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Superfund clean-up plant opens

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, city of Pasadena and Jet Propulsion Laboratory/NASA held the groundbreaking ceremony for the Windsor Avenue Superfund treatment plant on Tuesday.

The plant, scheduled for completion next year, is needed to remove pollutants

that contaminated the underground water supply from fuel that had been used at JPL in the late 1950s when it did work on many military projects.

The chemicals were volatile organic compounds, carbon tetrachloride, perchlorate and trichloroethylene.

NASA/JPL had been cleaning the area water at sites on and off the JPL campus; the new plant will increase the cleaning procedure. The plant will remove a re-

ported 7,000 gallons per minute of the contaminant. The water will then be treated and serve as drinking water for residents in the Pasadena and Altadena areas.

In an earlier interview with the Valley Sun, Steve Slaten, project manager for JPL ground water cleanup, said the plant and clean up is part of JPL's Superfund project. The facility is estimated to cost \$3.1 million. JPL was placed on the EPA's

National Priorities List, known as Superfund, in 1992. About 120,840 people live within four miles of the site and an estimated 68,000 people receive their drinking water from municipal wells within that area.

According to Slaten, the cleanup process dates back to 1980, when it was first discovered. He said La Cañada's drinking water was not found to have been contaminated.