

Fact Sheet

North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site No Health Threat from Groundwater

The North Indian Bend Wash Superfund site in Scottsdale is an area where the groundwater under some parts of the site contains certain industrial chemicals. The North Indian Bend Wash site is between Scottsdale and Pima Roads and bordered by Chaparral Road on the north and McKellips Road on the south. These chemicals, including cleaners and solvents like trichloroethylene (TCE), are trapped below the surface of the ground. The chemicals do not come in contact with people who live and work in the area.

Independent government-sponsored health studies and reports have all concluded that groundwater at the site presents no current health risks to people who live and work in the area. The chemicals in the groundwater do not pose any threat to human health.

The following information is a list of independent government reports, along with a summary of their findings, about the site. This information is provided by Motorola as a public service to our community and neighbors.

U.S. Public Health Service

Health Assessment for North Indian Bend Wash

In April 1989, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a part of the U.S. Public Health Service, published its official health assessment of North Indian Bend Wash. That study evaluated whether people in the area were being exposed to substances like TCE.

Overall, the study concluded that human exposure to TCE does not appear to be occurring at the site. In particular, the study noted that houses in the area are constructed on poured concrete slabs. Therefore, it is also unlikely that people could be exposed to soil gases in their homes.

ATSDR Site Review and Update

In September 1993, the ATSDR updated its review of the North Indian Bend Wash Area. The ATSDR confirmed its earlier conclusion that no one is being exposed to contaminated groundwater.

U.S Environmental Protection Agency

North Indian Bend Wash Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report, Public Comment Draft

In April 1991, a study of North Indian Bend Wash was prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by its own contractor. Overall, the study indicated that the area did not pose a current risk to public health because local municipal and domestic water supply wells do

not pump water from the contaminated area. The study also found no significant human health risk from exposure to soils contaminated by chemicals such as TCE. Finally, the study pointed out that sampling by the EPA in 1988 failed to detect any significant chemical contamination in the water, fish, or pond sediments in the area.

Record of Decision, North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site

The EPA's official "Record of Decision" on North Indian Bend Wash was issued in September 1991. The EPA concluded that no one receiving water from the local municipal distribution systems is exposed to compounds like TCE in their drinking water at levels above strict federal standards. In addition, the EPA found that neither direct exposure to contaminated soil and soil gas, nor exposure to surface water in the area, posed significant cancer or non-cancer risks.

Indian Bend Superfund Site Fact Sheets

In April 1991, the EPA issued a fact sheet on North Indian Bend Wash. Even though the EPA used risk analysis methods with conservative assumptions and safety factors that tended to overestimate the risk, the EPA still concluded that North Indian Bend Wash did not present a threat to human health or the environment. In its January 1992 fact sheet, the EPA indicated that the soil contamination at North Indian Bend Wash does not present a significant health threat through direct contact or accidental soil ingestion.

These fact sheets, in addition to fact sheets published in November 1991 and September 1992, contained assurances from the EPA that, since 1981, no one in the area has received drinking water that contains TCE or other contaminants above the strict state and federal limits.

Arizona Department of Health Services

Incidence Study of Childhood Cancer in Maricopa County 1965-1986

In April 1990, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) released the results of a study of leukemia and cancer incidence among children residing in Maricopa County. Although primarily designed to calculate incidence rates of childhood leukemia for another part of Phoenix, the study also provided data for the North Indian Bend Wash area. The study indicated that there were no elevated rates of cancers or leukemias in the North Indian Bend Wash area.

Follow-up of Childhood Leukemia Incidence Rate in Maricopa County

In January 1993, the ADHS conducted a follow-up to the April 1990 incidence study, covering the period from 1987-1990. Like the first study, this study was designed to calculate incidence rates of childhood leukemia for another part of Phoenix. However, it again provided data for the North Indian Bend Wash area. The study indicated that the childhood leukemia rates in the North Indian Bend Wash area were significantly lower than expected.

Report on Mortality in Maricopa County 1966-1986

In August 1988, the ADHS reported on mortality rates throughout Maricopa County from 1966-1986. The report indicated that during the 1966-1986 period there were not enough leukemia deaths in the North Indian Bend Wash area to calculate a mortality rate. In addition, the overall cancer mortality rate in the North Indian Bend Wash area was not significantly higher than the overall United States rate.

The study observed that mortality rates due to congenital anomalies for residents of the North Indian Bend Wash area were lower than the rate for the rest of Maricopa County and the United States. The results also indicated that middle-aged adults and the elderly in the North Indian Bend Wash area experience significantly lower risks of the death from cardiovascular disease than their national counterparts.