RHMC – Project Updates – July 2025

GWQB: Neglected Contaminated Site: Former Aerex Refinery – East Parcel

History

- The 5.65 acre East Parcel along with the 6.63 West Parcel, located on the corner of West Blanco Blvd. and N. 5th Street in Bloomfield, were historically part of the former Aerex Refinery (aka Bloomfield Crude Station), which operated as a crude oil refinery to produce gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products from approximately 1932 to the 1960s and was dismantled in the late 1980s.

Environmental Conditions

- Soil contamination (petroleum, metals) within the East Parcel is well-delineated. Contaminated ground water is limited in extent; depth to ground water is approximately 12 feet.
- Site observations and investigations:
- Superfund: Site Screening Inspection conducted by NM Environmental Improvement Division staff in 1990. Three ground water monitoring wells were installed and releases of contaminants to soil and ground water were confirmed.
- Brownfields investigations: Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) were performed in 2019, 2021, and most recently in 2025. The 2021 and 2025 Phase II ESAs were commissioned by NMED's Brownfields Program. The Phase II ESAs consisted of the advancement of numerous soil borings to better define the area of petroleum and metals contamination in soil and ground water on the East Parcel. The ESAs determined that petroleum and heavy metal contamination exist mostly in soil and, to a lesser extent, in ground water.
- Community visioning: NMED's Brownfields Program worked with an EPA-supported technical service provider to conduct visioning activities in 2020 and 2021 to solicit public input on potential future uses of the former Aerex Refinery property.

Ownership

- The East Parcel has no viable responsible party and was acquired by the City of Bloomfield (along with a portion of the West Parcel) in 2021. The City has plans to construct a 10+ acre multi-purpose City Park on both parcels. Currently, both parcels are vacant land bordered by mixed residential housing.

NMED Action Timeline

- July 2025: Obtain technical proposal from NMED contractor for contaminated soil removal/disposal, monitoring well abandonment, and monitoring well replacement within the East Parcel.

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GWQB: Neglected Contaminated Site: Former Aerex Refinery – East Parcel

NMED Action Timeline - Continued

- November 2025 – January 2026: Implement first remediation phase at the East Parcel (conduct soil cleanup and monitoring well tasks; complete project reporting).
- February 2026 – June 2026: Assess need for a second remediation phase to remediate contaminated ground water beneath the East Parcel (removal of contaminated soil may result in ground water conditions that meet applicable standards).

Why?

This work will greatly benefit the City of Bloomfield since these parcels are currently vacant and the project goal is to reuse the former Aerex Refinery as a recreational area to include green space with mixed use recreational space (e.g., walking and running trails, splash pad, landscaped areas, and playground). Cleanup will leverage further investment in the property and provide quality of life benefits City of Bloomfield residents.

RHMC – Project Updates – July 2025

GWQB: Neglected Contaminated Site: Tucumcari Truck Terminal

History

- Former Tucumcari Truck Terminal operated 1958 till 2004. Since then, the 22-acre property has fallen into severe disrepair and has been the target of vandalism.

Environmental Conditions

- Soil and groundwater are contaminated with petroleum products, especially on the central and western portion of the property. Ground water depth is 16 to 20 feet. Free petroleum product is present in two ground water monitoring wells.
- Site observations and investigations:
- Inspection: NMED and Tucumcari Fire Department conducted a site inspection in 2003. Considerable surface staining around diesel and gasoline dispenser islands was observed.
- Brownfields investigations: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers directed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) in 2009 and a Phase II ESA of the property in 2011, with funding from the USEPA Region 6 Targeted Brownfields Assessment program. Additional Brownfields Phase I and Phase II work was conducted in 2024 by USEPA and NMED; presence of asbestos and lead-based paint was detected in two site buildings.
- Used motor oil release: A used motor-oil spill occurred due to vandalism of two above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) in September 2023. The release migrated off-site towards the north across Highway 54 and onto BNSF right of way. Emergency response was by an NMED contractor, but shallow soil contamination remains.
- Tank removal: Five ASTs and associated product piping were removed by NMED Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau in 2025. Petroleum products and soil staining were observed in several locations during the removal.

Ownership

- The responsible party, Ortega Shell Plaza, Inc., is a New Mexico company in good standing with no assets. The truck terminal property was stripped from Ortega Shell Plaza for failure to pay property taxes. Therefore, no viable responsible party exists for this contaminated site.
- Hana Truck Sport purchased the property for back taxes in 2024 after requesting assistance from the NMED Brownfields Program. Hana Truck Sport plans to redevelop the property as a modern truck terminal.

RHMC – Project Updates – July 2025

GWQB: Neglected Contaminated Site: Tucumcari Truck Terminal

NMED Action Timeline

- July 2025: Obtain technical proposal from NMED contractor for updated Phase I ESA and supplemental Phase II ESA to better define location and extent of contaminated soil requiring cleanup.
- August – November 2025: Complete updated Phase I ESA and supplemental Phase II ESA.
- December 2025: Obtain technical proposal from NMED contractor for first remediation phase: contaminated soil, sludge, and piping removal/disposal; abatement of asbestos and lead-based paint in two buildings; and reporting.
- January 2026 - June 2026: Implement and complete first remediation phase.
- Future actions: Second remediation phase for cleanup of contaminated ground water.

Why?

- Cleanup of this Neglected Contaminated Site will benefit the City of Tucumcari as this decades-old, blighted property, which is prone to vandalism and illegal dumping, will leverage further investment in the property and be returned to productive use as a modern truck stop. New jobs will be created during construction and operation of the new truck terminal.

Neglected Contaminated Site Clean Up of Abandoned Uranium Mines

Moe No. 4 Mine





Mine Statistics:

- Operated from 1962-1963
- ~2,047 tons of ore extracted
- Total disturbed area: ~2 acres
- Decline opening: ~300 ft, 30° slope
- Highest gamma reading: 1,000 µR/hr
- Located on State Trust land

Timeline of Events

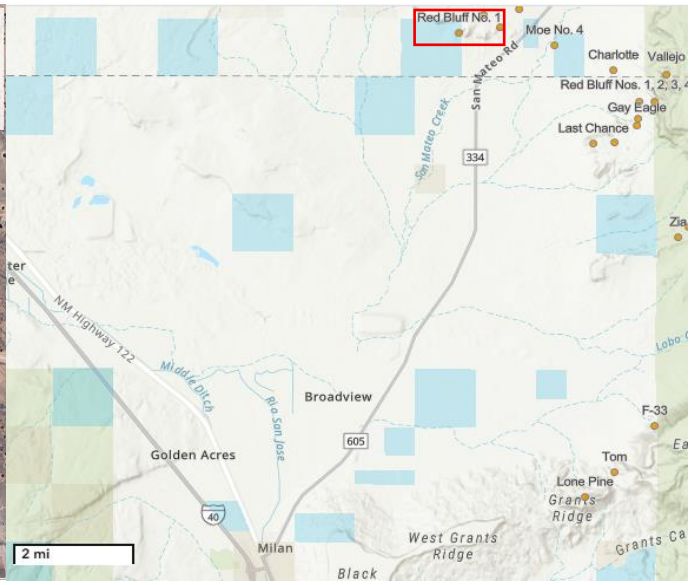
Contract for cleanup effective	July 1, 2025
Project kickoff	July 10, 2025 (estimated)
Contract end date	June 2029

No responsible party has been identified for this abandoned mine site. This site is not covered under any other cleanup program.

Neglected Contaminated Site Clean Up of Abandoned Uranium Mines

Red Bluff No. 1 Mine





Mine Statistics:

- Operated from 1952-1964
- ~50 waste rock piles, totaling 1,500 cubic yards
- Total disturbed area: ~14.6 acres
- Highest gamma reading: 36 µR/hr
- Located on State Trust land

Timeline of Events

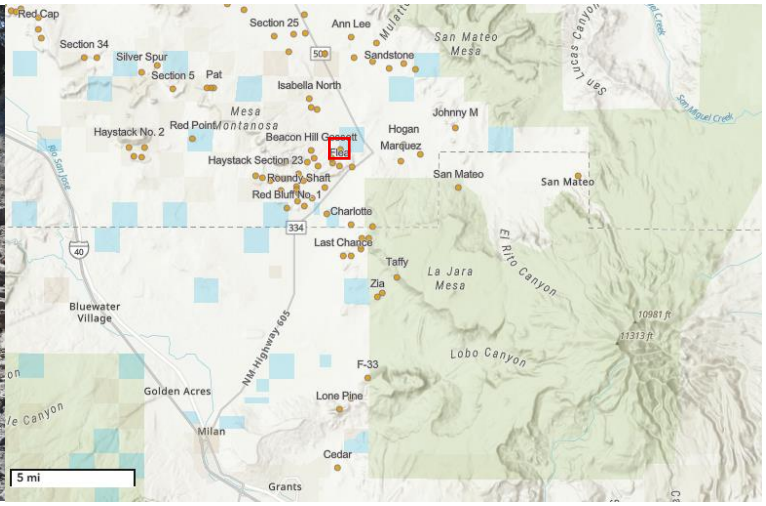
Contract for cleanup effective	July 1, 2025
Project kickoff	August 1, 2025
Contract end date	June 2029

No responsible party has been identified for this abandoned mine site. This site is not covered under any other cleanup program.

Neglected Contaminated Site Clean Up of Abandoned Uranium Mines

Schmidtt Decline Mine





Mine Statistics:

- Operated from ~1956-1973
- Total disturbed area: ~3.6 acres
- 5 waste rock piles
- Decline opening: 12 feet wide, ~8 feet tall
- Located on State Trust land

Timeline of Events

Contract for cleanup effective	July 1, 2025
Project kickoff	July 10, 2025 (estimated)
Contract end date	June 2029

No responsible party has been identified for this abandoned mine site. This site is not covered under any other cleanup program.

RHMC – Project Updates – July 2025

PSTB: Neglected Contaminated Site: Removal of Abandoned Petroleum Storage Tank Sites

FY26 Cleanup Timeline and Site Closure Plan

Overview

- Between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, PSTB will implement a phased corrective action plan to remove tanks and assess contamination at 21 abandoned sites. This initiative is fully funded by the $2 million HB2 appropriation and will be carried out through four quarterly project phases.

Quarterly Cleanup Schedule

Quarter	Timeframe	Sites Completed	Award Amount
Q1	July – September 2025	6 sites	$200,000
Q2	October – December 2025	6 sites	$700,000
Q3	January – March 2026	5 sites	$600,000
Q4	April – June 2026	4 sites	$500,000
Total	**FY26**	**21 sites**	**$2,000,000**

Timeline Summary by Phase

- **Q1 (July – September 2025):**
  Initiate site assessments and begin removals at six lower-complexity sites. These early efforts will establish field protocols and build momentum.
- **Q2 (October – December 2025):**
  Complete the most resource-intensive phase, addressing six sites with the highest budget allocation. These projects likely involve significant remediation or complicated tank removals.
- **Q3 (January – March 2026):**
  Continue with five closures, incorporating lessons learned from earlier phases to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- **Q4 (April – June 2026):**
  Finalize the remaining four sites, focusing on closures, documentation, and regulatory compliance to ensure all corrective actions are complete.

Conclusion

- This plan demonstrates PSTB's commitment to maximizing the impact of the HB2 appropriation through timely, strategic corrective action at high-risk, abandoned tank sites. By executing work in phases, PSTB ensures accountability, efficient use of funds, and the protection of New Mexico's environment and public health.