



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Jonas Armstrong  
Director, Water Protection Division

**From:** Justin Ball  
Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau

**CC:** GWQB project file

**Date:** August 29, 2025

**RE:** Neglected Contamination Site Cleanup Program:  
Environmental Investigation Report Summary for Former Aerex Refinery, Bloomfield, San Juan  
County, New Mexico

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This report summarizes and provides a list of environmental investigations at the Former Aerex Refinery Site (Site) in Bloomfield, New Mexico. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) is conducting environmental investigation and remediation activities at the Site under the Neglected Contamination Site (NCS) Cleanup Program. This report has been prepared to fulfill the requirement for a written investigation report per the Water Quality Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-9(D).

### Site Background

The Site is part of the Former Aerex Refinery and is divided into the West and East Parcels. Cleanup of the East Parcel is the focus of current NCS Program activities. The site encompasses approximately 4 acres, and along with the 6.63-acre West Parcel, is located on the corner of West Blanco Blvd. and N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Bloomfield. Both parcels 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 subsequently dismantled in the late 1980s. Aerex Refining was the first company to operate a crude oil refinery at the site starting in the early 1930's and they ended their operation sometime in the 1950's. Following the initial period of operations, there were several other companies operating at this site, among them are Malco (1952), El Paso Products (1956), Shell Oil Company (1964), Plateau Refining (1965), Bloomfield Refining (1984), and Thriftway Marketing (1984). These six companies are known to have owned or operated refinery operations at this property. The City of Bloomfield purchased all of the East Parcel and part of the West Parcel in 2021 and has plans to construct a 10+ acre multi-purpose City Park on both parcels once the West Parcel receives closure from the New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department - Oil Conservation Division (EMNRD/OCD). The west parcel is still under EMNRD/OCD oversight with Marathon Oil being the responsible party. Currently, both parcels are vacant land bordered by mixed residential housing.

Several investigations have taken place on both parcels starting with a Site Screening Inspection (SSI) performed by NMED (previously the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division), Superfund Program in 1990.

In 1994, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) completed a Site Inspection Prioritization at the East Parcel. USEPA concluded that since oil refineries operated at the site, the onsite source of contamination and associated waste were excluded from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Subsequently, the site was referred to EMNRD/OCD in 1994 for further action. EMNRD/OCD oversaw subsurface assessments on both the East and West Parcels in 2006 and 2007.

In 2019, the City of Bloomfield requested performance of Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) for the East and West Parcels through GWQB's Brownfields Program ahead of taking ownership of part of the West Parcel and all of the East Parcel; the Phase I ESAs were performed by a contractor to the USEPA in 2019. On behalf of the City of Bloomfield, Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) on both the East and the West Parcels and an Assessment of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), funded by the USEPA and performed through GWQB's Brownfields Program, were performed in 2021. Additional Phase II ESA activities were conducted in 2025 through GWQB's Brownfields Program. Amendments to the ABCA were conducted in 2024 and 2025 through GWQB's Brownfields Program.

Across multiple investigations, NMED GWQB determined that petroleum and heavy metal contamination exist mostly in the soil and, to a lesser extent, in the groundwater on both parcels. Ground water is present at approximately 12 feet below ground surface and flows to the south/southwest. The most recent investigation was the 2025 additional Phase II ESA, conducted with funding from USEPA through GWQB's Brownfields Program. It consisted of the advancement of eighteen (18) soil borings to better define the area of petroleum and metals contamination in soil and ground water on the northern part of the East Parcel. This investigation successfully determined the extent of contamination and will be used by NMED GWQB to determine the exact extent of the planned soil excavation and removal addressed with NCS funding. The investigation reports and cleanup planning documents that have been completed to date for the Site are listed below and attached with this memorandum. NMED GWQB is currently planning to complete soil remediation activities at the Site under the NCS Cleanup Program in SFY 2026. After completion of soil remediation activities, NMED will assess if further remediation is required to address groundwater contamination. If remediation to address groundwater contamination is necessary, further remedial actions would occur in future state fiscal years subject to availability of funding.

#### Responsible Parties Timeline

A timeline summary of previous Site owners/responsible parties is provided below:

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|-----------------|---|
| 1932:           | Construction of Crude Oil Refinery by <b>Aerex Refining</b>   |
| 1932 – 1980s:   | The subject property operated as a refinery starting with Aerex Refining and subsequently also <b>Malco</b> (1952), <b>El Paso Products</b> (1956), <b>Shell Oil Company</b> (1964), <b>Plateau Refining</b> (1965), <b>Bloomfield Refining</b> (1984), and <b>Thriftway Marketing</b> (1984) ran refinery operations and equipment at the site. During this timeframe the East Parcel was combined as one parcel with the Bloomfield Property West Parcel. |
| 1985:           | Clayton Investment Company, LTD and Lampliter Enterprises, LLC acquired all of the East Parcel and a portion of the West Parcel but did not contribute to on-site contamination.  |
| 1986 – Present: | The Refinery was dismantled, and the subject property was separated from the Bloomfield Property West Parcel where Western Refining Southwest LLC (Western, owned by Marathon Petroleum Company LP), is the Responsible Party. The East Parcel has since been vacant.   |
| 2021:           | The City of Bloomfield acquires part of the West Parcel and all of the East Parcel by donation  |

in November 2021 with plans to revitalize the area by constructing a City Park. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was performed within 180 days prior to acquisition of the property by the City of Bloomfield, and therefore, they are eligible for liability protection under the Water Quality Act (NMSA 1978, § 74-6-10.3(C)(6)) as a bona fide prospective purchaser.

Reports Attached:

1. New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division, 1990. Screening Site Inspection Report for Aerex Refinery, Bloomfield, New Mexico. October.
2. Former Aerex Refinery General Correspondance, 2001.
3. Kleinfelder, 2006. Phase I Subsurface Assessment Former Aerex Refinery, Bloomfield, New Mexico, Prepared for New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. April.
4. Kleinfelder, 2007. Revised Conceptual Remedial Action Plan Former Aerex Refinery, Bloomfield, New Mexico, Prepared for New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. August.
5. Weston Solutions, Inc. 2019. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report for Bloomfield Property East, Bloomfield, New Mexico. Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6. November.
6. EA Engineering, Science, & Technology, Inc., PBC, 2021. Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives, Former Aerex Refinery East and West Parcels, Bloomfield, New Mexico. November 3.
7. EA Engineering, Science, & Technology, Inc., PBC, 2021. Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Revision 01, Former Aerex Refinery East and West Parcels, Bloomfield, New Mexico. November 15.
8. EA Engineering, Science, & Technology, Inc., PBC, 2021. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Former Aerex Refinery East and West Parcels, Bloomfield, New Mexico. October 19.
9. EA Engineering, Science, & Technology, Inc., PBC, 2025. Additional Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for the Former Aerex Refinery East Parcel, Bloomfield, New Mexico. June 10.
10. EA Engineering, Science, & Technology, Inc., PBC, 2024. Draft Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives Modification, Former Aerex Refinery East and West Parcels, Bloomfield, New Mexico. May 8.
11. EA Engineering, Science, & Technology, Inc., PBC, 2025. Revised Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives, Former Aerex Refinery East and West Parcels, Bloomfield, New Mexico. June 25.