



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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December 31, 2008

General Assembly  
State Capital  
Denver, CO 80203

In compliance with Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 34-60-104 (III) (A), the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is submitting its quarterly report to the General Assembly concerning the number of complaints received by the Commission. During this period, the Commission received a total of 54 complaints involving 57 issues.

The report is sorted by the type of complaint and provides information on the complainant's identity and the commission's response.



## COGCC Complaint Report July1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### ACCESS

**Type:** ACCESS

**Date:** 09/05/2008

**Complainant:** Leanne Thomas

PO Box 356

Kiowa

CO 80117

**Description of Complaint:**

Lot 1 of Pine Valley Filing 1 of Section 7, Township 32 South, Range 67 West. Pioneer Natural Resources has built a road across their property which has caused erosion on their property. The road is also blocking the driveway.

**COGCC Response:**

COGCC staff meet with Ms. Thomas at her property along with Pioneer Resources. Pioneer agreed to work with Ms. Thomas and repair her access. This issues will be handled between Ms. Thomas and Pioneer Resources directly. No further involvement with COGCC on this issues will be necessary.



# COGCC Complaint Report

## July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST **Date:** 07/01/2008  
**Complainant:** Gary East 14200 CR 21.6 Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:**  
Mr. East is concerned about possible impacts to water quality in his domestic water well from nearby CBM operations.

**COGCC Response:**  
Letter sent to Mr. East summarizing results of water quality test. No impacts from nearby CBM operations were found to be present in water from his domestic well.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST **Date:** 07/01/2008  
**Complainant:** Wally White 589 High Llama Lane Durango CO 81303

**Description of Complaint:**  
Wally White has requested baseline water quality on his well and Juris Burzin's 2 wells.

**COGCC Response:**  
Baseline analytical results sent to homeowner. All tested parameters fall within the CDPHE and EPA primary and secondary drinking water criteria. Informed homeowner that the COGCC could not locate water well permits for 2 of the 3 wells and gave contact information for the local DWR so the homeowner could contact the DWR to ensure their water rights are appropriately adjudicated.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST **Date:** 07/02/2008  
**Complainant:** Angela Robinson PO BOX 194 Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:**  
The Robinsons are concerned about possible impacts from nearby CBM operations to water quality in water produced from their domestic water well.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

**COGCC Response:**

Letter sent summarizing results of baseline water quality testing. Water quality is generally good. No impacts from nearby CBM operations were observed in this sampling and analysis event. Dissolved methane is greater than 1.1mg/L which could pose risk of buildup in enclosed space. Suggested installation of vent from wellhead and cistern and installation of methane detector/alarm.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 07/14/2008

**Complainant:** Lynn Brashar

Del Agua Canyon Ranches Lot 13 Trinidad

CO 81082

**Description of Complaint:**

Mrs. Brashar is concerned about possible impacts from nearby CBM operations on quality of water in their domestic water well.

**COGCC Response:**

Letter sent to Mrs. Brashars summarizing results of water sampling and analyses. Compared results to two other domestic wells in vicinity. No impacts to groundwater observed at this time from nearby CBM operations.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 07/17/2008

**Complainant:** Mark Betley

741 CR 133

Marvel

CO 81329

**Description of Complaint:**

Requests a water well test prior to drilling.

**COGCC Response:**

Baseline data sent to homeowner. No primary EPA drinking water standards exceeded. Five secondary EPA standards exceeded (iron, manganese, pH, sulfate and total dissolved solids). Probable iron- or sulfate-reducing bacteria. Recommend a shock chlorination to clean up well.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 07/18/2008

**Complainant:** Cheryl Vogel

50 CR 133C

Marvel

CO 81329



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

**Description of Complaint:**

Requests water well test prior to drilling of OWD-1.

**COGCC Response:**

Baseline testing data sent to homeowner. No EPA primary or secondary drinking water standards exceeded.  
No methane gas or coliform bacteria detected.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 07/21/2008

**Complainant:** Laverne Pulliam

116 CR 133F

Marvel

CO 81329

**Description of Complaint:**

Would like well sampled prior to drilling of OWD-1.

**COGCC Response:**

Baseline analytical results sent to homeowner. No primary or secondary EPA drinking water standards exceeded. No methane or coliform bacteria detected.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 08/12/2008

**Complainant:** Linda Hampton

14600 CR 30.1

Weston

CO 810919701

**Description of Complaint:**

Mrs. Hampton is concerned about possible impacts to her water well from nearby CBM drilling and production operations.

**COGCC Response:**

Letter sent summarizing results of most recent sampling and analysis event. No impacts from nearby CBM operations were observed in the analytical data or in comparison to samples collected previously.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 08/14/2008

**Complainant:** Roger VanderWall

17577 CR 41.1

Bon Carbo

CO 810240007

**Description of Complaint:**



# COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

Two CBM wells planned to be drilled in vicinity of the VanderWall water wells. Concerned about possible changes to water quality form CBM drilling and production.

**COGCC Response:**

Letter sent to the Vanderwall's summarizing results of the most recent water quality testing. Water quality is good and some changes were observed between this sampling and two previous samples. Calcium concentration was lower in 2008 than in 2007 or 2005 and overall composition of water was very similar to the chemistry observed in USGS sampling in 1981. No impacts to water quality from nearby CBM operations were observed at this time.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 08/20/2008

**Complainant:** Terry Broughton

8789 CR 320

Rifle

CO 81650

**Description of Complaint:**

Would like the COGCC to sample his water well.

**COGCC Response:**

Letter with laboratory results sent to Mr. Broughton. No Oil & Gas impact observed.

**Type:** BASELINE WATER REQUEST

**Date:** 08/20/2008

**Complainant:** Susie Hoeppli

2309 CR 317

Rifle

CO 81650

**Description of Complaint:**

Would like to have water well sampled.

**COGCC Response:**

Letter sent with lab data. No oil & gas impact.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### FENCING

**Type:** FENCING

**Date:** 08/11/2008

**Complainant:** Anonymous

**Description of Complaint:**

Complaint forwarded by Dave Dillon indicated that people were climbing around on tank and someone ignited a flame after opening a thief hatch on the tank. The resulting flame allegedly burned a man and corrupted the tank. The tank had been replaced before this inspection. There was a new dyke around the tank battery and no fence was installed since it was over a 1/2 mile from residence and next to a corn field. The wellhead was in the cornfield.

**COGCC Response:**

The operator had the tank repaired. They are in communication with police and private parties for followup to what they feel is vandalism of the tank. The sheriff is investigating the incident. Operator has replaced the tank and rebuilt the berms after the fire destroyed the tank.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### GROUND WATER

**Type:** GROUND WATER

**Date:** 07/08/2008

**Complainant:** Tom Parise

North Fork Ranch

Weston

CO

81091

**Description of Complaint:**

Mr. Parise has noted fine sediment in water pumped from his domestic water well since he returned this spring after well was not in use for several months.

**COGCC Response:**

Summary letter closing complaint sent to Mr. Parise. Chemistry of groundwater at his domestic well has remained relatively constant over the last three years. No impacts from nearby CBM activities were observed in the results of sampling and analysis.

**Type:** GROUND WATER

**Date:** 07/11/2008

**Complainant:** Nancy Meadows

19560 CR 30.1

Weston

CO

81091

**Description of Complaint:**

Mrs. Meadows stated that results of recent water quality testing of her domestic well show elevated levels of methane in comparison to previous sampling and analysis. She thinks the elevated levels of methane in groundwater are related to nearby CBM drilling and production activities.

**COGCC Response:**

No impacts from nearby CBM operations were found in groundwater at the Meadows well. Summary letter of investigation and results sent to the Meadows.

**Type:** GROUND WATER

**Date:** 08/15/2008

**Complainant:** Kazuko Nosaka

17500 CR 38.2

Weston

CO

810919733

**Description of Complaint:**





## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

Sudden change in groundwater chemistry and related change in taste noticed this summer after production started at the Shining Well which is up gradient of the domestic water well.

**COGCC Response:**

Received analytical results from laboratory and compared to groundwater standards and past sampling results. Water is of good quality and composition is consistent with past sampling and analyses.

**Type:** GROUND WATER

**Date:** 08/21/2008

**Complainant:** Randy Dennis

18541 Ponderosa Dr

Weston

CO

81091

**Description of Complaint:**

Analysis of water from the domestic well show ten-fold increase in methane. Mr. Dennis believes that nearby CBM drilling and production activities are responsible for this increase.

**COGCC Response:**

Collected samples of produced water and natural gas at Habitant 43-18 and Caesar 22-18 CBM wells with assistance of Pioneer Natural Resources. Samples submitted to labs for general water quality testing as well as isotopic characterization.

**Type:** GROUND WATER

**Date:** 09/19/2008

**Complainant:** Glenn Durant

16386 WCR 42

Gillcrest

CO

**Description of Complaint:**

Complainant's basement flooded. He believed that oil was leaking into basement with groundwater. Nearby well/tank battery is the Kerr McGee Lorenz Chris A #1, NENW 26, T4N, R66W.

**COGCC Response:**

Based on the analytical results of the water sample and the field inspection, COGCC does not believe there has been a release from nearby oil & gas operations that has impacted shallow groundwater.

**Type:** GROUND WATER

**Date:** 09/25/2008

**Complainant:** Janice Hunt

3531 Dry Hollow Rd

Silt

CO



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

**Description of Complaint:**

Water is precipitating out of the ground to the south of an EnCana pad.

**COGCC Response:**

After COGCC staff visited the area it has been determined that water was not due to a leaking well.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### LAND USE CONFLICT

**Type:** LAND USE CONFLICT

**Date:** 08/14/2008

**Complainant:** Elizabeth David

Collbran

CO

**Description of Complaint:**

Complainant stated the operating company, PXP, was installing facilities outside of their agreed upon easement and refusing to negotiate.

**COGCC Response:**

Staff has received sufficient documentation to establish a pattern of communication and consultation. This consultation satisfies the COGCC requirements under Rule 306.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### LIVESTOCK

**Type:** LIVESTOCK

**Date:** 07/15/2008

**Complainant:** Dan Valentine

23085 CR 43.7

Aguilar

CO

81020

**Description of Complaint:**

Mr. Valentine said that this summer his cattle are grazing on land with produced water pits and he has noticed that the cattle refuse to consume the produced water at the Parachute, Banff, Highview and Dave CBM wells. Mr. Valentine requested information on produced water quality from those CBM wells.

**COGCC Response:**

Letter summarizing investigation of complaint and resulting NOAV's (200192640, 200192627 and 200192626) sent to Mr. Valentine. Operator had not complied with conditions of approval of pit permits by not providing water quality data within 60 days of first production and at one well the operator was utilizing a pit for produced water storage and disposal without a permit.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### NOISE

**Type:** NOISE **Date:** 07/07/2008  
**Complainant:** Wayne M. Biart 13957 CR 41.7 Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:**

Mr. Biart stated that he feels there are noise abatement issues with several wells located around his home and property. He had observed broken exhausts on pumping, unit power packs, no noise abatement walls on some wells and jake brakes in use on water trucks that do not need to be used.

**COGCC Response:**

At 9:10am I talk with Mr. Biart. I let him know that noise baffling walls have been set up at the Tarabino 6-7-33-66 and on both wells at the Alpha Romeo 41-12/TR well site.

**Type:** NOISE **Date:** 09/08/2008  
**Complainant:** Daniel Cornelius 193 Florida Acres Drive Durango CO

**Description of Complaint:**

Complainant indicates that noise coming from a compressor associated with subject well (gas powered) is loud and bothering him.

**COGCC Response:**

Field Inspector made visit and took sound measurements. Complainant was notified of measurements and subsequent compliance with COGCC rules. Complainant asked if electric unit had been installed or if fence had reduced noise levels. Inspector agreed to follow up with Operator to check status of electric unit.

**Type:** NOISE **Date:** 09/12/2008  
**Complainant:** Karen Bowers 2215 County Road 508 Bayfield CO

**Description of Complaint:**



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

Complainant indicates that noise coming from a well in close proximity to her is very loud and is bothering nearby residents. Complainant was told by Inspector that Operator would be contacted and that a field visit would be made to take sound measurements.

### COGCC Response:

Complainant was contacted by Field Inspector and indicated that she is satisfied with noise levels after the installation of the whisper skid.

**Type:** NOISE

**Date:** 09/16/2008

**Complainant:** Brad Bartlett

2548 CR 225

Durango

CO

81301

### Description of Complaint:

Nearby landowner states that noise emanating from this facility is disturbing him and his neighbors, especially from the hours of midnight to about 3 AM. He would like noise measurements to be taken. This complaint was passed on to COGCC from La Plata County O & G Planning Dept.

### COGCC Response:

Field Inspector made a field visit and took noise measurements since large doors on north and south side of facility had been closed. Measurements recorded were still above COGCC prescribed limits. Operator was notified of this and indicated that they planned on installing some sort of plastic lining on the east side of facility to try and reduce noise levels. An NOAV has been issued and Chevron is responding as best they can considering the whole upgrade situation.

**Type:** NOISE

**Date:** 09/18/2008

**Complainant:** Louis Perez

LaSalle

CO

### Description of Complaint:

Ensign Drilling Rig 17 spud well at night and noise frightened neighbor Louis Perez. Found pump engine exhaust muffler missing and requested muffler be installed.



## **COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008**

### **COGCC Response:**

Onsite visit found the muffler installed on pump engine and noise level at 350' and house within regulation.

Collin Richardson ordered a noise cancelling device to place in the residence as well. Mr. Perez seems to find the noise level within reason and the complaint is closed.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### NOTIFICATION

**Type:** NOTIFICATION

**Date:** 07/14/2008

**Complainant:** Goulart and Associates

4150 Darley Ave., Suite 11

Boulder

CO 8030

**Description of Complaint:**

Landowner alleges that operator (Colton LLC) did not consult with the current surface owner regarding the development plans for the proposed wells Camenisch-Supreme Camp 2-4B, 7-4B, and 8-4B. Formal letter outlining issues will follow.

**COGCC Response:**

Surface owner has no issues with Colton LLC plans for development. He continues to have issues with the previous surface owner that are unrelated to the complaint. He understands that notice and consultation were conducted in accordance with Rule 305 and withdraws his complaint regarding the Cammensich-Supreme Camp 2-4B, 7-4B, and 8-4B.

**Type:** NOTIFICATION

**Date:** 07/22/2008

**Complainant:** Marilyn Neuberger

Tract 67 North Fork Ranch

Weston

CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:**

Mrs. Neuberger stated that the Mazatlan well pad was constructed and the Mazatlan well was drilled without surface owner notification. The Neuberger's think that the well is located on tract 67 and not on tract 68 of the North Fork Ranch. The Neuberger's stated that they own tract 67. Pioneer filed the APD with surface owner notification to the owners of tract 68.





## **COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008**

### **COGCC Response:**

Locations of surveyed pins at corners of lot and location of Mazatlan 23-25 (as drilled) indicate that distance of drilled well is less than 150 feet from surface property line. Plat maps, located corners and the well location indicate that well was not drilled on property owned by the Nebergers. NOAV 200197113 issued to Pioneer Natural Resources regarding lack of waiver for location less than 150 feet from property line.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### ODOR

**Type:** ODOR **Date:** 07/09/2008  
**Complainant:** Lisa Bracken Silt CO

**Description of Complaint:**  
Complainant noticed strong odor possibly from diesel burning.

**COGCC Response:**  
Inspector traveled to location of complaint. No odor was observed. Impossible to determine source.

**Type:** ODOR **Date:** 08/13/2008  
**Complainant:** Garfield County Jim Rada

**Description of Complaint:**  
Unpleasant odor from 8:00 pm lasting until early morning

**COGCC Response:**  
Operator will have a new frac tank in place of the old tank to contain vapors and will remove the oil from the pit within 24 hrs.

**Type:** ODOR **Date:** 08/28/2008  
**Complainant:** Toby Guccini PO Box 88 Chipper Field In New Castle, CO co 81647

**Description of Complaint:**  
Strong odor during the evening hours. This is a petroleum odor.

**COGCC Response:**  
COGCC staff conducted a onsite inspection. A NOAV has been issued, Doc# 200193686. Investigation of odor complaint is on going.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### OPERATOR RELATIONSHIP

**Type:** OPERATOR RELATIONSHIP

**Date:** 08/26/2008

**Complainant:** Gilbert Groves

20106 CR 38.4

Weston

CO

81091

**Description of Complaint:**

That Pioneer and I, Gilbert Groves - Complainant, can not come to a contract that satisfies both parties.

**COGCC Response:**

COGCC staff called Mr. Groves and explained to him that COGCC has no authority to intervene in private party contracts or negotiating surface use agreements.



# COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

## OTHER

**Type:** OTHER

**Date:** 07/07/2008

**Complainant:** Anonymous

**Description of Complaint:**

Complainant alleges that Basin Water Hauling Service has improperly dumped produced water at several locations in Yuma County. Alleges that the water originated from wells operated by Rosetta Resources and Noble Energy.

**COGCC Response:**

COGCC staff made several site inspections and four soil samples were collected at four different locations, with results pending. Discussions with water hauling service management regarding complaint. Company management felt that disgruntled employee was making a false complaint.

**Type:** OTHER

**Date:** 07/07/2008

**Complainant:** Wayne M. Biart

13957 CR 41.7

Weston

CO

81091

**Description of Complaint:**

Dust suppression by road watering with produced water. Mr. Biart stated that he believes there are coal fines in the water and that he has noted a sulfur smell from the water used. He also thinks that the produced water is high in iron and salinity.

**COGCC Response:**

Provided Mr. Biart with information regarding Rule 907 and use of produced water in dust suppression and that he could request operator to not conduct road watering on roads through his property. He did want dust suppression to continue.

**Type:** OTHER

**Date:** 08/26/2008

**Complainant:** Jim Rudnick

unknown on Rd 44

DeBeque

CO



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### Description of Complaint:

Concerned citizen contacted CDPHE Solid Waste (Grand Junction) regarding water hauling truck traffic and waste water pit near DeBeque in Mesa County. Complainant expressed concern that waste water pit might be taking water as a commercial facility.

Original e-mails: From: DONNA D. Stoner [mailto:ddstoner@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us]

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 12:28 PM

To: CHARLES JOHNSON

Cc: Bob Peterson; Canfield, Chris; Baldwin, Debbie

Subject: Fwd: production water pit on BLM

September 22, 2008

Hello Donna,

Listed below is an email we have received from a gentleman who appears to be concerned that Black Mountain customers are using the pond on V.2 Road. Have you heard anything back from the COGCC as to whether they have this pond on their roles?

Thanks,

Donna Ross



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

Jim Rudnick 09/20/2008 11:45 AM

Hello Donna,

I live on 44 road. On an average day there are about thirty production water trucks that pass my house. They go out V 2/10 road and come back. The day after Black Mountain was suspended there were at least one hundred of these trucks. If you are unaware of the waste water pit then with Google Earth go to lat 39.313976 and lon -108.271232. You will see a lined pit approximately 200X400 feet. Who, if anyone, is responsible for monitoring this pit? What goes into it? What evaporates out of it? What keeps birds and animals out of it? Who operates it? These large tanker trucks MUST travel through the town of DeBeque to get to this area. Just another example of the industry exploiting a community.

I am not a happy landowner any more.

Regards,

Jim Rudnick

### COGCC Response:

Pit is operated by Maralex Resources to service Maralex well operations in the DeBeque area. Pit is used to evaporate produced water and is not being used by any other company or operator. Maralex maintains very good records on the pit operations. Pit operates on Federal surface lands administered by the BLM and Maralex operates this pit under agreement with the BLM. The BLM is the lead governmental agency on this matter and is conducting additional investigations of this operation for any violations. The COGCC is supporting the BLM in their investigation.



# COGCC Complaint Report

## July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### PITS

**Type:** PITS **Date:** 08/01/2008  
**Complainant:** Leslie Taylor PO Box 126 Cahone CO 81320

**Description of Complaint:** Concerned pit is not properly fenced to exclude, people, wildlife or domestic animals.

**COGCC Response:** NOAV issued for: 1) not reclaiming the pit within 3-months (or submitting for a waiver) on cropland, and 2) not obtaining a pit permit in advance of construction for those pits that will contain chlorides in excess of 50,000 ppm. See NOAV #200193461 for details. Operator provided COGCC with a letter from the surface owner stating it was acceptable to them to leave the pit open until 12/31/2008 (see document #1733202); however BBC also needs COGCC approval.

**Type:** PITS **Date:** 08/18/2008  
**Complainant:** Matt Wurtzbacher 5460 South Quebec St, Suite 250 Greenwood Village CO 80111

**Description of Complaint:**



## **COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008**

Matt Wurtzbacher of Pucket Land Company has property encompassing parts of Rio Blanco and Garfield County (T4S R99W). Mineral rights are leased to Encana Oil and Gas which has farmed them out to West Hawk Energy. He is concerned about pits on the property that have many things that appear to be in non-compliance with COGCC Rules. At one pit in Section 12, there is oil on the pit and the liner is breached. At a second location, there appears to be glycol in the pit. Both pits are old. They are starting to drill a well in Section 14 where the location and pit have been there a while and the pit liner is obviously rotted. In addition, although he had signed a Rule 305 waiver, he has since withdrawn that waiver and has clearly told the operator not to conduct operations without consultation and until financial assurance is in hand. West Hawk is in the process of building locations without landowner approval as of his site visit Friday 8/15

### **COGCC Response:**

Landowner notified by phone that no significant violations were found. Minor issues are being corrected by the operator.





## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

**Type:** PROPERTY DAMAGE **Date:** 08/15/2008  
**Complainant:** Bill Schneider Greeley CO

**Description of Complaint:**  
Fence down and auto gate in disrepair allowing cattle onto county road.

**COGCC Response:**  
The auto gate is repaired and the electric fence rigged to continue the circuit leaving the auto gate open for transportation. Field inspection verified the operation.

**Type:** PROPERTY DAMAGE **Date:** 08/18/2008  
**Complainant:** Tim Iverson Road F Greeley CO 80631

**Description of Complaint:**  
Tim Iverson alleged that weed chemical was making trees die next to this well site. Another well battery exists at this location and exhibits good weed control. Tree leaves appear to be curling and a couple of trees appear dead in the vicinity of the well next to the Poudre River.

**COGCC Response:**  
Operator representative does not feel the weed sprayer maliciously sprayed the trees. The weed chemical is blue green and sticks to the soil onsite and is visible. The weeds and trees next to the affected trees are green and healthy. A flowline test will be conducted to determine if there is an oil leak on the nearby wells.

**Type:** PROPERTY DAMAGE **Date:** 08/27/2008  
**Complainant:** Bruce Meireis Kersey CO

**Description of Complaint:**  
Well drilled near water edge behind water storage dyke. Complainant indicates the water storage is a contract with landowner and the operator does not have the right to release water flooding the wellsite.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### COGCC Response:

After review of the permit and discussion with Permit group manager it was determined the well was drilled according to permit and the agency did not have party to the complaint. Operator believes the well was drilled according to permit with landowner approved location.

**Type:** PROPERTY DAMAGE

**Date:** 09/10/2008

**Complainant:** Steve Beach

33820 WCR 47

Greeley

CO

80631

### Description of Complaint:

Complainant alleges that anchors placed for the rig during drilling may have damaged a drain tile running through his field. Over the past 4 to 5 years the plugged tile has backed up and caused up to 6 acres of lost crop land due to standing water. PDC had excavated near the anchors in the past to investigate, but never followed up or closed the excavations.

### COGCC Response:

COGCC staff met the land owner and operator at the location on 9/4/08. It did appear that one or more old anchor locations for the rig may have lined up with a drain tile running through the field. A large area of wetland was observed where land owner indicated the tile used to drain the field. The operator agreed they should excavate at the locations of the anchors to determine if they did in fact damage the drain tile. Since irrigation was still taking place, the land owner agreed that the excavation need not take place before late October 08' to let the area de-water as much as possible

**Type:** PROPERTY DAMAGE

**Date:** 09/19/2008

**Complainant:** Tim Iverson

5011 F Street

Greeley

CO

80631

### Description of Complaint:

Complainant alleges that weed spraying done at the Noble Energy Lucero 1-34 well and tank battery has killed and damaged several trees.



## **COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008**

### **COGCC Response:**

Soil samples were collected from the base of an elm tree and one of the cottonwoods and delivered to Evergreen Analytical for herbicide analysis. Clippings of the elm tree and one cottonwood were submitted to the Diagnostic Plant Lab at CSU for evaluation. Personnel at the plant lab believed the symptoms exhibited by the trees were consistent with root uptake of herbicide. A tree at a nearby Noble lease (Williams) also exhibited the same symptoms and a clipping and soil sample were also collected from that location. Final results from both labs are pending.



# COGCC Complaint Report

## July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### RECLAMATION

**Type:** RECLAMATION

**Date:** 07/11/2008

**Complainant:** Micky Strickert

45860 Co.Rd.# 22

Yuma

CO 80759

**Description of Complaint:**

PA,well site.NIGA/Allen #3, Washington,County

**COGCC Response:**



# COGCC Complaint Report

## July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### SIGNS

**Type:** SIGNS

**Date:** 08/01/2008

**Complainant:** Leslie Taylor

PO Box 126

Cahone

CO 81320

**Description of Complaint:**

Sign locates the pit in Montezuma County when it is in Dolores County.

**COGCC Response:**

BBC corrected sign to read Dolores County during field inspection.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### SPILLS

**Type:** SPILLS **Date:** 08/19/2008  
**Complainant:** Tracy Dahl 14218 Switchback Rd Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:**  
Landowner observed two water trucks dumping water on the pad.

**COGCC Response:**  
Summary letter describing investigation and resulting NOAV's sent to complainant.

**Type:** SPILLS **Date:** 09/10/2008  
**Complainant:** Steve Beach 33820 WCR 47 Greeley CO 80631

**Description of Complaint:**  
Complainant was concerned that excavation was taking place at a tank battery on his property. His irrigation pond is adjacent to the battery and he didn't want to spread contamination if there had been a release by irrigating. PDC had not notified him of what was being done at the tank battery.

**COGCC Response:**  
A release had been discovered on site. Operator was excavating contaminated soil and had retained LT Environmental to collect soil and groundwater samples to confirm cleanup.

**Type:** SPILLS **Date:** 09/13/2008  
**Complainant:** Tracy Dahl 14218 Switchback Rd. Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:**  
Pit overflowing and produced water spill occurring.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

**COGCC Response:**

Complaint closed with letter sent to complainant and operator summarizing investigation, and issuing Notice of Alleged Violation.

**Type:** SPILLS

**Date:** 09/22/2008

**Complainant:** Lorraine Renner

1420 N Linden

Trinidad

CO 81082

**Description of Complaint:**

Mrs. Renner reported that basement of house at 16468 Hwy. 12 has been flooding recently. She believes the source of the water may be from CBM wells located to the south and uphill from the home.

**COGCC Response:**

Flooding of basement appears to be related to drainage problems at the home. Tenant reported that sump pump comes on at each precipitation event and stays on for a day or more. Chemistry of water in the basement more like nearby river water than CBM produced water.



# COGCC Complaint Report

## July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### STORMWATER BMPs

**Type:** STORMWATER BMPs **Date:** 07/22/2008  
**Complainant:** Marilyn Neuberger Tract 67 North Fork Ranch Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:** Mrs. Neuberger observed area with no BMP's in place and with sediment having entered an arroyo as a result of Pioneer's construction activities related to building the lease access road to the Mazatlan pad.

**COGCC Response:** Second NOAV issued for lack of maintenance of erosion controls and lack of adequate erosion controls.





## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### SURFACE WATER

**Type:** SURFACE WATER

**Date:** 07/22/2008

**Complainant:** Marilyn Neuberger

Tract 67 North Fork Ranch

Weston

CO

81091

**Description of Complaint:**

Mrs. Neuberger said that a spring that they had observed as flowing for the last ten years had gone dry, possibly as a result of the construction activities done to build the well pad or from drilling and operating the Mazatlan well.

**COGCC Response:**

USGS topographic maps show drainage as intermittent stream and not a perennial stream. Field investigation confirms the ephemeral nature of the drainage. No riparian vegetation observed in any part of the arroyo.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### WATER WELL

**Type:** WATER WELL

**Date:** 07/21/2008

**Complainant:** Melinda Brenimer

10290 CR 39

Ft. Lupton

CO

80621

**Description of Complaint:**

Complainant believes that a nearby oil & gas well operated by Noble Energy may have had a casing leak in the past that could have impacted water well.

**COGCC Response:**

Dissolved methane in well water appears to be biogenic in origin. Tests were positive for iron related bacteria and sulfate reducing bacteria. There are no indications of any oil & gas related impacts to the water well.

**Type:** WATER WELL

**Date:** 07/23/2008

**Complainant:** Donald Braun

42850 E CR 6

Bennett

CO

80102

**Description of Complaint:**

Mr. Braun would like to have his water well sampled.

**COGCC Response:**

COGCC staff collected water well samples for laboratory analysis. No oil & gas impact in Mr. Braun's water well. Letter and analytical results sent to Mr. Braun.

**Type:** WATER WELL

**Date:** 07/30/2008

**Complainant:** Jan & Bennie Herrera

4242 CR 309-A

Ignacio

CO

81137

**Description of Complaint:**

Water well is having problems. Methane in water. Loss of water.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### COGCC Response:

Unable to conclusively determine what may have caused a loss in water to the well during the summer. Analytical data indicate water quality has not changed significantly since 1994. TDS and sulfate remain high, yet lower than recorded in 1994, 2001, and 2007. No TPH or BTEX was identified in the well water. Methane was measured at 0.013 mg/L - lower than 1996 and 2001 measurements of 0.83 and 0.96 mg/L. Suggested the well owner have a licensed water well contractor evaluate potential downhole or mechanical issues that might reduce or limit flow into the well. Will keep an eye on the area and reevaluate if new data become available. The well is included in the infill monitoring program.

**Type:** WATER WELL

**Date:** 08/08/2008

**Complainant:** Dr. Gerald Calvin

13595 WCR 22

Ft. Lupton

CO

806210429

### Description of Complaint:

Complainant alleges impact to domestic water well from nearby oil and gas wells. Water well is located in SWSE Sec 8, T2N, R66W.

### COGCC Response:

Well sampled on 8/6/08. Sample results show no impact from oil & gas activity. Gas sample shows biogenic gas. Letter with all analytical results sent to well owner.

**Type:** WATER WELL

**Date:** 09/29/2008

**Complainant:** John Alvarez

176 CR 326

Ignacio

CO

81137

### Description of Complaint:

Water increased in salinity after drilling and went dry summer 2008. Thompson had voluntarily conducted pre-drilling and 1-year post-drilling water quality sampling. Issue reported to COGCC by Thompson.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### COGCC Response:

COGCC staff witnessed bradenhead testing and gas/produced water sampling at the Abeyta 17-1, 17-2 and Tiffany 2-17. COGCC, FCG and DAK Drilling again attempt to sample Alvarez water well. The cistern had recently been filled and water was flowing from the cistern into the wellbore. Attempted to collect a sample, but well went dry immediately. DAK was to contact Mr. Alvarez and repair prior to resampling attempt. COGCC SW EPS contacted Mr. Alvarez to check on the status of his well and water supply. He stated it is about the same. DAK did not contact regarding the backflow of water. SW EPS suggested he call DAK to get this resolved. Wanted to let Mr. Alvarez know that we were working on the problem. Data had been requested from multiple operators and it was just all getting returned and evaluated. COGCC will stay in contact regarding results and reporting.



## COGCC Complaint Report July 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

### WEEDS

**Type:** WEEDS

**Date:** 07/15/2008

**Complainant:** Matt Beeman

263 Fremont Lane

Durango

CO 81303

**Description of Complaint:**

Complainant indicates that weeds are getting out of control and encroaching on their property from an adjacent BP property. BP has no well on this location but had to divert a gas transmission line through it which caused disturbance and prompted growth of Russian knapweed. Complainant also indicates that someone had come in and mowed down most of the knapweed and they feel this will exacerbate the problem.

**COGCC Response:**

Randy Baxter (BP America) called Inspector and indicated that weeds had indeed been resprayed.

**Type:** WEEDS

**Date:** 07/30/2008

**Complainant:** Steve Jung

806 CR 526

Bayfield

CO

**Description of Complaint:**

Landowner called and indicates that an undeveloped lease next to his property which is held by BP America has weeds on it which are encroaching on his property. He would like BP to address the problem so it doesn't get worse.

**COGCC Response:**

Operator has sprayed for weeds and will follow up next spring. Complainant has not contacted Inspector again with any problems. Complaint being closed out based on this information.