



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Omaha District

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Corps provided funds to treat TCE contamination

CHEYENNE –Following a tour of the former Atlas Missile Site 4 area on May 5, senior Army officials said the Army Corps of Engineers has the funding and expects to provide treatment for TCE contamination at a Cheyenne seasonal water well as early as July to meet summer demands.

Tad Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, met with officials from Cheyenne, the Board of Public Utilities, Wyoming Department of Environment Quality and the offices of Sen. John Barrasso and Rep. Cynthia Lummis. They discussed the use of interim measures for wellhead treatment that will reduce contaminants to acceptable levels until a final Remedial Response Action can be implemented.

The Army expects the final response will involve construction of a treatment facility at the city water treatment plant that would handle current pumping levels and allow for planned future expansion.

"The concerns of the people of Cheyenne are the concerns of the Department of the Army," said Mr. Davis. "Atlas missiles stood tall as guardians during the Cold War, but sometimes they left an environmental legacy that needs to be addressed. We are committed to making the drinking water safe for the people of Cheyenne."

Five households near the old missile site are being supplied bottled water by the Corps after testing of their wells showed unacceptable levels of TCE.

Cheyenne's Finnerty well is used seasonally to meet peak summer demands. Sampling shows that levels of TCE, a solvent used to clean missile fuel tanks, had risen from 20 parts per billion (ppb) to 40 ppb in November 2008. Sampling results last month had decreased to 25 ppb. There is a concern that TCE levels may rebound when continuous pumping resumes this summer.

The Corps will continue to work with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities to monitor TCE levels in all the wells in the Borie well field to assure that water supplies remain safe.

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