National Aeronautics and Space Administration

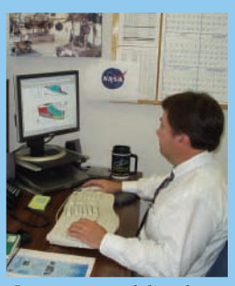
Understanding Groundwater Conditions

Using information gathered from extensive site investigations, NASA is conducting a comprehensive cleanup effort at the JPL site.

NASA is committed to cleaning up chemicals in groundwater from JPL.

NASA uses several integrated methods to understand underground conditions and the extent of chemicals in groundwater.

Computer Models



- Computer modeling has been used to identify the optimal location for drilling new monitoring wells.
- Modeling also gives information about water flows and effects of pumping.

Advanced Chemistry

- NASA is using advanced technologies such as isotopic analysis to study the nature of chemicals in groundwater.
- Laboratory analysis helps define distinct chemical makeup.

Well Water Sampling

- Technicians regularly sample groundwater as part of NASA's ongoing water cleanup effort.

The installation of a new NASA monitoring well.

Installing two new monitoring wells southeast of JPL gives NASA additional data on the extent of chemical movement in groundwater.

These investigations guide the NASA groundwater cleanup effort in many ways:

- Determining the types and amounts of chemicals in groundwater
- Understanding what influences the movement of chemicals in groundwater
- Pinpointing the best location for installing wells and water treatment systems
- As cleanup nears completion, validating its effectiveness