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# MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** January 6, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Groundwater contamination at the area near  
700 South 1600 East

**REPORT BY:** Gary Mumford

**AFFECTED COUNCIL DISTRICTS:** 4, 5 and 6

**CC:** Cindy Gust-Jenson, Rocky Fluhart, LeRoy Hooton,  
Jeff Niermeyer, Rick Graham, DJ Baxter,  
Gary Mumford, Lisa Romney, Florence Reynolds,  
Lehua Weaver, Sylvia Jones, Annette Daley,  
Gwen Springmeyer, and Jan Aramaki

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Last month, Public Utilities brought the issue on groundwater contamination in the area near 700 South and 1600 East to the attention of Council Members Dave Buhler, Jill Love and Nancy Saxton. At this time, the identified groundwater contamination impacts specifically Council District Six, with impacts to sections of Districts Four and Five and with the potential to have city-wide implications. If the groundwater contamination continues to migrate toward a Salt Lake City culinary water well, additional treatment will be required so that the well water can continue to be used. A request has been made of Public Utilities to brief the City Council on this issue.

Council Member Buhler has scheduled a District Six Town Meeting for Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at Bonneville Elementary School, 1145 South 1900 East at 7:00 p.m. regarding this issue.

Attached is a copy of a neighborhood letter and an EPA fact sheet that Council Member Buhler sent to community members within the area of Foothill Drive west to 1300 East and from 1300 South north to Sunnyside, including the University Village residents, along with a background information sheet from Public Utilities.

LEROY W. HOOTON, JR.  
DIRECTOR

# SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
WATER SUPPLY AND WATERWORKS  
WATER RECLAMATION AND STORMWATER

ROSS C. "ROCKY" ANDERSON  
MAYOR

## COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL

To: Rocky J. Fluhart, Chief Administrative Officer *Rocky* January 5, 2006  
From: LeRoy W. Hooton Jr., Director Public Utilities *LWH*  
Subject: City Council Briefing on Groundwater Contamination at 700 S. 1600 E.

Staff Contact: Jeff Niermeyer, Deputy Director

Telephone Number: 483-6785

Recommendation: That the City Council be briefed on the groundwater contamination at 700 South and 1600 East.

Document: Briefing/Discussion

Budget Impact: None

Discussion: Salt Lake City operates a culinary drinking water well located at approximately 500 South and 1500 East. The well discharges directly into a 10-million gallon distribution reservoir located at the same address. The well is used to meet summer peak demands and is generally only turned into the water system during the peak summer demand period. During periods of drought, the well is used more extensively to supplement the City's water supply. The well is currently off and not supplying water to the system.

The EPA and State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have identified and are studying a groundwater contamination in the area near 700 South and 1600 East. The groundwater is contaminated with the solvent perchloroethylene (PCE). This material is used in the dry cleaning process and as a metal degreaser. EPA has set the safe drinking water standard for PCE at 5 parts per billion (ppb). The attached fact sheet summarizes the information developed by EPA and DEQ.

The contaminated groundwater is starting to be detected in the City's well. Reading of the PCE levels in the well have been sporadic and well below the EPA Safe Drinking Water Standard. During 2005 the well was only operated during the month of September to facilitate a study by EPA. During that test period the readings of PCE reached a maximum level of 1.8 ppb. PCE levels out of the reservoir entering the drinking water system are negative. The drinking water is safe, however it is expected that the

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groundwater contamination will continue to migrate towards the well. If this occurs, the City will be required to add additional treatment to the well water so that it can continue to be used.

In November of 2005, the Department of Public Utilities was invited to a meeting hosted by EPA and DEQ to discuss the possibility of listing the contaminated groundwater plume under the National Priority List sometimes known as the "Superfund list". EPA policy requires support from the local community and the State before it will list a site.

The proposed listing will provide a means of funding the groundwater contamination studies and develop alternatives to remediate the contamination. The process also will allow EPA to require the responsible parties that created the contamination to pay for the remediation.

The listing on the National Priority List has both positive and negative implications to a community. There are also other approaches to funding the required studies and remediation that the City Council may wish to consider. These include using the State Voluntary Cleanup Program and /or a direct congressional appropriation.

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the City Council with information and answer questions to assist the City Council in developing their thoughts on how best to approach the issue.