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NASA Changes Cleanup Plan

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The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's effort to clean up groundwater pollution by the **Jet Propulsion Laboratory** is taking a different direction, according to space agency officials.

NASA has taken the operational and financial responsibility for the cleanup, dealing with issues at **JPL** that occurred back in the days when the Department of the Army operated the research facility.

Major concern is with the spread of perchlorate, a salt used in solid rocket fuels. The Department of Defense is dealing with issues from perchlorate at many locations.

Perchlorate is believed to have an effect on the functioning of the thyroid,

though levels of concern are not yet clear. Pasadena has closed nine wells due to perchlorate contamination, though two have been re-opened, and Lincoln Avenue Water, serving Altadena, has also closed two wells.

Originally, NASA planned to build a piping system to take the water back to **JPL**, where it would be treated through an ion exchange system and then sent back to the site.

Now, the agency plans to construct a water treatment plant near the Windsor Reservoir, where water from four wells served by the Monk Hill basin will be treated.

A second plant will be constructed to serve Lincoln Avenue. The first plant under construction, using a different technology, will open this fall on the **JPL** campus, where the worst pol-

lution occurred.

Meanwhile, the treatment effort for volatile organic chemicals, the pollution problem that first led to **JPL** being designated as a superfund cleanup site, will continue.

Because of geology, none of the contamination spread toward La Cañada and La Crescenta. Researchers are still trying to determine the extent of the perchlorate problem that can be blamed on **JPL**.

Health officials have found no evidence of problems from the levels of perchlorate being recorded.

Pasadena is supporting the **JPL** cleanup efforts, but has filed a \$2 million claim with NASA for expenses involved in purchasing water to replace that from the closed wells.