PanTEX NEIGHBORHOOD
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Pantex Cleanup Progress

Active cleanup continues to address contaminants in perched groundwater from legacy operations dating back to World War II and the Cold War Era. The perched groundwater cleanup action includes six in situ bioremediation (ISB) systems and two pump and treat systems. The primary goal for treatment is to prevent movement of contaminated perched groundwater to the deeper drinking water aquifer (Ogallala/High Plains Aquifer).

Historically, Pantex has denoted monitoring wells drilled in the drinking water aquifer as Ogallala Aquifer monitoring wells. Recent investigation and drilling activities in the drinking water aquifer have determined that almost all water in the current investigation occurs beneath the Ogallala Formation, in the Dockum Group, which includes the Trujillo and Tecovas formations. Together, these formations make up the High Plains Aquifer. Pantex is currently working to adjust data and terminology to reflect the formation each well is screened through or in, to differentiate where contamination exists in geologic strata that comprise the High Plains Aquifer. High Plains Aquifer terminology will be used in this newsletter and explained in detail at the upcoming public meeting.

Highlights of Cleanup Actions

- This past year, Pantex removed 402 pounds of legacy contaminants through remedial actions.
- Treated 131.9 million gallons through pump and treat systems.

Totals since start of remedial action:

- 3.6 billion gallons of perched groundwater treated with 1.9 billion gallons beneficially used.
- 17,996 pounds of legacy contaminants removed from perched groundwater.
- Bioremediation systems are reducing legacy contaminants to safe drinking water levels.

Pantex monitors more than 100 perched groundwater wells to evaluate the effectiveness of the groundwater cleanup and 37 High Plains Aquifer wells (including eight newly installed wells) to evaluate the continued protectiveness of remedial actions for the drinking water aquifer. Monitoring results from High Plains Aquifer wells continue to indicate that drinking water for neighboring domestic wells and Pantex production wells is safe and protected. You can find results on the Mission page at pantex.energy.gov.

Pantex 2026 Annual Public Meeting

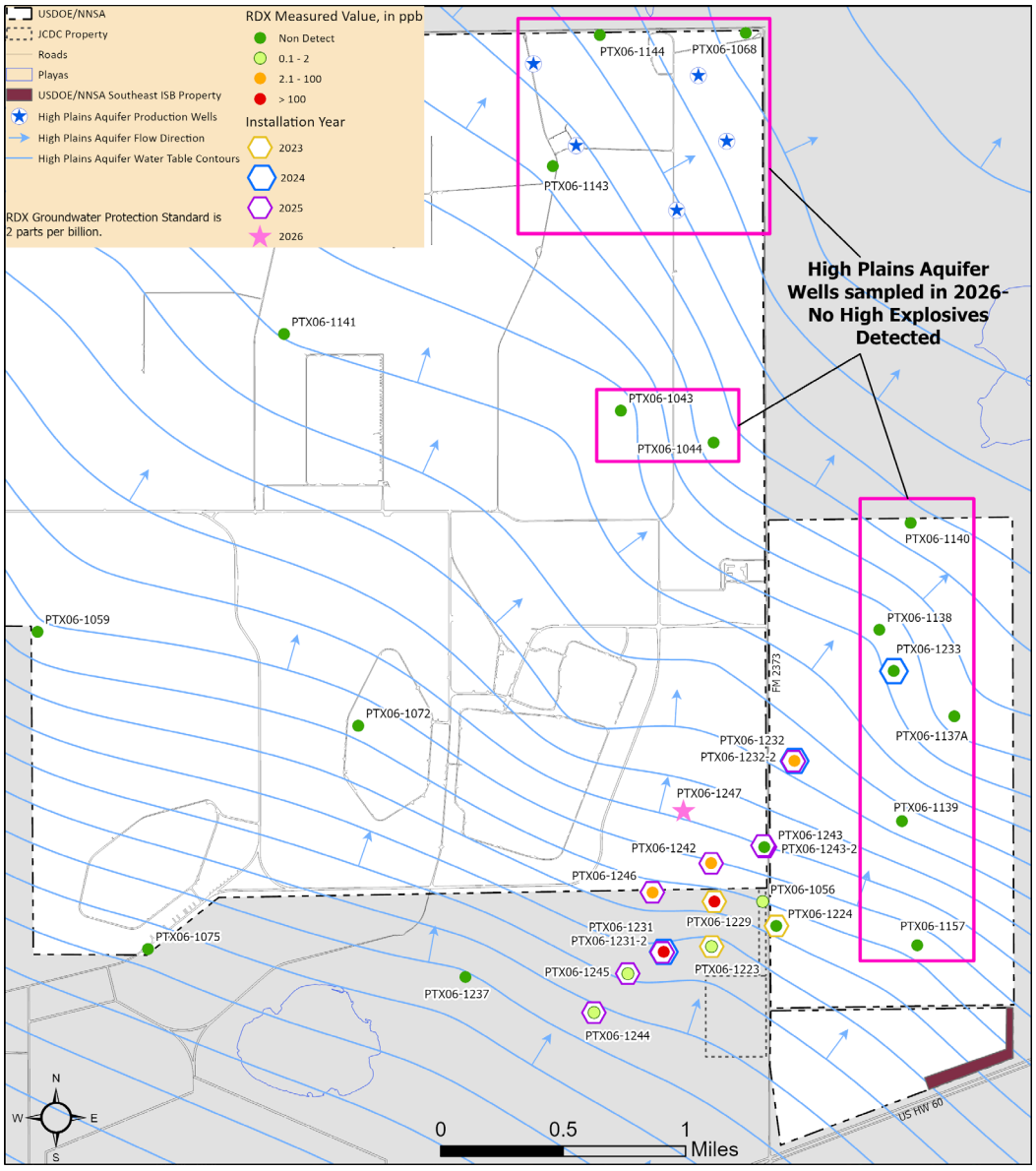
Pantex provides updates of the cleanup progress at an annual Public Meeting. This year's meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at the Square House Museum, 501 Elsie Avenue, in Panhandle, TX.

Legacy High Explosive Detections at High Plains Aquifer Wells

Pantex maintains an extensive well network that monitors for breakthrough of legacy constituents into the High Plains Aquifer from the overlying perched aquifer. Pantex has been investigating high explosive (HE) migration to the High Plains Aquifer and presented relevant results at the 2024 and 2025 public meetings. Based on investigation data, Pantex continued evaluating the extent of the detections by installing eight additional High Plains Aquifer monitor wells to evaluate potential sources for HE detections at PTX06-1229. Pantex finished installing these new High Plains Aquifer monitor wells by January 2026. As an early action for the High Plains Aquifer, Pantex intends to connect four High Plains Aquifer wells to the Southeast Pump and Treat System (SEPTS). Wells included in this project are PTX06-1229, -1231, -1242, and -1246. This action will stabilize the plume movement from areas of higher concentration in an effort to control plume spread. Pantex has prepared an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for this early removal action that is currently in review with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pantex anticipates that this document will be available for public comment in late November. Watch for notice of availability for public comment in the Amarillo Globe Newspaper and the Panhandle Herald.

Wells with HE detections are located south of the Plant property boundary on Texas Tech property and northwest of the John C. Drummond Center (JCDC). There is no imminent threat to existing drinking, irrigation, or live-stock water wells in the High Plains Aquifer, based on samples collected in 2026 from wells located upgradient of onsite and offsite water supplies.

Pantex obtains water for plant processes, personnel use, and consumption from High Plains Aquifer production wells located in the northeast corner of the Plant property. Pantex has tested the High Plains Aquifer monitoring wells in that region and has observed no detections of HEs. These results indicate there is no danger to Pantex or neighboring water supplies. Most recent 2026 data from installed and sampled High Plains Aquifer wells are presented on the map to the right and will be detailed at the upcoming public meeting.



Land Exchange with Texas Tech University System for the Data Center

Texas Tech University System (TTUS) has owned a parcel of land south of the Pantex Plant since the 1940s, with Pantex Plant leasing the land as a safety and security buffer. In 2025, TTUS entered an arrangement with Fermi SPE, LLC to develop a data center, including onsite power generation, on this property. A portion of this property is critical to continued and future mission activities at Pantex, so discussion ensued leading to a land exchange agreement.

In 2007 and 2008, the United States Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (USDOE/NNSA) purchased 1,526 acres of land east of the existing Pantex Plant and TTUS property, east of Farm to Market (FM) Road 2373, in order to secure access to conduct investigations and implement remedies for contaminated groundwater. The USDOE/NNSA is proposing to exchange approximately 713 acres of this land east of FM 2373 with TTUS for 1,278 acres directly south of the main operations area at Pantex. Long-term remedial activities are still ongoing at the Pantex Plant, so USDOE/NNSA has prepared a Covenant Deferral Request (CDR) pursuant to Section 120(h)(3)(C) of CERCLA. Pantex is resolving comments with TCEQ and EPA and will post the document for public comment on the Mission page at pantex.energy.gov once finalized.

Please watch for announcements posted in the Amarillo Globe Newspaper and Panhandle Herald Newspaper regarding the release of the Covenant Deferral Request and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for an early removal action in the High Plains Aquifer for public review and comment. Documents will be made available on the Mission page under environmental clean up documents at pantex.energy.gov.