



EPA

APACHE POWDER SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco, CA 94105

St. David, Arizona

November 1999

TNT REMOVAL ACTION PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 1999

COMMUNITY MEETING

To keep you informed about a pending removal action at the Apache Powder Superfund site, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a community meeting:

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1999
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: St. David Schools, K-Hall
70 Patton Street, St. David, Arizona

This meeting will provide an opportunity for you to hear about the details of the planned removal of TNT-contaminated soils from the Superfund site and ask questions of the EPA and Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. (ANP) about this action and other future cleanup activities.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to notify the community of a November 9 meeting and to provide updated information on soils cleanup activities planned at the Apache Powder Superfund site located in St. David, seven miles southeast of Benson, Arizona. The site includes approximately 1,000 acres of land owned by ANP, formerly known as the Apache Powder Company.

In May 1999, EPA published information regarding the discovery of trinitrotoluene (TNT)-contaminated soils in an arroyo west of the plant's operating area (see Figure 1 on next page). The TNT-contaminated soils, including fragments of metal, appeared to be approximately 20 feet by 20 feet by 2 feet deep. The initial laboratory analytical results indicated that the brown-stained soil contained high concentrations of TNT in the range of 53%-57% TNT and lesser quantities of dinitrotoluene (DNT).

During 1998 and 1999, ANP conducted further investigations to determine if unexploded ordnance (UXO) was mixed with the TNT-contaminated soils and to test for other chemicals that could be present in this area. Field evaluations by various technical experts determined that the metal fragments were not UXO and did not pose a risk. The results of the laboratory analyses confirmed the presence of elevated levels of TNT, lower levels of DNT and, in two isolated samples, trace amounts of two pesticides. The estimated total volume of contaminated soils to be removed is 20 cubic yards. Because of the potentially explosive characteristics of the TNT, EPA recommended that ANP identify a contractor with the necessary expertise to remove the TNT for off-site incineration at an approved EPA treatment facility. A contract is in place for this work to be completed during December 1999.

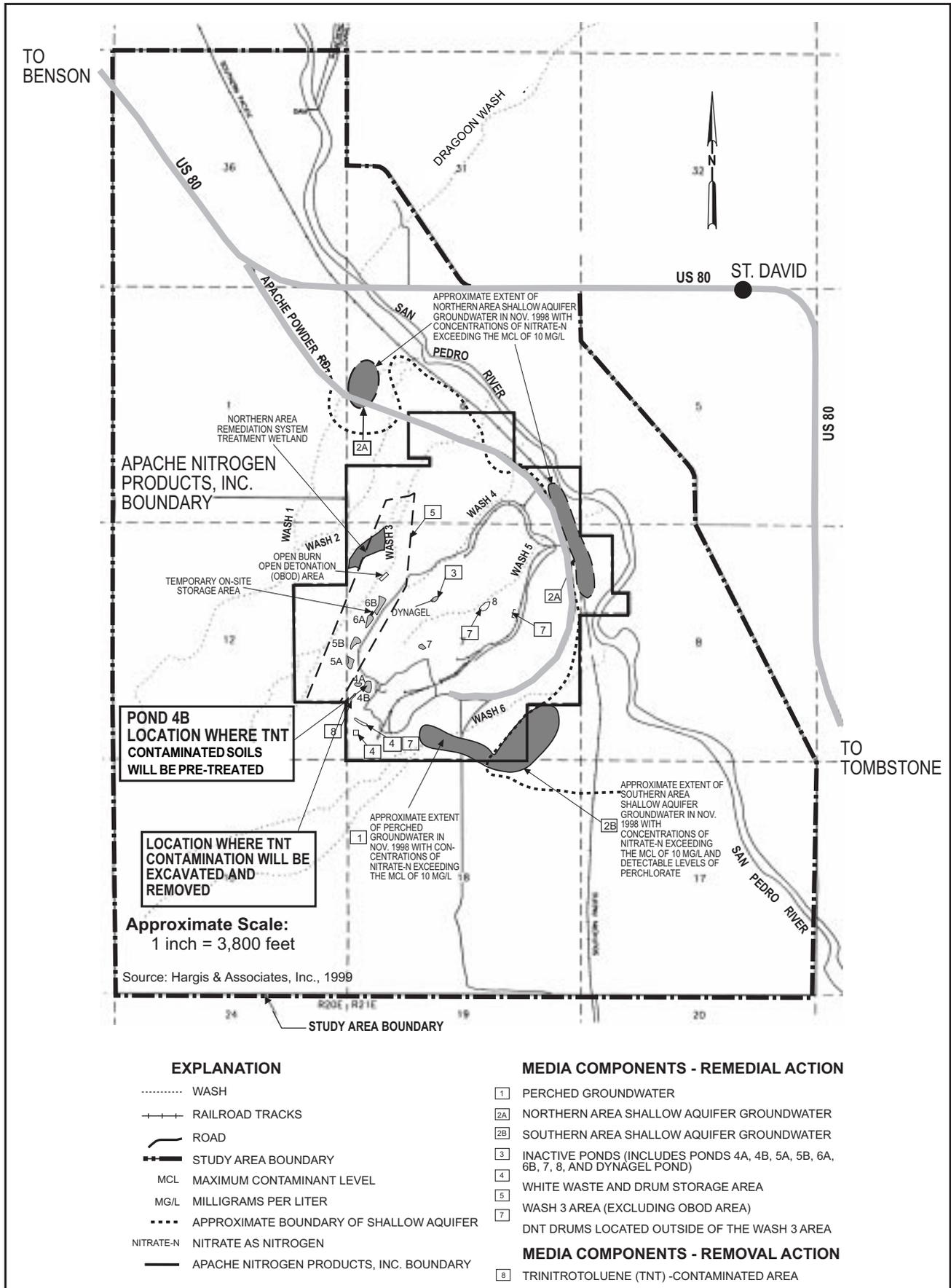


Figure 1. Location of TNT-Contaminated Soils at the Apache Powder Superfund site

SCOPE OF TNT REMOVAL ACTION

Excavation of High-Concentration Materials:

Small quantities of soils containing high concentrations of TNT will be excavated by hand using non-sparking tools.

Pre-Treatment: The excavated materials will be transferred to safe containers for transport either by hand or wheelbarrow approximately 100 yards to an area known as Pond 4B (see Figure 2). There, the burning of high-concentration materials will take place to decrease the potential for accidental detonation during later transport off site.

Excavation of Low-Concentration Materials:

Once the pre-treatment of high concentration materials is complete, the resulting ash and remaining low concentration TNT-contaminated soils will be excavated and loaded into trucks to transport to the treatment facility. The excavation will encompass all areas where the concentrations exceed Arizona industrial cleanup standards for TNT.

Off-Site Transport for Final Treatment: The contaminated soils will be trucked to the Safety-Kleen, Inc. facility in Southern California for initial processing, then to Aragonite, Utah for final treatment. Incineration has been selected as the treatment technology for the TNT and DNT-contaminated soils. Safety-Kleen will send the residual treated soil from the incinerator to the Grassy Mountain Landfill in Clive, Utah, also owned by Safety Kleen. These facilities are EPA-approved treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

Soil Verification Sampling: Soil Sampling and laboratory analysis will be used to verify that ANP has met EPA's cleanup standards for this Removal Action.

OTHER PLANNED SOILS CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

Other contaminated soils located on the ANP facility identified in EPA's September 1994 Record of Decision (ROD) are scheduled for final cleanup during the winter of 1999-2000. Two of the three contaminated soils areas identified in the ROD will be cleaned up in accordance with EPA requirements.

• **Wash 3 Area:** A large quantity of DNT-contaminated soils previously excavated in 1993 from Wash 3, which have been stored on the ANP property, will be removed for off-site incineration and disposal.

• **White Waste and Drum Storage Area:** Soils contaminated with nitrate, vanadium pentoxide and arsenic, contained either in drums or stockpiled in the "White Waste and Drum Storage Area," also will be transported off-site for final treatment and disposal.

Except for cleanup of the "Inactive Ponds," these cleanup activities will complete most of ANP's outstanding soil remediation requirements under EPA's ROD and enforcement order.

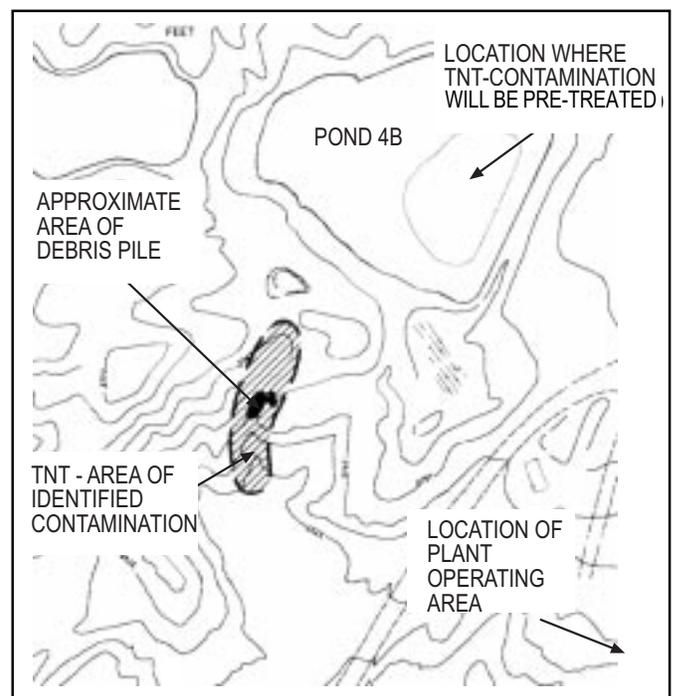


Figure 2. TNT Removal Action Area

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The Administrative Record, including all documents pertinent to the Apache Powder Superfund site, are available for review at:

Benson Library
302 South Huachuca
Benson, Arizona 85602
(520) 586-9535

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Superfund program places a high value on community input in addressing hazardous waste cleanups. Your comments are invited and encouraged. If you have any questions or concerns about cleanup activities at the Apache Powder site, please contact:

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or leave a message on EPA's **TOLL-FREE** line: **(800) 231-3075** and we will return the call.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attention: Vicki Rosen

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