



PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. EPA Region 6 North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund Site Fourth Five-Year Review October 2025



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) have completed the Fourth Five-Year Review of the North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund Site (Site), located in Española, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. The review was conducted under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to ensure that human health and the environment are protected by the ongoing cleanup at the Site.

The Site consists of an approximately 23-acre groundwater contamination plume containing hazardous chemicals at concentrations greater than EPA drinking water standards. The presence of these chemicals in groundwater at the Site is a result of past releases of solvents from former dry-cleaning operations. The contamination plume extended approximately three quarters of a mile south of the former dry cleaner, located near N. Railroad Avenue, and to a depth of 260 feet when discovered. Construction of the Site remedy began in 2005, with full operation of a groundwater treatment system beginning in 2008. Operation and maintenance activities were transferred to NMED in June 2019.

Summary of Five-Year Review Findings

The Fourth Five-Year Review findings indicate that the remedy is successful at reducing contaminant levels, especially in the shallow aquifer, and the Site cleanup is protective of human health and the environment in the short term.

For ensuring long-term protectiveness, several recommendations are made in the Fourth Five-Year Review Report. First, a decision document should be issued by EPA, called an Explanation of Significant Difference, to identify chemicals that are present in the groundwater (cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, and

vinyl chloride) as Site contaminants of concern (COCs) and to identify their corresponding cleanup levels based on federal drinking water regulations. These contaminants are degradation products of the original solvents. They were originally detected in the groundwater and reported in EPA's Record of Decision on the remedy, in 2001, but they were not formally identified as COCs because they were initially detected at low levels. Other recommendations are for the continued monitoring of the effectiveness of previous treatment injections and performing additional treatment injections to continue reducing contaminant levels, installing some additional monitoring wells for plume delineation, and to repair or replace a damaged well casing.

An electronic copy of the Fourth Five-Year Review Report is available to the public for review at the Site's information repositories:

Española Public Library

313 N. Paseo de Oñate
Española, NM 87532

New Mexico Environment Department

Ground Water Quality Bureau
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N2300
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

The report is also available on the EPA website at:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/north-railroad-avenue-plume>.

If you have any questions, issues, or concerns regarding the Site, please contact the EPA remedial project manager, Mark Purcell at 1-800-533-3508 (toll free) or by email at purcell.mark@epa.gov. You may also contact the NMED project manager, Camille Dwyer, at (505) 670-0691 or by email at camille.dwyer@env.nm.gov.