



PUBLIC NOTICE
GRIGGS-WALNUT GROUND WATER PLUME
SUPERFUND SITE
U.S. EPA Region 6 Completes
Third Five-Year Review of Site Remedy
October 2026



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (EPA), and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) completed the third five-year review of the remedy for the Griggs-Walnut Ground Water Plume Superfund Site, located in Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The review is required by law under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act to ensure that human health and the environment are being protected by the remedial actions taken at the Site. The third five-year review was completed on June 1, 2026.

Due to the presence of tetrachloroethylene (a chemical commonly referred to as PCE) detected in municipal water supply wells, the EPA included the Site on the National Priorities List in June 2001. The Site remedy consists of enhanced groundwater extraction (pumping) with treatment of the collected groundwater to remove PCE. Construction of the remedy was completed in 2012, and groundwater treatment has been ongoing since May 2012. The remedy utilizes the production capacity of existing municipal supply wells and infrastructure to deliver treated groundwater into the public water supply.

Summary of Five-Year Review Findings

The third five-year review findings indicate that remedial actions taken at the Site are protective of human health and the environment in the short term. There is no known exposure to contaminated groundwater or to contaminant vapors in indoor air at concentrations that pose an unacceptable risk. Permitting new wells over the contaminant plume is restricted.

For the remedy to remain protective in the long-term, the report specifies actions that need to be taken, including verification of the effectiveness of all institutional control components, evaluation of the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Site groundwater, and upgrading the information technology components of the groundwater treatment system, including the programmable logic controller (PLC), human-machine interface (HMI), and, if needed, integrated supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) programming components.

The review also concluded that supplemental vapor intrusion investigations completed in 2023 and 2024 indicate that vapor intrusion does not pose an unacceptable risk to residents and that no mitigation is currently warranted. Periodic vapor intrusion evaluations will continue to confirm that the remedy remains protective under changing building conditions.

A detailed description of the review findings is provided in the third five-year review report, which is available to the public at <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/06/100036107.pdf> and the following information repositories:

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library
200 E. Picacho Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

New Mexico Environment Department
Ground Water Quality Bureau
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110

Information about the Site is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.donaanacounty.org/superfund> and
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/griggs-walnut>

For more information about the Site, please contact:

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All media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.