

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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August 27, 2009

General Assembly State Capital Denver, CO 80203

In compliance with Colorado Revised Statues, 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 52 complaints involving 60 issues.

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



**AESTHETICS** 

Type: **AESTHETICS** Date: 04/06/2009

Complainant: David Ellinwood 1862 9 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

Equipment in disrepair. Abandoned equipment on location.

**COGCC Response:** 

Location cleared of unused equipment.

Type: **AESTHETICS** Date: 04/06/2009

Complainant: John Wells 835 R1/2 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

Landowner complained about general disrepair of location/equipment. Lack of response from operator.

**COGCC Response:** 

Location cleaened of debris and weeds.

Type: **AESTHETICS** Date: 04/06/2009

835 R1/2 Rd. CO Complainant: John Wells Mack 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

General disrepair of location unmarked chemicals stored on location.

**COGCC Response:** 

Location cleaned and weeds removed. Signs installed. Bird screens on separators installed. Fence installed

around wellhead. Tubing pulled, CIBP set and TA MIT performed. Unused tubing removed.



**Type:** AIR QUALITY

**Date:** 05/26/2009

**Complainant:** Garfield County - Judy Jordan 0375 CR 352 BLDG 2060 Rifle CO 81650

**Description of Complaint:** 



From: Jim Rada

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 12:31 PM

To: BOCC; Ed Green; Judith Jordan

Cc: Mary Meisner

Subject: Orion Energy Produced Water operations

Hello all,

I want to alert you to a couple of complaints I received this morning. Mr. John Lesh (sp?) and Mr. Anthony Zerlinga called shortly after 8:00 am today indicating frustration over the plume of smoke emanating from Orion's operations on the west face of Jolley Mesa. This smoke plume has been obvious for at least a couple of months. After a couple of citizen comments over the last month, I alerted the State Air Pollution Control Division to this situation 2 weeks ago. Last week, two separate inspectors visited the site and found that Orion has established a system which apparently burns produced water within a stack. They utilize field gas to fire the burner.

The state inspectors noted two separate opacity violations last week. As I happened to be in Denver at CDPHE today, I spoke with three members of the Air Division's oil and gas team. They indicated that they are moving quickly to deal with the obvious violations and working to determine permitting requirements. I' m not certain they can call for a cease and desist order as they told me that in order to do so, they have to



prove an imminent health risk.

I will continue to stay tuned on this matter and call the complainants back to let them know what is going on. I will also keep you advised.

Jim Rada, REHS

**Environmental Health Manager** 

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After talking with Orion regarding their operations here is what is being undertaken:

Orion is using produced natural gas from their operations to evaporate produced water from their Jolly Mesa operations. They are using the natural gas to fire burners to evaporate the water. It appears that some minor amount of organics from the produced water (possibly condensate) is still in the water during evaporation resulting in some smoke. The EPA has evaluated the site for opacity violations and has found that the operation is right at the 20% opacity standard and does not constitute any violation. Nevertherless, Orion is reconfiguring the system (additional separation, reduction of volume of water, etc.) to reduce visual emission to below the 20% standard. Additionally, Orion is having the operation evaluated by the Air Pollution Control Division of the CDPHE to determine if air permits are necessary for the operation.

Currently the operation is shut-down and awaiting air sampling results and determination of any permitting requirements by the CDPHE APCD. The COGCC has inspected the operations and has determined that no violation of COGCC rules has occurred. Because these operations are air related, the COGCC is deferring to the CDPHE for any further State agency follow-up.



#### **BASELINE WATER REQUEST**

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/02/2009

Complainant: William Alvarado 15642 Higgens Ave Ft Lupton CO 80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have water well sampled. Complainant can light gas from well.

**COGCC** Response:

COGCC sampling shows no impact from oil and gas operations. Methane gas in water well is biogenic.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/02/2009

**Complainant:** Justin Cole 7335 WCR 23 Ft Lupton CO 80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have water well sampled. Complainant can light gas from well.

**COGCC Response:** 

COGCC sampled well. No impacts from oil and gas operations. Gas in water well is biogenic.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/02/2009

Complainant: Penny Bieber 20139 CR 30.1 Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:** 

The Biebers would like a baseline water sample collected and analyzed before proposed drilling takes place

on their property. They are still working on surface use agreement with the operator at this time.



Provided Ms. Bieber with summary table of results via e-mail as well as requested clarification as to whether previous results provided by the Biebers for comparison were from the same well. Data from Amoco indicates new well was drilled after some of the data was gathered. Concentration of sodium, chloride, TDS and bicarbonate have increased since 2005 sampling by Glibota by approximately 15-25%. Concentration of sulfate had decreased from 2005 to 2009 samples by similar percentage to increases just listed. Not certain if Amoco data from 1990's is from same well as Ms, Bieber told me during sampling that a new well had been drilled for them in that timeframe. Original well was possibly a core hole from coal exploration according to some notes and records. Current well is much shallower than original well. Not possible to determine possible impacts until can determine which results go with which well as hard to determine baseline.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/02/2009

Complainant: Justin Jackson 24495 WCR 18 Keensburg CO 80643

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have water well sampled.

**COGCC Response:** 

Analytical sampling results show no indication of any oil and gas impact to the water well.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/02/2009

Complainant: Vickie Traxler 2726 Appaloosa Way Brighton CO 80603

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have well sampled.

**COGCC Response:** 

Analytical sample results show no evidence of any oil and gas impact to the water well.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/02/2009



Complainant: Angle Booco 11870 WCR 37 Ft Lupton CO 80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like water well sampled.

**COGCC** Response:

All sampling resuts show no indication of any oil and gas impact to water well.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/02/2009

Complainant: Tim Giblin 18983 WCR 22 Ft Lupton CO 80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like water well sampled.

**COGCC** Response:

All sampling results show no indication of any oil and gas impacts to the water well.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/03/2009

Complainant: Bruce Reed 1435 WCR 41 Hudson CO 80642

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have water well sampled.

**COGCC Response:** 

Letter and sample results sent to Mr. Reed on 5/18/09. No oil and gas impact. Gas in water well is biogenic.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/03/2009

**Complainant:** Jennifer Cummings 6731 WCR 41 Ft Lupton CO 80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have water well sampled. Well has gas.



**COGCC Response:** 

Water well sampled by COGCC. No oil and gas impact. Gas in water well is biogenic methane.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/03/2009

Complainant: Bergstrom 6702 WCR 14 Ft Lupton CO 80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to water well sampled. Well has gas.

**COGCC** Response:

COGCC sampling shows no impact from oil and gas operations on the water well. Well has mostly nitrogen

gas.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/20/2009

Complainant: Debbie Benton 20718 WCR 20 Hudson CO 80642

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would Like to have water well sampled.

**COGCC Response:** 

All sampling results show no evidence of any oil and gas impact to water well.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/27/2009

Complainant:Larry Garcia7331 Hwy 151Pagosa SpringsCO81147

**Description of Complaint:** 

Requests baseline water sampling in advance of area O&G development.

**COGCC Response:** 

Baseline letter sent to well owner. See document #1733329.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/27/2009

Complainant: Larry "Tato" Vaughn 6505A Hwy 151 Pagosa Springs CO 81147



**Description of Complaint:** 

Requested baseline testing of spring in advance of area O&G development.

**COGCC Response:** 

Sent letter with water quality data to spring owner. See document #200210734.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 04/29/2009

**Complainant:** Korey Turskey 630 S McKinley Ave Ft Lupton CO 80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have water well sampled.

**COGCC** Response:

Water well samples show no oil and gas impact. Gas in water well is mostly nitrogen.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 05/06/2009

**Complainant:** Floyd Green 0001 CR 315 Rifle CO 80651

**Description of Complaint:** 

Would like to have water well sampled.

**COGCC Response:** 

Letter and sample results sent to Mr. Green on 6/30/09. No oil and gas impact in water well.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 05/06/2009

Complainant: Walter E. Williams Lot 26 North Fork Ranch Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:** 



The domestic well at Mr. Williams lot has been drilled and completed in the last few months. He would like to establish baseline water quality before planned CBM drilling takes place on the ridge behind his lot. He is also concerned that CBM activities in the area around his lot may be impacting groundwater quality in the area.

#### **COGCC** Response:

Summary letter sent to Mr. Williams. Water quality is of generally good quality with tested parameters within groundwater standards. Low concentrations of several BTEX compounds were detected. Well is located very close to North Fork of the Purgatoire River and accesses shallow groundwater from alluvium and shallow bedrock. Requested to allow resampling for isotopic composition as well as for confirmation of BTEX presence. Well was recently drilled and completed.

Type: BASELINE WATER REQUEST Date: 05/15/2009

Complainant: Dimetrio Escalante 3481 Weld County Road 17 Brighton CO 80601

#### **Description of Complaint:**

Would like to have water well sampled.

#### **COGCC Response:**

Water well samples and letter sent to Mr. Escalante on 6/29/09. No oil and gas impact. Gas in water well is biogenic.



**CHEMICAL HAZARD** 

CHEMICAL HAZARD 04/03/2009 Type: Date:

CO Complainant: Shawn Jacobson 510 High Flume Durango 81303

**Description of Complaint:** 

Complainant & wife returned home about 6-7:30 p.m. and noted the compressor at this location was louder than normal. They drove to the well pad to check and see what was happening and to obtain the operator phone number from the sign. Both got dizzy and disoriented while on the pad and Mr. Jacobson stated he was throwing up by the time they got back to the house. The complainant called the Operator and was put in contact w/ Walt Schneider-Williams Field Lead. Mr. Schneider said he would send someone out to shut off the well and would call Mr. Jacobson back. Mr. Jacobson has not yet received a call back and wants to know if he and his wife need to seek medical care. He indicated that both had headaches all night and experienced a metallic taste. Mr. Jacobson saw a pumper at the wellhead this morning, but the well was still in production. Mike Meschke of San Juan Basin Health was also called and a message left for him. SW EPS indicated she would contact staff at Williams and request them to communicate needed information with the Jacobsons.

**COGCC** Response:

Matter was referred to Williams Production Company for followup with the complainant. No further action at this time.



**FENCING** 04/06/2009 Type: Date:

Complainant: John Wells 835 R1/2 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

No fencing around wellhead.

**COGCC Response:** 

Fences installed around wellhead.

**FENCING** Type: 04/06/2009 Date:

Complainant: David Ellinwood 1862 9 Rd. CO Mack 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

No fencing around wellhead and seperator

**COGCC Response:** 

Operator sold landowner (David Ellenwood) used tubing from well and landowner agreed to put up fence

around wellhead.



**GROUND WATER** 

Type: GROUND WATER Date: 06/15/2009

**Complainant:** Dave and Lisa York Lot 27, Eagles Landing Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:** 

Mr. York has observed an dramatic increase in particulate matter present in water produced from his

domestic well in the past 90 days.



Response or Details

Received analytical reports from Accutest (Evergreen) for analysis of metals associated with very fine particulates present in water pumped from the York domestic well. Results indicate particles are likely to be clays and perhaps ferric oxyhydroxides. Both types of particulates are likely being re-suspended in the well from the bottom of the well or from the sides of the well or both by use of the well and not as a result of CBM operations in the general vicinity of the York water well.

Received final VOC report from Accutest. Previous data had been preliminary. pH is 8.82 and outside WQCD groundwater standards. No other analyte exceeds the groundwater standards. Water is of sodium-bicarbonate character typical of water in coal formations in this area. Concentration of dissolved methane is high enough to be of concern if brought directly inot an enclosed space. No impacts from nearby CBM operations.

Received analytical data for gas composition and iostopic analyses from Isotech via e-mail. Methane isotopic ratio for carbon and hydrogen isotopes are consistent with methane source in shallow and thermally immature coals. Water well is completed in the Raton Fm. and coal seams were reported as present during drilling of the domestic well. The gas composition is of a dry gas with some heavier gas components up to C5 present in low concentrations.

Type: GROUND WATER Date: 06/19/2009

Complainant: Stonewall Fire Protection Distric PO Box 126 Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:** 

Objectionable odors have developed in water at the Wet Canyon station. Also want baseline established



Received analytical results from Accutest for anions, VOC's and dissolved methane analyses from re-sampling on Aug. 11, 2009. Trihalomethanes were still reported from samples collected approximately one month after shock chlorination of well. Concentration of nitrate is high for this area but still below the groundwater standard. Concentration of dissolved methane conforms previous result. Results for isotopic and gas compositon tests still pending (due in early September).



Type: INACTIVE WELL Date: 04/06/2009

Complainant: David Ellinwood 1862 9 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

Last production report was submitted 04/2001

**COGCC** Response:

Tubing pulled, CIBP set. MIT failed. By 10/2/2009 Operator to PR/PA/MIT.

Type: INACTIVE WELL Date: 05/29/2009

Complainant: Bob Condon Greeley CO

**Description of Complaint:** 

Domestic well owned by Jackie Bruce remains connected to house. Property sold to Craig Sparrow of

Western Equipment and Trucking, Greeley, CO. Landman Bob Condon wants to know if well can be

transferred or plugged.

**COGCC Response:** 

Recommended that the property owner contact Jackie Bruce and work on an agreement to transfer well with

proper bonding with the state. Once control is gained a plugging order can be issued to the well owner that

is properly bonded.

Type: INACTIVE WELL Date: 06/01/2009

Complainant: Anonymous

**Description of Complaint:** 

The well is not being maintained, so the land owner is requesting maintenance or closure.



Operator to evaluate location and reply with remedation plans.



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Type: LEAKING WELL Date: 04/29/2009

Complainant: Rex Suites Longmont CO

**Description of Complaint:** 

Landowner (Rex Suits) to the south of the Frederiksen #1 Well was excavating a pond and noticed bubbles

in the water. He was concerned that the bubbles might be methane.

**COGCC Response:** 

COGCC Inspector and John Berlin visited the site and determined that gas was likely not methane as gas

meter readings were negative.

Type: LEAKING WELL Date: 04/30/2009

Complainant: Tom Rice 29211 Hwy 184 Dolores CO 81323

**Description of Complaint:** 

Numerous public complaints have been lodged with the Dolores Public Lands Office (BLM) stating that this

well is, and has been for some time, leaking gas at the wellhead. Complainants believe this situation poses

public health and safety issues, as well as a potential wildfire situation.

**COGCC** Response:

SW Field Inspector met Antelope Services on location. See Inspection #200215268. They indicated that

upon arrival it appeared that well had been tampered with and lock down pins had been loosened causing

well to leak again. It was observed that Antelope had just installed bull plugs to prevent this from happening

again. Both inspector and Antelope had gas meters available which were used to check for leaks. No gas was

detected at this time. Complainant was provided with this information. Complaint being closed.



Type: LIVESTOCK Date: 06/19/2009

**Complainant:** D.A. Valentine 23085 CR 43.7 Aguilar CO 81020

**Description of Complaint:** 

Photo of livestock drinking from foam covered pit was attached.

**COGCC** Response:

NOAV 200213324 issued to Pioneer with respect to problems observed at well during June 19, 2009 field inspection. Follow-up field inspection 200214014. Unused equipment had been removed from pad. Chain to be utilized as part of method for ensuring adequate freeboard was observed to be in place. Mr. Wiseman of PNR told me of plans to have produced water go to gathering system with subsequent disposal at disposal well in area instead of water being disposed to pit at the well. Pit had adequate freeboard during inspection. Collected samples of unstressed and stressed pine branches from area at east edge of pad. Oaks and grasses in area show no signs of stress. Submitted plant samples to CSU diagnostic lab via mail.



**NOISE** 

**Type:** NOISE **Date:** 04/02/2009

Complainant: Mr. Williams Silt CO

**Description of Complaint:** 

Complainant states that a very disturbing noise combined with vibration occurs at varying times throughout

the day and night.

**COGCC** Response:

Operator stated they would check the field for any malfunctioning equipment and attempt to identify the

source of the disturbance.

**Type:** NOISE **Date:** 04/02/2009

Complainant: Mike Smith Silt CO

**Description of Complaint:** 

Complainant states that a very disturbing noise combined with vibration occurs at varying times throughout

the day and night.

**COGCC** Response:

Operator stated they would check the field for any malfunctioning equipment and attempt to identify the

source of the disturbance.

**Type:** NOISE **Date:** 05/20/2009

Complainant: Nick Mangino PO Box 122 Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:** 

Excessive noise, non-stop, daily for over one year, high pitched whine heard almost a mile away.



**COGCC Response:** 

COGCC staff contacted complainant and told them the results of the noise readings and they were in compliance with COGCC regulations. Staff found a disconnected muffler hose. The operator was told about it and the hose was fixed. Staff told Mr. Mangino they would drive out to the well site next week and verify that it had been fixed.

**Type:** NOISE **Date:** 05/21/2009

Complainant: Chad Pulsifer 918 S Los Charros Ct Puelo West CO 81007

**Description of Complaint:** 

Excessive noise, non-stop day & night, for over one year, high pitched whine heard almost a mile away.

**COGCC Response:** 

Staff called complainant and left the message that the noise readings were in compliance and that a disconnected muffler hose was fixed.

COGCC staff contacted complainant and told them the results of the noise readings and they were in compliance with COGCC regulations. Staff found a disconnected muffler hose. The operator was told about it and the hose was fixed. Staff told Mr. Mangino they would drive out to the well site next week and verify that it had been fixed.

Type: NOISE Date: 06/08/2009

Complainant: Aaron Mallett 250 Cow Canyon Road Ignacio CO 81137

**Description of Complaint:** 

Adjacent landowner indicates that low level noise (dbC) associated with compressor at this facility is bothering him at his house and would like readings taken to overify this.



Field inspector met with complainant and took noise measurements on the "C" scale-low level. Dbc measurements were taken 25 feet from residence towards the noise source (compressor) at 9 a.m.no wind, temp. approx. 50 degrees. Recorded readings ranged from 70-72 dbc and are therefore out of compliance under statewide rule 802.c. Operator will be contacted and a NOAV will be issued.



**Type:** ODOR **Date:** 04/15/2009

Complainant: Nate Dutton 400 Cty Rd 306 Parachute CO

**Description of Complaint:** 

Described as an odor coming from the Hyrup 12-32D pad, and high noise level's coming from the

compressor station near the same pad.

**COGCC** Response:

Issued NOAV #200209066. Spoke with operator who will contact staff when doing any work on this pad site

so staff can witness any release.



#### **OPERATOR RELATIONSHIP**

Type: OPERATOR RELATIONSHIP Date: 04/06/2009

Complainant: David Ellinwood 1862 9 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

Landowner has made numerous attempts to contact operator regarding general disrepair of well site.

Operator fails to return calls.

**COGCC Response:** 

Operator contacted. Field supervisor Larry Threadgill on location to resolve issues.

Type: OPERATOR RELATIONSHIP Date: 04/06/2009

Complainant: John Wells 835 R1/2 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

No response from operator

**COGCC Response:** 

Operator contacted. Field supervisor Larry Threadgill on location to resolve issues and TA well.

Type: OPERATOR RELATIONSHIP Date: 04/06/2009

**Complainant:** John Wells 835 R1/2 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

Land owner frustrated with lack of response from operator

**COGCC Response:** 

Spoke with Rob Barnett (XOG Operations Mngr), he confirmed that he had spoken with David Ellinwood &

John Wells regarding current and future operations.



**Type:** PITS **Date:** 04/04/2009

Complainant: Amy Dahl 14218 Switchback Rd Weston CO 81091

**Description of Complaint:** 

Mrs. Dahl reported that she observed the pit at the Wood 43-2V Well was full with less than 2 feet of freeboard and that the water contained in the pit was an odd green color as observed from off the well pad. She believes the water in the produced water pit is not from the Wood well and was trucked into the pit

contrary to the pit permit for the Wood 43-2V pit.

collected from domestic wells even in coal seams.

**COGCC** Response:

Collected samples of water from the pit at the Wood 43-2V. Water present in pit was green and murky indicating possible presence of dye or other product used downhole. No indications on pad of recent downhole activity at the Wood 43-2V. Samples submitted to lab for general inorganic analysis.

Reviewed analytical data. Water in pit is of typical Na-HCO3-Cl character. TOC is higher than most samples

**Type:** PITS **Date:** 05/06/2009

Complainant: Ken Valentine Aguilar CO 81020

**Description of Complaint:** 

Mr. Valentine reported that coal fines and an oily substance was observed floating on the pit at the Parachute and that pine trees on the edge of the pad were showing signs of distress that Mr. Valentine thinks is caused by produced water leakage from the pit.



**COGCC Response:** 

See Field inspection 200209671 in response to the complaint. Violations observed included insufficient freeboard on pit, failure to install and maintain a method of monitoring freeboard on the pit and that unused equipment was left at the well site. Staff had not observed any coal fines or oily substances on the surface of the pit but there had been two other violations noted during the field inspection.

**Type:** PITS **Date:** 05/22/2009

Complainant: Lisa Bracken Silt CO

**Description of Complaint:** 

Complainant states a pit liner was being removed from the F11E pad when liquid was spilled onto the ground

causing possible contamination.

**COGCC** Response:

Contacted operator regarding complaint. Was informed CDPHE has been consulted.



Type: PRODUCTION Date: 05/04/2009

Complainant: Leslie Powers 3502 Tieton Drive Yakima Wa 98902

**Description of Complaint:** 

Complainant alleges production from the Mutual 2-30 Well is being diverted to other wells and not being

properly reported. See attached letter document number 02063004.

**COGCC** Response:

No violation found. See scanned document number 02063005.



**PROPERTY DAMAGE** 

Type: PROPERTY DAMAGE Date: 05/15/2009

Complainant: Lew Ellsworth 15375 CR 24 Sterling CO 80751

**Description of Complaint:** 

Surface owner, Lew Ellsworth, said that produced water and oil often overflowed from a historic produced water pit(s) and migrated downgradient in a surface drainage approximately 100 yards to a stock pond. He would like the oily material removed from the stock pond. Also, the former water pit was closed in 2002 and the surficial soils still do not support vegetation. Former water pit(s) located on crop land planted in wheat.

Mr. Ellsworth would like the soils remediated so they will support crops again.



Inspected site. Former water pits have been closed and graded. Area is still distinguishable due to very light, whitish brown soil coloration compared to surrounding soil. Stock pond is built in drainage approximately 100 yards below the former water pits. After pot-holing with shovel, an area of black material was uncovered. Mr. Ellsworth indicated this was the material he believed to be oil. It appeared to be black, clayey, organic material. It did not exhibit hydrocarbon odor, and there was no hydrocarbon sheen on puddles of water in the bottom of the pond. Material may be naturally occurring, but a sample was collected to verify. Sample was submitted to Test America in Arvada, CO for TEPH by 8015B Diesel Range Organics and 9071 oil & grease as well as SAR, EC and pH. A sample of the surficial soil at the former pit area was also collected and submitted for SAR, EC and pH. A background sample of native soil in an adjacent field was also collected and submitted for the same analyses. There was no indication of oil stained soil at the former water pits or in the drainage. Also, the former well head area had been adequately reclaimed. Randall Ferguson had issued an NOAV for improper pit closure at this location in 2002. No follow up information regarding pit closure could be found. Reference NOAV Doc#200020284

Type: PROPERTY DAMAGE Date: 06/29/2009

Complainant:Nancy Pitman7800 319 RdRifleCO

**Description of Complaint:** 

Two patches of ground at the edge of lease have limited vegetation growth.

**COGCC** Response:

Upon staff inspection two patches of ground at the edge of lease have limited vegetation growth. Operator representative will contact EnCana Environmental, and have them look at the ground patches at the API No. 045-08199



**Type:** SPILLS **Date:** 06/19/2009

**Complainant:** D.A. Valentine 23085 CR 43.7 Aguilar CO 81020

#### **Description of Complaint:**

Well re-drilled week of 05/19/2009. A stream of discharge running from the well casing, off the pad and into the watershed. Note dead trees in picture. Loud discharge of gas and water from well plumbing into water pit and atmosphere, foam and black slime covering surface of pit water. Thousands of gallons of water from this pit placed on roads. Valentine Ranch LLC requests in order to protect livestock, ground water and the Uecker spring: 1) List all drilling chemicals injected into Parachute 34-25 during drilling, 2) MSDS sheets for each chemical listed above, 3) Sample of water in pit, and 4) Sample soil in pit and around where pit where water was discharged. 3 pictures attached. One of rig at pad, one of cattle drinking from pit and one of spill path.



NOAV 200213324 issued to Pioneer with respect to problems observed at well during June 19, 2009 field inspection. Follow-up field inspection 200214014. Unused equipment had been removed from pad. Chain to be utilized as part of method for ensuring adequate freeboard was observed to be in place. Mr. Wiseman of PNR told me of plans to have produced water go to gathering system with subsequent disposal at disposal well in area instead of water being disposed to pit at the well. Pit had adequate freeboard during inspection. Collected samples of unstressed and stressed pine branches from area at east edge of pad. Oaks and grasses in area show no signs of stress. Submitted plant samples to CSU diagnostic lab via mail. Letter summarizing investigation of complaint mailed to Mr. Valentine. Findings are similar to those of complaint 200213356. NOAV issued to the operator with respect to adverse impacts to pines growing just off the Parachute pad. Well bore was cleaned out by use of an air powered rig at the time of Mr. Valentine's complaint. No observations or data gathered leads me to conclude that violations of the COGCC rules were made by Pioneer in servicing the well so that it could be more productive.

**Type:** SPILLS **Date:** 06/25/2009

Complainant: Bradley N. Switzer, Esq 400 South 3rd Street; PO 816 Montrose CO 81402

**Description of Complaint:** 

Landowner believes operator may be discharging water to surface drainage.

**COGCC** Response:

COGCC personnel inspected three locations of possible water discharge. All three wells were shut-in during time of inspection and no evidence of discharge was noted. Informed Complainant of COGCC findings.



SURFACE WATER 06/08/2009 Type: Date:

CO Complainant: Marion Wells 6691 County Road 309

Parachute

**Description of Complaint:** 

Complainant states a large amount of water and muck was released from the Stubbs pad which flowed down a gully onto her property damaging her spring line and filling the gully with muck.

**COGCC** Response:

The spring in question was clearly impacted by water flowing down the gully. The spring exists in a natural drainage/gully in which there also exists a retention pond on the Stubbs property upslope from the Wells property. This pond serves to aid settling of sediments in received water from upslope drainage and upon reaching its capacity discharges relatively sediment free water through an outflow pipe into the drainage. While Williams representatives state they also allowed water to drain from the Stubbs Pad into the retention pond they further state these flows were monitored and not sufficient to raise the pond level enough to cause outflow.

With the recent unusual amount of rain in the area and with the existing drainage ditches flowing into the retention pond, it is at least possible this is the source of the water impacting the spring on the Wells property.

Williams Production states it is not responsible. No definite determination of cause can be made.

06/10/2009 Type: SURFACE WATER Date:

Complainant: Anonymous



#### **Description of Complaint:**

Paraffins present in produced water with subsequent discharge to surface water at CDPHE permitted outfalls.

Complainant beleives there may be impacts to wildlife and the environment as a result of the discharge of

water containing paraffins.

#### **COGCC Response:**

Field inspections of several wells in the area in question had been performed and that as a result one notice of alleged violation regarding the pit at the Hill Ranch 15-11 well had been issued to the operator by COGCC staff.



**Type:** TRASH **Date:** 04/01/2009

Complainant: Chuck Sullivan 1352 CR 333 Ignacio CO 81137

**Description of Complaint:** 

Landowner asked contract workover crew to cleanup earplugs, tire, gloves that were left on the ground.

When he revisited the site the garbage was cleaned up, but stuffed into a Serrano's porta-john onsite.

When Serrano's picked up the porta-john the garbage and porta-john wastes were dumped onsite. BP said

they would clean up the mess, but much of it blew away, the landowner picked up some and a gray spot is

allegedly still visible at that location.

**COGCC Response:** 

BP contacted and met with the Complainant. Trash was cleaned up and held by landowner. No visual

evidence of staining on the ground per BP environmental staff. No further action at this time.



Type: WATER WELL Date: 04/10/2009

Complainant: Janet Jackson 6570 WCR 53 Keensburg CO 80643

**Description of Complaint:** 

Requested samping of water well due to possible gas in water.

**COGCC** Response:

Sampling results show on indication of any impact from oil and gas operations on the water well.

**Type:** WATER WELL **Date:** 04/30/2009

Complainant: NANCY MEADOWS Weston CO 810919772

**Description of Complaint:** 

Request for follow-up water well testing.

**COGCC Response:** 

Water well paramters meet WQCD Regulation 41 Standards for groundwater (VOCs, SVOCs, and Table 1 and

Table 2 parameters). TBA was detected at concentration of 51 ug/l, idomethane at a concentration of 0.17

and oygenated hydrocaronbs at 7.1 ug/l. There are no groundwater or drinking water standards for these

compounds and the results were qualified by lab as being below reporting limit (instrument limit) or detected

in lab blank. The well will be resampled the last week of August

Type: WATER WELL Date: 05/14/2009

**Complainant:** Robert Parcell 377 Frontier Road Ignacio Co 81137

**Description of Complaint:** 

Water well on the property has basically gone dry. Are currently hauling water for household use.

Concerned this may be due to recent installation of this gas well and downhole development work.



**COGCC Response:** 

No further contact from complainant. No further action and will close complaint.

**Type:** WATER WELL **Date:** 05/26/2009

Complainant: Frank Grimm 1590 CR 328 Ignacio CO 81137

**Description of Complaint:** 

Water well began going dry following installation of the Abeyta #17-2 Well. Concerned the gas well may be impacting his domestic well. He has pulled the pump and it is OK, replaced all piping and checked inside plumbing. No cistern on the well, just a pressure tank. House was rented for 3 years w/ no problems; checked with neighbors and they are not having problems. No response in the well when the irrigation ditches were turned on in April 2009. Talked to XTO (Sam Montoya) and XTO concluded they were not

impacting the well. XTO referred Mr. Grimm to the COGCC.

**COGCC** Response:

See document #1733341 for results. No apparent communication between wells; potential bacterial issues.

Low-producing well only yielded 0.75 gpm when installed in 1976.

Type: WATER WELL Date: 05/28/2009

Complainant:John Badding7450 WCR 35FT LuptonCO80621

**Description of Complaint:** 

Sampled water well for 318A requirements.

**COGCC** Response:

Water well investigation is still in progress.

**Type:** WATER WELL **Date:** 06/26/2009

Complainant: Nancy Pitman 7800 319 Rd Rifle CO



**Description of Complaint:** 

While drilling a water well shallow gas was discovered at 190'

well closest to the water well.

**COGCC** Response:

Staff has requested that the pumper check on the bradenhead pressure on the API No. 045-7267 this is the



**Type:** WEEDS **Date:** 04/06/2009

**Complainant:** David Ellinwood 1862 9 Rd. Mack CO 81525

**Description of Complaint:** 

Weeds growing up around wellhead & seperator

**COGCC Response:** 

Weeds and debris removed from location.

**Type:** WEEDS **Date:** 04/21/2009

Complainant: Rick Watson 2373 State Hwy 172 Durango CO 81303

**Description of Complaint:** 

Land owner is unhappy with lack of weed management and indicates that weeds not only exist on existing pad but that they are encroaching off pad into his agricultural land. Landowner states that this has been an ongiong problem with Operator and would like COGCC to step in and enforce COGC Rule 1003.f. Landowner also advises that he has spoken with BP, who proposed to use Milestone or Tordon, and is not happy with proposed use of these particular chemicals. Field Inspector agreed to discuss with both Operator and LPC Weed Control Mgr. Rod Cook.

**COGCC** Response:

Based on voice message left by Complainant on 6/09/09 and continued unsuccessful attempts by SW Inspector to follow up with Complainant, complaint is being closed out.