

PRESS RELEASE

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WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FUNDING PCE WELL INVESTIGATION

Feb. 25, 2003. Reno, Nevada. The Washoe County Board of Commissioners today approved a contract with Hydro Geo Chem, Inc. to conduct work to find the source of PCE (perchloroethylene) found in production wells in the Sparks area.

PCE is used in dry cleaning clothes, degreasing metal parts and as an ingredient in the manufacturing of other chemicals.

In addition to identifying the source of pollution the study will evaluate the effects of various remediation strategies on the contaminated areas.

Because of the contamination, which exceeds Federal and State drinking water standards, the Sparks Avenue and Poplar II wells are not being used until corrective measures are made. The Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District Management Plan, of which this investigative effort is a part, was approved by the Commissioners and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection this past fall.

The cost for the investigation of the two wells is \$393,978. Proposals from nine consultants were considered for the study after the Board directed the Water Resources staff to secure a specialized consulting firm to address the problem. The project will take approximately seven months to complete.