

Preface

This Remedial Investigation (RI) Report has been prepared for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 to describe the nature and extent of contamination associated with the Griggs and Walnut Ground Water Plume (GWP) Superfund Site located in Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico (EPA ID NM0002271286). CH2M HILL prepared this report for EPA under the Response Action Contract No. 68-W6-0036 and EPA Work Assignment Number 961-RICO-06HZ. CH2M HILL finalized the report for EPA under the Remedial Action Contract No. EP-W-06-21, Task Order 0007-RICO-06HZ.

The RI is a component of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) performed for this site. The RI/FS provides an evaluation of the nature and extent of contamination, an evaluation of risk associated with the contamination, and the identification, screening, and comparative analysis of potential remedial alternatives. This RI Report describes the evaluation of the nature and extent of contamination and associated risk. The FS Report, provided separately, discusses potential remedial alternatives to address the observed nature and extent of contamination.

EPA began the RI in 2001, when the site was added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). Based on data collected at the site during EPA's first field mobilization (initiated in 2002), EPA identified areas where site-related contaminants were released to the environment and resulted in contamination of the soil vapor and ground water. EPA described these conclusions in the report entitled *Identification of PCE Release Areas*, published in 2003.

On April 20, 2005, EPA signed a Settlement Agreement with the City of Las Cruces (CLC) and Doña Ana County (DAC). This agreement addressed completion of the RI/FS at the GWP site. The CLC and DAC formed a local consortium called the Joint Superfund Project (JSP) to facilitate their participation in the agreement. EPA then formed a Technical Work Group with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the JSP to provide a forum for each stakeholder to participate in the completion of the RI/FS and provide input related to stakeholder needs. The RI/FS activities performed after the Settlement Agreement were based on the results of investigations performed to date and a list of prioritized data needs reviewed and approved by the Technical Work Group.