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the NERT 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 nearby Cadence development, which NDEP cleared for safe development in 2015. However, NERT's actions are not connected to or in any way affect the status of the Cadence development.

**3 Remedial Investigation** — Remedial Investigation reports due: one in mid-2020 and a second in mid-2021

In late 2014, NERT began a broad environmental study called a Remedial Investigation. The investigation builds on earlier studies and will help NERT understand the extent of the contamination throughout the entire study area as depicted on the attached map. NERT has been installing groundwater monitoring wells, and collecting samples of the soil, soil gas, groundwater, and surface water.

Since last year NERT has collected:

- 400 soil samples
- 1,475 groundwater and surface water samples
- 68 soil gas samples

As part of the investigation, NERT has identified areas that need more sampling to help define the extent of contamination, and such efforts are currently in progress. None of these efforts have or will occur on private property, and officials will be careful not to disturb residents in nearby neighborhoods. When the investigation is complete, all information will be published in two Remedial Investigation reports.

**4 Risk Assessments** — Risk Assessment reports due: in late 2020 and in late 2021

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 Remedial Investigation to find the best cleanup solution. The risk assessments will be performed immediately following completion of the Remedial Investigation reports.

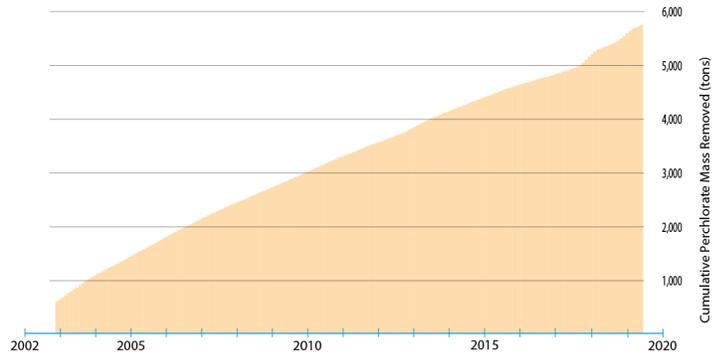
**Where can I find more information about the NERT Site?**

A summary of important information and milestone documents can be found at [www.NERT-Trust.com](http://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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**Total Perchlorate Removed By the Site's Treatment System Over Time**



**5 Feasibility Study** — Feasibility Study reports due: Both in late 2022

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 studies are already underway to evaluate different cleanup approaches. As with the Remedial Investigation reports, two Feasibility Study reports will be prepared for the NERT study area.

**6 Selection of Proposed Remedy and Record of Decision** — Records of Decision due: Both in late 2023

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.

**7 Remedial Design and Remedial Action Implementation** — Design and construction begins: following issuance of RODs

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 design and construction efforts will begin following issuance of the RODs.

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

NDEP is overseeing additional cleanup programs in other parts of the NERT study area and other areas of Henderson. These programs are being 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).

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>.

# Nevada Environmental Response Trust (NERT) Remedial Investigation (RI) Study Area 2019 Fact Sheet Distribution Area

