



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Summary of the Proposed Plan

to Fund Construction and Operation of Treatment Systems for Groundwater from Drinking Water Wells Located Near the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Introduction

This fact sheet summarizes the Proposed Plan. The actual Proposed Plan – containing the details and rationale behind NASA's "Preferred Alternative" – is available at the NASA groundwater cleanup website at: <http://jplwater.nasa.gov> or by request.

NASA has been conducting environmental investigations and cleanup activities at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) for more than a decade under the federal law requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). NASA has already implemented several cleanup initiatives – including addressing groundwater – while considering options for the final, long-term cleanup remedy.

For example, two groundwater treatment plants are already operating and cleaning up groundwater. One is on-facility (within the JPL fenceline) to clean water directly

beneath JPL, and one is off-facility (outside the JPL fenceline) for two drinking water wells owned by Lincoln Avenue Water Company in Altadena.

The Proposed Plan outlines NASA's Preferred Alternative for a remedial action to clean up groundwater beyond and adjacent to the JPL facility (referred to as off-facility groundwater). The document also describes alternatives that NASA evaluated for cleaning up this off-facility groundwater, and it describes how the public can comment on the proposed action through written comments and by participating in the public meeting.

NASA proposes the following as its "Preferred Alternative"

- ▶ NASA would fund construction and operation of a treatment system proposed to be located on vacant City property next to the Windsor Reservoir.
- ▶ NASA would continue to fund treatment of groundwater from two Lincoln Avenue Water Company drinking water wells at its existing treatment facility in Altadena.

ATTENTION!
Please note that the public comment period has been extended to Friday, July 7.

Invitation to submit comments & attend the public meeting

Before NASA makes a final decision, we want you to find out more about the cleanup plan and make your views known. The plan that is finally chosen will be described in a document referred to as an Interim Record of Decision that will include a summary of the comments received and a statement on how those comments changed the decision that was reached. You are invited to a public meeting Wednesday, May 3 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Dr., Altadena, to hear about NASA's Proposed Plan and to ask questions and offer your views about it.

NASA will prepare and make available a transcript of that meeting. NASA invites public comment on the Proposed Plan from Wednesday, April 19 - Friday, May 19. Written comments may be addressed as noted below in the "Submit Written Comments" box. No specific format for the comments is necessary. All comments must be submitted either electronically before midnight, Friday, May 19, or, if posted by mail, the comments must bear a postmark of no later than Friday, May 19.



Submit Written Comments

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
Wednesday, April 19 through Friday, May 19

NASA will accept written comments on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period.

You may submit your comments to watercleanup@nmo.jpl.nasa.gov or to:

Merrilee Fellows
NASA Groundwater Cleanup Outreach Manager
NASA Management Office
Jet Propulsion Laboratory 180-801
4800 Oak Grove Dr.
Pasadena, CA 91109



Attend the Public Meeting

You are invited to a meeting sponsored by NASA to hear about the Proposed Plan to fund construction and operation of treatment systems for groundwater from drinking water wells located near the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. At the meeting you will be able to state your views about the proposed plan.

The meeting will be held on
Wednesday May 3
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Altadena Community Center
730 E. Altadena Dr., Altadena.



Location of Information Repositories

Pasadena Central Library
285 East Walnut St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 744-4052

Altadena Public Library
600 East Mariposa Ave.
Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 798-0833

La Cañada Flintridge Public Library
4545 Oakwood Ave.
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011
(818) 790-3330

JPL Library
(JPL On-Site Personnel)
Bldg 111, Room 112
Pasadena, CA
(818) 354-4200

Summary of Proposed Plan Continued

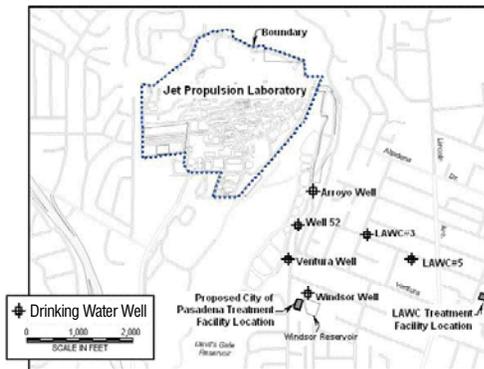
For More Information

A copy of the proposed plan, which describes the preferred cleanup alternative and the other alternatives that were studied, and technical documents that support the plan and other information about NASA's groundwater cleanup program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory may be viewed on our website at: <http://jplwater.nasa.gov>, read at any of the public libraries (Information Repositories) noted above, or a copy can be mailed to you upon request. You may call (818) 393-0754 for information.

Site Background

In the 1940s and 1950s, liquid wastes from materials used at JPL were disposed of into seepage pits, a practice common at that time. While these disposal practices were discontinued by the early 1960s, some chemicals, such as perchlorate and volatile organic compounds, have been found in groundwater beneath JPL and in areas adjacent to JPL, to the east and southeast.

Cleanup Action Proposed



NASA is proposing as its "Preferred Alternative"

- ▶ To fund the construction and operation of a system for water treatment for four closed City of Pasadena drinking water wells located just southeast of JPL in and near the Arroyo Seco. The proposed treatment plant would be sited on a vacant portion of the same property as the Windsor Reservoir. The City itself would be responsible for operating the system.
- ▶ NASA would also continue to fund treatment of groundwater from two Lincoln Avenue Water Company drinking water wells at an existing treatment facility. The Lincoln Avenue Water Company system was previously constructed and funded by NASA. Lincoln Avenue Water Company would continue to operate the facility.

Preferred Alternative

NASA prefers this alternative of two separate treatment systems operated by the City of Pasadena and Lincoln Avenue Water Company because it would help achieve the remedial goal of removing target chemicals from throughout the aquifer that is a source of drinking water and help prevent the further migration of chemicals in groundwater. Both the Pasadena and Lincoln Avenue Water Company treatment systems would use liquid phase granular activated carbon and ion exchange systems to permanently remove from the water volatile organic compounds and perchlorate. These systems, combined with the on-going on-site source area groundwater cleanup, are designed to move toward a comprehensive cleanup of the Monk Hill Subarea groundwater.

Proposed Plan Cleanup Goals

1. Remove target chemicals from the aquifer by treating water pumped from specified drinking water wells in the Monk Hill Subarea of the Raymond Basin. This is referred to as centralized treatment.
2. Prevent further migration of the chemicals in groundwater.
3. Provide additional data to assess possible long-term cleanup remedies for groundwater on and off the JPL facility.

Your Comments

NASA studied a number of ways to meet these goals, and believes that the proposed action will best protect human health and the environment. Before making a final decision, we want you to find out more about the cleanup plan and make your views known. The plan that is finally chosen will be described in an interim Record of Decision that will include a summary of the public comments received and a statement on how those comments changed the decision that was reached.