



# EPA

# NORTH INDIAN BEND WASH SUPERFUND SITE

United States Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • May 2005

## GROUNDWATER CLEANUP CONTINUES -- EPA'S POSITION REGARDING AIR EMISSIONS CONTROLS

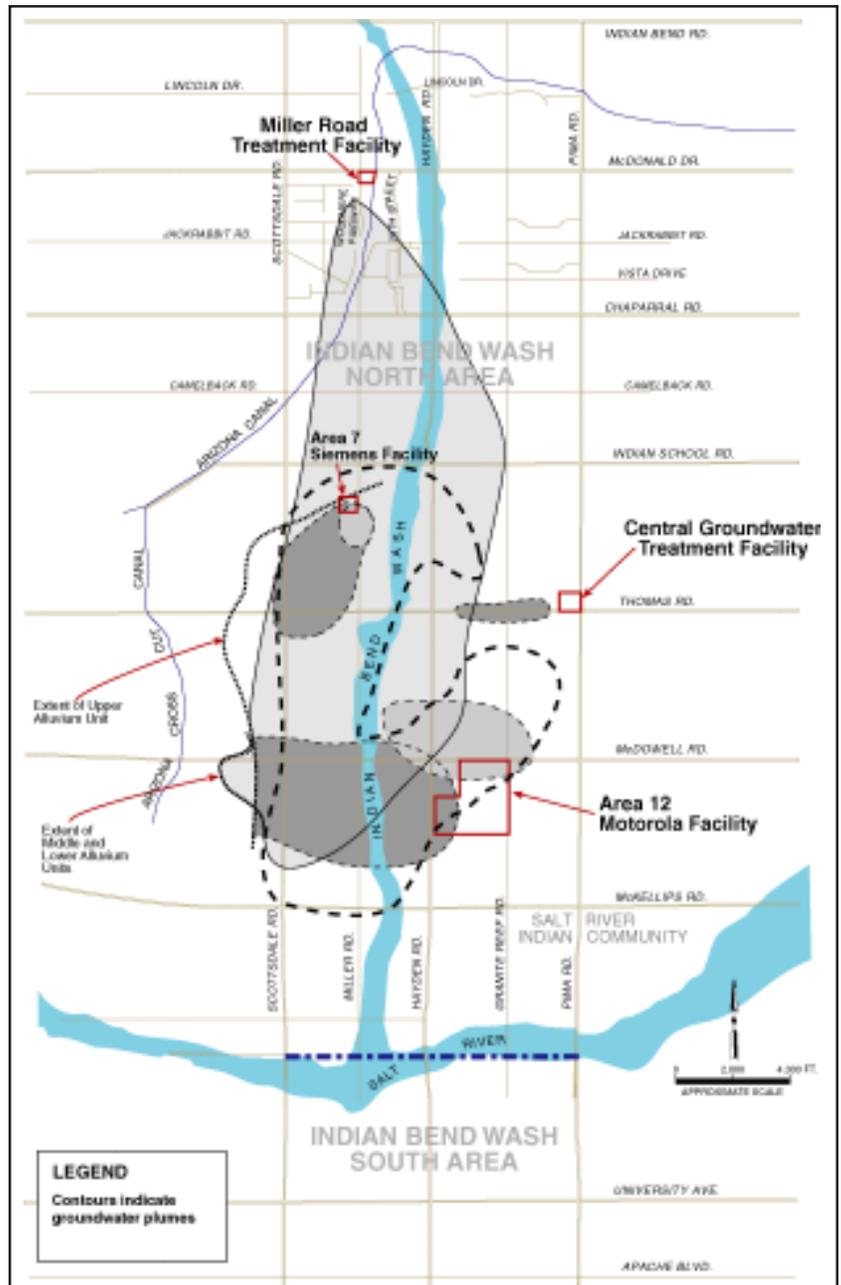
This fact sheet was produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update the community on the cleanup of the North Indian Bend Wash (NIBW) Superfund Site in Scottsdale, Arizona. The main activities taking place at the NIBW site involve containing the groundwater plume that is contaminated primarily with trichloroethylene (TCE) so it does not spread and cleaning the water (through "pump and treat" methods) so the treated water meets required standards. These activities have been proceeding successfully for many years. The pump and treat systems being used have included controls on air emissions at the four treatment plants. These controls use carbon filtration to remove contaminants from the air as it leaves the air stripper. Motorola raised the question as to whether the use of carbon units was still warranted for some facilities. Motorola, EPA, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the City of Scottsdale have been engaged in discussion on this issue as an informal dispute under the Consent Decree (CD). An EPA Risk Assessment on air emissions at NIBW groundwater treatment facilities was completed this year to provide more site-specific information. It is EPA's position that the air emissions controls should remain in place for the time being. EPA has agreed to reexamine this issue in 2007.

### Community Involvement

#### Community Involvement Group (CIG) Meeting

**Thursday, June 2, 2005  
5:30 p.m.**

**Scottsdale Center for the Arts  
(2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room)  
7384 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**



North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site

## Background

The Indian Bend Wash site includes two study areas—North Indian Bend Wash (NIBW) in Scottsdale and South Indian Bend Wash (SIBW) in Tempe (see map). This fact sheet focuses on NIBW only. More information on SIBW can be found at the site repository located at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 South Rural Road.

There are numerous industrial facilities located in the NIBW area. Up until the 1970s, before current environmental regulations existed, industrial solvents containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were typically disposed of directly into the ground or in dry wells. These disposal practices, along with other releases, resulted in the present environmental conditions at NIBW. The groundwater contamination at NIBW was discovered in 1981 when elevated levels of primarily trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) were found in several Scottsdale-area drinking water wells. As a result, local water providers stopped using those wells for drinking water. Since the contamination was discovered, EPA, ADEQ, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the City of Scottsdale and other participating parties have been conducting studies to understand the extent of the problem and how to best clean it up. The potentially responsible parties (PRPs) who have worked closely with the agencies on site investigation and cleanup, are Motorola, Inc., Siemens Corp. and Smith-Kline Beecham.

Several Records of Decision (RODs) have set the requirements for controlling and cleaning up various areas of the site. These RODs were signed following public input on the proposed remedies. To implement the RODs, legally-binding Consent Decrees (CDs) between EPA and the PRPs were put in place establishing the required actions that must be taken and cleanup levels that must be reached at the site.

A great deal of cleanup of both soils and groundwater has occurred since the problem was discovered. Cleanup of groundwater continues at four treatment facilities: the Central Groundwater Treatment Facility (CGTF); the Area 12 Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System; the Miller Road Treatment Facility (MRTF); and the Area 7 Groundwater Extraction and Treatment Facility.

## Group (CIG) Meeting

A number of concerned residents have been meeting for several years to get site updates and give input into the cleanup process. The next CIG meeting on June 2 (see details front page) will focus specifically on the air emissions issue and EPA's Human Health Risk Assessment for Air Emissions at Groundwater Treatment Facilities, March 2005. You are invited to attend this meeting and all future CIG meetings (give us your email address and we'll keep you posted on future meetings...see contact list at the end of this fact sheet).

## The Air Emissions Issue

EPA establishes standards for operating treatment systems from one of two ways: either by relying on existing environmental laws or establishing a site-specific standard based on risk. In the case of NIBW, there are no state or local standards which apply specifically to these types of cleanup systems.

EPA has a separate legal agreement (a CD) with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) which specifically requires operation of the air emission controls for the Central Groundwater Treatment Facility (CGTF) until 2007, at which time the need for such controls will be reevaluated. Additionally, EPA directed the PRPs to include a requirement in the Operations & Maintenance Plan for the Miller Road Treatment Facility (MRTF), Area 7 and Area 12 treatment plants to continue to operate air emissions control equipment. In response, Motorola initiated an informal dispute in February 2004. A dispute resolution is a process that parties to a CD must follow if they disagree on what is required.

## EPA's Human Health Risk Assessment

EPA conducted a Risk Assessment to aid in determining whether removal of the carbon units at this point in time would create an unacceptable risk to the public. The risk assessment estimated emissions from the air stripper based on current groundwater levels of TCE and other factors.

EPA also recently conducted air sampling at the facilities. EPA is recommending further investigation in the vicinities of Area 7 and Area 12 to evaluate TCE discovered in those areas during air testing.

As with the agreement to reevaluate the need for carbon treatment on the CGTF in 2007, EPA has also agreed to reevaluate the need for carbon at the other three plants at the same time

Based on both the risk assessment and air sampling, EPA does not believe it is appropriate to remove the carbon units at this time.

# INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Administrative Record (AR) is made up of all documents upon which EPA relies to make decisions about site cleanup. The AR for the NIBW site, including copies of Consent Decrees and the 2005 Risk Assessment, is available at the following locations:

**Scottsdale Civic Center Library (S.W. Room)**  
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
(480) 312-2320

Hours: Mon – Thurs, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Fri & Sat, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Superfund Records Center**  
95 Hawthorne St., Suite 403S  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000

Hours: Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on the NIBW mailing list and would like to be, please fill out the coupon below and return to:

**Vicki Rosen, Community Involvement Coordinator**  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\*PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\*ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Optional items)

You may also provide the above information via e-mail to: [rosen.vicki@epa.gov](mailto:rosen.vicki@epa.gov)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or concerns regarding the NIBW site or would like to be added to the site mailing list, please contact:

**Vicki Rosen**

Community Involvement  
Coordinator (SFD-3)  
(415) 972-3244  
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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You may also reach Vicki or Matt on EPA's toll-free line: (800) 231-3075.  
Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

For additional information on either of the Indian Bend Wash sites (North and South),  
please see the EPA Region 9 website: [www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund)

