

North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site Fact Sheet

What is a superfund site?

Part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, the federal superfund law provides regulatory authority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate cleanup sites throughout the country.

NIBW site history

In 1983, the U.S. EPA designated a 13-square mile area of groundwater in south Scottsdale and north Tempe a Superfund Site following the detection of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), chiefly trichloroethene (TCE), in water supply wells that exceeded the federal drinking water standard. The site was subsequently split into two cleanup programs, where the 8-square mile area of affected soil and groundwater north of the Salt River is designated as the North Indian Bend Wash (NIBW) Site.

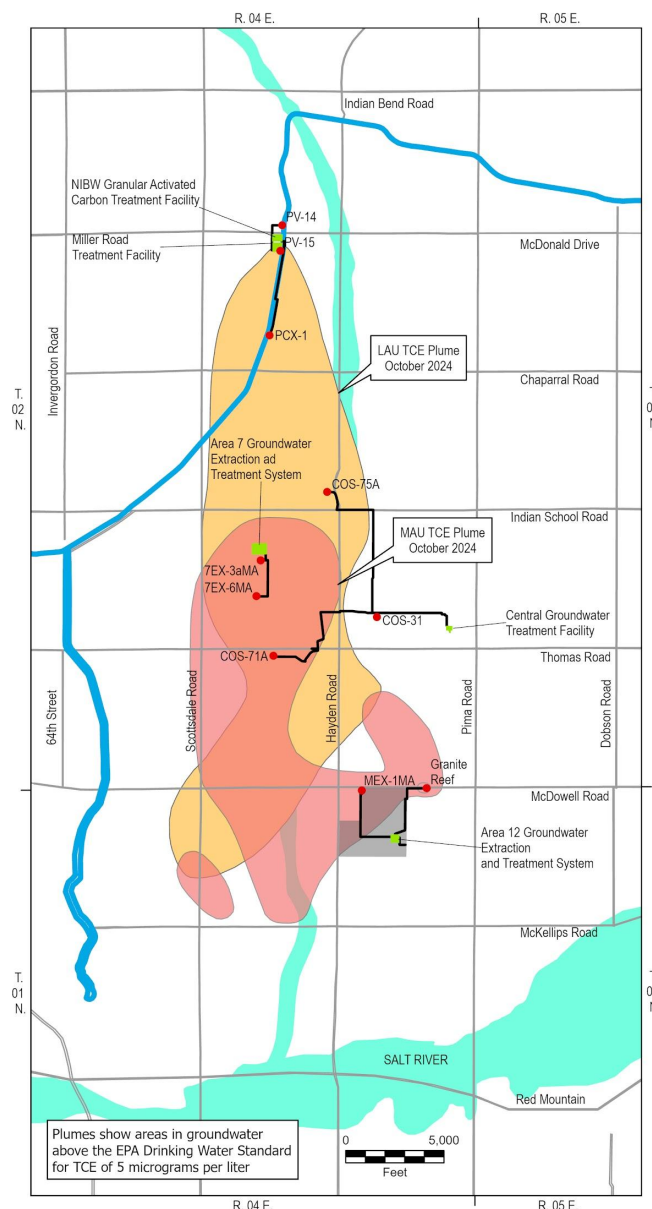
Various manufacturing and other industrial facilities, including the former Motorola plant, operated in what is now the NIBW Site beginning in the late 1950s. Some of the facilities used organic solvents, such as TCE, that entered the soil and groundwater in portions of the site. TCE has not been used at any Motorola facility since the 1970s.

NIBW site location

The NIBW Site is designated by the U.S. EPA as the area overlying the plume of VOCs within the groundwater. Today, this plume generally extends from McDonald Drive to the north, Granite Reef Road to the east, Scottsdale Road to the west and McKellips Road to the south. The overall site area is reducing in time as cleanup continues.

Who pays for cleanup?

Superfund requires the entities deemed potentially responsible for the impacted soil and groundwater to pay for the cleanup. In the case of the NIBW Site, the potentially responsible parties are SRP, Motorola Solutions, Inc., GSK plc (formerly GlaxoSmithKline plc) and Siemens.



Extraction & Treatment of Groundwater Plumes
North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site

Cleanup actions are underway

Following the site's superfund designation, the potentially responsible parties and regulatory agencies designed a treatment strategy to pump and treat the impacted groundwater in an effort to remove and contain the TCE. The first treatment facility, the Central Groundwater Treatment Facility, went online in 1993. Since then, four other facilities, the Miller Road Treatment Facility, Area 7 Treatment Facility, Area 12 Treatment Facility, and the NIBW Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Treatment Facility were constructed and are operating.

Four of the five treatment facilities treat the extracted groundwater through physical separation of the VOCs from the water. The other facility combines chemical oxidation with physical separation. These treatment strategies take advantage of the chemical properties of the VOCs and allow for effective treatment that meets and even exceeds drinking water standards.

Remedial actions are effective in achieving aquifer restoration

Since 1993, over \$180 million has been spent in pumping and treating more than 150 billion gallons of water at the NIBW Site, restoring groundwater for beneficial use. The routine review of the remedy by the U.S. EPA continues to show that the remedial action is protective of human health and the environment and that the groundwater plume is contained and decreasing in size.

In the 2021 five-year review from the U.S. EPA, they acknowledged, "the collective remediation efforts have achieved significant progress toward the long-term goal of the aquifer restoration."

Learn more at
motorolasolutions.com

No health hazards related to the TCE at the NIBW site

There are no known or documented health hazards attributed to TCE in soil, groundwater, or air at the NIBW Site. In fact, there have been extensive independent studies by government health experts confirming there are no health problems resulting from Motorola operations at the site or TCE in the groundwater.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on the NIBW site history, geology and groundwater hydrology, remedial technologies, and treatment facilities, download the [NIBW Information Packet](#).

For information about the health studies conducted at the NIBW, download the [NIBW Health Studies Fact Sheet](#).

Who can I contact for more information?

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