

# DEQ releases water results tonight

By PETE NICKEAS - Star-Tribune staff writer | Posted: Thursday, February 18, 2010 12:00 am

The state Department of Environmental Quality will release testing results from two Casper chemical contamination sites tonight.

Casper is home to two contamination sites that went more than a decade without testing.

Those sites -- one in north Casper and one downtown -- are contaminated with perchloroethylene, a chemical common to cleaning solvents, according to DEQ officials.

A state law passed in 2000 required the state Department of Environmental Quality to inventory and provide cost assessments for cleanup of the state's "orphan sites." The sites are classified as locations where the agency can't identify the source of contamination or the party responsible for it.

If the DEQ can identify the source of contamination, it can seek reimbursement for cleanup costs. Otherwise, the state foots the bill.

The downtown site is below 421 S. Center and 334 S. Wolcott, the location of the old Lobell Refinery. That site has both oil and PCE contamination. That plume merged with the North Casper plume, according to DEQ officials.

The contamination shouldn't affect drinking water, officials said when announcing the testing late last year.

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To attend:

The meeting will be held from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in Room 150 of the University of Wyoming Outreach Center at 951 N. Poplar. The meeting is an open house and a presentation of the investigation will be made at 7 p.m., according to a release from the Department of Environmental Quality.