HWY 260 and Johnson Lane
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site

This fact sheet is a publication of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to inform community members near the Highway (HWY) 260 and Johnson Lane Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site of current site activities in Navajo County as per A.R.S. § 289.02. If you receive your drinking water from Arizona Water Company, your drinking water is not affected by the groundwater contamination at the site.

A glossary of terms is located at the end of this fact sheet.

Site Description and Information
ADEQ recently added the HWY 260 and Johnson Lane site to the WQARF registry. The site is located in the Lakeside portion of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona. The site is generally bounded to the north by the Jackson Lane alignment, to the south by the east-west alignment of West White Mountain Boulevard (State Route HWY 260) and Burke Lane, to the east by the western side of the Blue Ridge Unified School District property and Billy Creek, and to the west by the Neils Hanson Lane alignment (Figure 1, back page plume map). The site includes a mixture of public, commercial and residential land uses along State Route HWY 260.

During groundwater sampling in 2015, tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) were detected in private wells on properties near the intersection of HWY 260 and Johnson Lane. Only PCE concentrations were above the Arizona Aquifer Water Quality Standard (AWQS) of 5 parts per billion (ppb). TCE concentrations were below the AWQS of 5 ppb.

Groundwater in this area is generally found at depths ranging from 10 to 150 feet below the ground surface. Based on historical and recent data, groundwater flow is to the northwest.

What are the contaminants at this site?
PCE is a manmade solvent commonly used in the dry cleaning process and as a degreaser in many industrial applications. TCE is a solvent primarily used in metal degreasing and cleaning operations and can also be a breakdown product of PCE.

Scope of Work, Outline of Community Involvement Plan, and Fact Sheet
Availability Notice Pursuant to A.R.S. §49-287.03 (c) (d), ADEQ is announcing the availability of the scope of work, outline of a community involvement plan and fact sheet for the HWY 260 and Johnson Lane site.

To obtain copies, contact Wendy Flood at (602) 771-4410; 1-800-234-5677 Ext: 6027714410
What is the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund?
The WQARF Program was established by Arizona law to:
1. Conduct statewide surface and groundwater monitoring
2. Study health effects
3. Perform early remedial actions
4. Conduct long-term remedial action programs

ADEQ established the WQARF Registry to include sites in Arizona where groundwater and/or soil contamination is present. Sites appearing on the WQARF Registry are managed by the WQARF Program for investigation and/or cleanup of contamination. The HWY 260 and Johnson Lane site was listed on the WQARF Registry due to the presence of PCE and TCE in groundwater beneath the site.

What are the health risks associated with contamination?
There are multiple privately owned domestic water wells within the boundaries of the site. People who drink water containing PCE or TCE over many years could experience problems with their liver and may have an increased risk of cancer. ADEQ is concerned that additional privately owned domestic supply wells may be impacted by groundwater contamination in the area of the site.

The evaluation of this area does not necessarily represent a determination that the release of a hazardous substance at the site poses a threat to human health or the environment. Arizona Water Company (AWC) public supply wells are located outside the current site boundaries, and 4 of 5 AWC public supply wells in the area access the deeper Coconino or “C” aquifer which is not affected by this contamination.

AWC regularly samples its Lakeside water system wells for PCE and TCE and none of these contaminants have been detected. All AWC wells are in compliance with all State and Federal Safe Drinking Water regulations.

What are ADEQ’s Plans at this site?
ADEQ is currently conducting an Early Response Action (ERA) that includes evaluating options to address potential health risks. The site was listed on the WQARF Registry on June 24, 2016 with an Eligibility and Evaluation (E&E) score of 40 out of 120. ADEQ will begin the remedial investigation (RI) phase of the WQARF process to help determine the source of the contamination, as well as determine the depth and extent of groundwater contamination down gradient.

ADEQ will consolidate all the existing site characterization data, combined with a study of land and water uses in the area, into an RI Report. The site will then proceed through a feasibility study (FS) that will analyze potential cleanup methods for achieving the cleanup goals determined during the RI.

How can the public be involved?
As progress continues at the site ADEQ will keep the public informed through fact sheets and public meetings. Please sign up for our mailing list to be notified of site progress and to let us know if there are others who should be provided notice. Fill out and return the enclosed mailing information.

ADEQ is forming a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to advise ADEQ and the public of issues and concerns related to investigations and remediation of the site. The purpose of the CAB will be to:

- Participate in outreach to the community;
- Make site visits if needed.

CAB Members Needed
- Are you concerned about the environment and protecting public health?
- Do you live, work, own property or a business in the area of the site and/or are you interested in the site?
- Do you have a minimum of two hours, four times a year to volunteer?

If you answered yes to any of the questions and would like to apply to be a member of the CAB, please fill out and complete the enclosed application. For more information please call the ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator listed at the end of the notice.

If you own or operate a private well within or near the area of this site, please contact ADEQ and we will arrange to collect a sample from your well.
ADEQ Contacts:

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Wendy Flood, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator  
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To request an auxiliary aid or service for accessible communication, please contact ADEQ at (602) 771-4791 or at HRhelp@azdeq.gov or dial 7-1-1 for TTY/TTD Services.

For further information on this site or other WQARF sites, please visit the ADEQ web site at www.azdeq.gov. Click on Programs, Waste Programs, then State Superfund (WQARF), and follow the prompts for the information you need. Information about the HWY 260 and Johnson Lane site is available at the ADEQ main office located at 1110 West Washington. Please call the Records Management Center at (602) 771-4380 48 hours in advance for a file review appointment.

GLOSSARY

**Aquifer Water Quality Standard**
These are enforceable standards set to protect the quality of the water in Arizona aquifers for present and foreseeable uses, including consumption of the water by humans.

**Contamination**
Any hazardous substance released into the environment.

**Early Response Action**
A cleanup activity that is performed prior to the final remedy and often prior to the completion of the Remedial Investigation because timeliness of response is required to protect the public health or environment.

**Eligibility and Evaluation (E&E)**
The Eligibility and Evaluation scoring model was established in 1996 pursuant to WQARF statute 49-287.01. Scores are derived from information about the contaminant release that is collected during the preliminary investigation.

**Feasibility Study**
The evaluation of potential remediation methods for achieving the cleanup goals determined during a remedial investigation.

**Groundwater**
Water found beneath the earth’s surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, clay or gravel. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

**Remedial Investigation (RI)**
An in-depth study designed to gather the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site and the risk posed by the contamination.

**Trichloroethene (TCE)**
A heavy, colorless liquid used to degrease metals, as an extraction solvent for oils and waxes, as a refrigerant, in dry cleaning and as a fumigant.

**Tetrachloroethene (PCE)**
A clear, colorless, nonflammable solvent that readily evaporates at room temperature. PCE is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and degreasing/drying of metals.
Figure 1 - Highway 260 and Johnson Lane Map