

# Utah Department of Environmental Quality Press Releases

## For the Year 2001

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### Contents

Ashley Valley Water Reclamation Facility Vernal, Utah  
DEQ Urges Utahns to Safeguard Public Health and the Environment  
Division of Air Quality Asks Wasatch Front Residents to Reduce Summertime Smog "Spare the Air" Campaign Begins June 1  
Division of Air Quality Issues Notice to Wasatch Energy Systems for Violating its Permit  
Envirocare Receives Approval to Dispose of Higher Classes of Low-Level Radioactive Waste  
Jordan River Health Advisory Lifted  
Jordan River Health Advisory Still in Effect  
Open House on Silver Creek Water Quality Study  
Public Comment Sought on Envirocare's License Application to Accept Containerized Class A, B and C Low-Level Radioactive Waste  
Public Comment Sought on Envirocare's License Application to Accept Containerized Class A Waste in Existing Cell  
Raw Sewage Spilling Into Jordan River  
"Red Light—Green Light" Air Quality Program Begins Nov. 1  
"Red Light, Green Light" Air Quality Program Ends Today  
Utah Toxic Release Inventory Reports Increase in Chemical Releases to Environment in 1999

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### **Public Comment Sought on Envirocare's License Application to Accept Containerized Class A, B and C Low-Level Radioactive Waste**

January 3, 2001

Contact:

Bill Sinclair, Executive Secretary, Utah Radiation Control Board, (801) 536-4255

The Utah Radiation Control Board is seeking public comment on Envirocare's request for a license to accept and dispose of containerized Class A, B and C low-level radioactive waste at its facility in Tooele County. The executive secretary of the Radiation Control Board has made a tentative decision that the proposed facility could be safely operated in accordance with state laws.

The documents supporting that decision are a license application submitted by Envirocare to the Division of Radiation Control (DRC); a draft Safety Evaluation Report and a draft Radioactive Materials License prepared by Rogers and Associates, a contractor for DRC; and a draft Groundwater Discharge Permit prepared by DRC.

The public may provide comments either orally or in writing on the tentative decision and the related documents. To accept oral comments, The Board has scheduled the following public hearings:

- Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Department of Environmental Quality, 168 N. 1950 West, Room 101, Salt Lake City
- Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1803 Woodland Park Dr., Layton
- Feb. 15 at 7 p.m., at the Tooele County Health Department Auditorium, 151 N. Main, Tooele
- Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., at the Utah County Health Department Auditorium, 589 S. State, Provo

The public should submit written comments by mail to William J. Sinclair, Executive Secretary, Utah Radiation Control Board, PO Box 144850, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4850; or by e-mail to [bsinclair@deq.state.ut.us](mailto:bsinclair@deq.state.ut.us). Written and e-mail comments must be received by 5 p.m. on March 2, 2001.

"The Board has identified this application process as a major issue for Utah citizens and will provide the maximum opportunity for public comment by holding public hearings and a 60-day public comment period," said Bill Sinclair, executive secretary of the Radiation Control Board.

A copy of the Envirocare license application, draft Safety Evaluation Report, draft Radioactive Materials License and draft Groundwater Discharge Permit are available for public review and for copying between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Division of Radiation Control, 168 N. 1950 West, Room 212, Salt Lake City. These documents will be available for review and downloading at DRC's website at:

[www.deq.state.ut.us/eqrad/drc\\_hmpg.htm](http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqrad/drc_hmpg.htm)

Information regarding Envirocare's license application may also be obtained by contacting Bill Sinclair or Dane Finerfrock at (801) 536-4250.

The executive secretary of the Radiation Control Board will consider all public comments, both oral and written, before taking final action on Envirocare's license application.

In addition to final license approval by the Radiation Control Board, the disposal of containerized B and C wastes would require concurrence of the Legislature and the Governor, prior to acceptance of waste at the Envirocare facility. Tooele County has already approved receipt of the new wastes.

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## **"Red Light, Green Light" Air Quality Program Ends Today**

February 28, 2001

Contact:

Rick Sprott, Director of the Division of Air Quality, (801)536-4151  
Bob Dalley, Manager of the Air Monitoring Center, (801)887-0762

Wood-burning control season experiences a number of red and yellow days

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's "Red Light, Green Light" program, which curtails wood burning along the Wasatch Front during winter inversions, ends its ninth season today.

During the four-month season, which began Nov. 1, 2000, the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) called 10 "red" days and 14 "yellow" days in Salt Lake and Davis counties, four "red" days and two "yellow" days in Utah County and five "yellow" days in Weber County.

Wood-burning conditions are identified as "Red, Yellow, Green" — similar to traffic lights. The program is used to notify citizens when they can burn wood in a fireplace, depending upon pollution levels. "Red" means burning is prohibited and a reduction in vehicle use by using mass transit or consolidating trips is requested. Likewise, industries are asked to minimize their release of air pollutants and ensure that air pollution control equipment is functioning properly. "Yellow" means a voluntary no burn and "green" means burning is allowed.

Particulate matter (PM) is the primary winter pollutant. Wood burning produces soot and dust that are components of particulate, as are emissions from vehicles. Fine particles can become lodged in delicate lung tissue, decreasing lung function, especially for people with respiratory and cardiovascular ailments.

Most of the "red" and "yellow" days were called during the end of December 2000 and beginning of January 2001 when the Wasatch Front experienced one of the worst

inversions since the early 1990s. However, even though DAQ issued health advisories as pollution levels increased, health standards for PM10 were not exceeded. The health standard for finer particles (PM2.5 microns) was exceeded a few times.

"This is good news overall. Before pollution controls, this kind of inversion would have caused significant violations of the health standards and had a greater negative impact on public health and the environment," said Rick Sprott, DAQ director.

The PM10 plans are working, but we still have more work to do. There were many people, including healthy individuals, who felt the effects of the inversion. That's why the new standard for PM2.5 is more stringent than the old PM10 standard. We did exceed the PM2.5 standard a few times but not as badly as we would have several years ago. Our air is better, but we will need continued improvement to offset increased emissions due to growth," Sprott said.

The outcome of the inversion also demonstrates the effectiveness and value of the millions of dollars spent by industries for pollution control equipment and by citizens for cleaner-fueled vehicles and for proper vehicle inspection and maintenance.

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## **Utah Toxic Release Inventory Reports Increase in Chemical Releases to Environment in 1999**

March 28, 2001

Contact:

Dianne Nielson, Department of Environmental Quality, 801.536.4402

Neil Taylor, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, 801.536.4102

Increase due to change in waste rock operations at mining facilities

According to the Utah Toxic Release Inventory 1999 Data Summary, chemicals released to Utah's environment would appear to significantly increase from 581 million pounds in 1998 to nearly 1.2 billion pounds in 1999. In fact, the "increase" actually is due to a change in how waste rock was used at Kennecott Cooper facilities rather than from more chemicals being released to the air or water.

Kennecott Copper facilities reported the largest increase with 615 million pounds. In 1999, the mine discontinued leaching of several large piles of waste rock. Under Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) regulations, material no longer undergoing leaching is considered to be waste, and the metals in the waste are required to be included in TRI reports.

Despite an overall total release increase, chemicals released to the air in Utah decreased 11 million pounds from 1998 to a total of 53 million pounds in 1999. This is the lowest release-to-air total in the 13-year history of the TRI program. The reduction is primarily due to a decrease in chlorine and hydrochloric acid emissions from Magnesium Corporation of America. However, Magcorp continues to be a major source of chemicals released to the air.

Chemicals released to the land totaled approximately 1.1 billion pounds in 1999, a substantial increase from the 507 million pounds reported for 1998. Again, the increase is due to a change in how waste rock was used at Kennecott Copper facilities. Kennecott Copper facilities reported nearly 98 percent of the release-to-land total in the form of copper, manganese, arsenic, zinc, lead and other metal compounds.

Releases to surface water totaled about 1 million pounds. This total is almost entirely nitrate compound releases from Geneva Steel to Utah Lake. Kennecott Copper facilities reported releases of various metals to the Great Salt Lake totaling 28,000 pounds. These discharges are permitted under state and federal law.

The TRI is an annual report used to inform citizens, industries and government regulators about chemicals found in our environment. Data are gathered at year's end and compiled the following year. The report is used to study and identify potential hazards to public health or the environment. TRI data can be used to provide basic information on the types and volumes of waste and emissions at a facility, but the data must be used with other concentration, migration, environmental targets and exposure information to assess a level of human health or environmental risk.

A total of 171 Utah facilities filed TRI reports. Approximately 72 percent of these facilities are located in Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah counties.

1999 was the second year of reporting for industrial sectors recently added by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These added industrial sectors include coal mining, metal mining, electrical generation facilities combusting coal or oil, hazardous waste disposal, wholesale bulk petroleum distribution, chemical wholesale distribution and solvent recycling.

The TRI report is available on the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's website at <http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqerr/SERC/Trihome.htm>.

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## **Division of Air Quality Issues Notice to Wasatch Energy Systems for Violating its Permit**

April 9, 2001

Contact:

Rick Sprott, Director, Division of Air Quality, 801.536.4022  
Marv Maxell, Air Standards Branch Manager, Division of Air Quality,  
801.536.4082  
Steven Packham, Toxicologist, Division of Air Quality, 801.536.4036

The Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality (DAQ) today issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Wasatch Energy Systems (WES) for emitting more dioxin than permitted, exceeding carbon monoxide emission limits and failing to report reasons for exceeding emissions.

According to the NOV, during Oct. 10-14, 2000, WES failed a stack test by emitting more dioxin from one of its two stacks than is allowed in its Approval Order or permit. WES did not demonstrate that it had corrected the problem until a subsequent test was performed during Jan. 18-22, 2001.

While dioxin in the amount reported during the exceedence poses no immediate threat, it does build up over time in the environment. "Dioxin is considered one of the most serious environmental pollutants because it can cause a variety of health effects, including effects on the endocrine and reproductive systems," said Steven Packham, toxicologist for DAQ. EPA is reviewing all the possible health effects of dioxin, including its cancer-causing potential in people.

"Because of potential health and environmental risks, DAQ requires strict compliance with emission limits set in WES' Approval Order, notwithstanding the fact that WES is currently installing new dioxin control equipment ahead of schedule to meet stricter state and federal standards," said Rick Sprott, director of DAQ.

Also according to the NOV, from Jan. 1, 1999, through Dec. 31, 2000, WES exceeded carbon monoxide emission limits from both its stacks for a total of 766 four-hour periods, of which 374 did not qualify as allowable exceedences. An exceedence during startup, shutdown or malfunction may be deemed allowable, hence not in violation of the carbon monoxide emission limit.

Additionally, the NOV states that WES failed to provide narrative descriptions giving the reasons for 2,979 instances of excess emissions from Jan. 1, 1999, to Dec. 31, 2000. Some of the excess emissions included carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.

"The reason we withheld action until now was to allow us time to investigate whether WES was using the best possible combustion practices to minimize dioxin emissions," Sprott said. An elevated level of carbon monoxide is one of several indicators of poor combustion that could be associated with increased dioxin.

"Our objective in this enforcement action is to work with WES and its service district board to establish effective and lasting solutions to minimize health risks and environmental impacts to residents living near the burn plant," Sprott said.

WES burns trash at its facility in Layton. DAQ issued a permit to WES in September 1996 outlining allowable emissions. Utah law allows a potential penalty of up to \$10,000 per day for each violation.

Available for public viewing is an online information repository of DAQ's key documents related to WES. To access the repository, please visit:

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## **DEQ Urges Utahns to Safeguard Public Health and the Environment**

April 18, 2001

Contact:

Rusty Lundberg, Solid Waste Branch Manager, 801-538-6765  
David Wheeler, Environmental Scientist, Used Oil Recycling, 801-538-9997  
Jay Richardson, Environmental Scientist, Household Hazardous Waste, 801-538-6313

Take Household Hazardous Waste to Community Collection Center

Springtime has knocked at your door and you are gearing up for traditional spring cleaning and gardening. This time of year serves as a good reminder that many of the everyday household products you use for cleaning and gardening can be potentially harmful to your health and environment if you do not use, store and dispose of them properly.

Many Utahns use cleaners for the oven and tub, drain openers, stain removers, bleach, household batteries, air fresheners, fingernail polish and polish remover, disinfectants, furniture polish and aerosol sprays in their homes every day. Fertilizer, insecticides,

gasoline for the lawn mower and paint garnish garages. Common fixtures in today's homes include computers, smoke detectors and fluorescent light bulbs.

The typical household contains more than 100 items listed as hazardous by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). When discarded, these products are called household hazardous waste because they are potentially harmful to human health and the environment. Many common household products contain chemicals that are toxic, flammable or corrosive. The EPA estimates that the average household generates 20 pounds of household hazardous waste each year.

"As waste, these products must be handled with care and disposed of properly. Pouring them down the drain or on the ground or throwing them in the garbage can contaminate water supplies, damage water treatment systems or generate hazardous emissions at landfills," Environmental Scientist Jay Richardson said.

Additionally, chemicals in these products can irritate eyes, skin and mucous membranes in the nose, throat and lungs. They can be harmful if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

To minimize health and environmental impacts, residents should take their household hazardous waste to their community collection center for proper disposal. Many cities and counties have collection centers that regularly accept waste or at least designate collection days once or twice a year.

To find out if your community has a household hazardous waste program, visit [www.deq.state.ut.us/eqshw/guide1.htm](http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqshw/guide1.htm) or contact your local health department. Also available on this website is a Guide to Household Hazardous Waste. It describes common household hazardous products, possible alternatives, recycling or reusing options and methods for storage and disposal.

In addition, collection centers are available to specifically collect another common household waste: used oil. In Utah, approximately 50 percent of vehicle owners change the oil in their vehicles themselves. That's about two million gallons of used oil generated each year. Last year, centers collected 369,000 gallons. Since the program began eight years ago, a total of 1,800,000 gallons have been collected. While a phenomenal improvement, more used oil could and should be recycled.

"Used oil is a valuable natural resource that can be recycled. Recycling used oil decreases our dependency on foreign oil and prevents pollution of soil and water," Used Oil Recycling Program Manager Cheryl Prawl said.

It is illegal to dump used oil on the ground, down storm drains or in the garbage because it can contaminate ground water supplies which may be used for drinking water. To put this in perspective, one gallon of used oil has the potential of contaminating up to one million gallons of fresh water—a year's supply for 50 people.

A county-by-county list of used oil collection centers is available online at [www.deq.state.ut.us/eqshw/UsedOil/reports.htm](http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqshw/UsedOil/reports.htm). You can also call the DEQ Hotline at 1-800-458-0145 for help in locating a collection center near you. There is no charge for dropping off used oil. When taking your used oil to a collection center, you should put it in a clean, leak proof container. For more information on the Used Oil Recycling Program, visit [www.deq.state.ut.us/eqshw/UsedOil/frames.htm](http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqshw/UsedOil/frames.htm)

April is Public Health Month. "Utah's Public Health is for Everybody, Everyday and Everywhere."

Quick tips for proper use, storage and disposal of household hazardous waste:

- If possible, select alternative products which are less harmful or non-hazardous.
- Select the products best suited for the job.
- Buy only the amount you need or can use entirely.
- Share what you don't use with friends and neighbors.
- Always read the labels and follow directions for safe use and disposal.
- Store products away from children and pets in tight, leak-resistant containers.
- Take household hazardous waste to a collection center near you.

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## **Public Comment Sought on Envirocare's License Application to Accept Containerized Class A Waste in Existing Cell**

May 11, 2001

Contact:

Bill Sinclair, Executive Secretary, Utah Radiation Control Board, (801) 536-4255

The executive secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board is seeking public comment on Envirocare's license amendment request to accept and dispose of containerized Class A low-level radioactive waste in the existing cell at its facility in Tooele County. This amendment request is a separate action from Envirocare's request to dispose of containerized Class A, B and C low-level radioactive waste in a new cell. The decision on that action is still pending. The executive secretary will accept public comment on the containerized Class A waste amendment request for 30 days beginning Monday, May 14, 2001.

The documents supporting a preliminary decision that containerized Class A waste could be safely disposed of in the existing cell are a license amendment application submitted by Envirocare to the Utah Division of Radiation Control (DRC); a draft Statement of

Basis, which details the technical review of the application; and a draft Radioactive Materials License.

"In accordance with our desire to solicit input regarding issues of significant interest to the public, the opportunity for both written comments and public hearings has been provided," said Bill Sinclair, executive secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board.

June 4 at 7 p.m., at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 168 N. 1950 West, Room 101, Salt Lake City

June 7 at 7 p.m., at the Tooele County Health Department Auditorium, 151 N. Main, Tooele

Written comments can be submitted by mail to:

William J. Sinclair, Executive Secretary  
Utah Radiation Control Board  
PO Box 144850  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4850  
or by e-mail to [bsinclai@deq.state.ut.us](mailto:bsinclai@deq.state.ut.us).

Written and e-mail comments must be received by 5 p.m. on June 14, 2001.

A copy of the Envirocare license amendment application, draft Statement of Basis and draft Radioactive Materials License are available for public review and for copying between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Utah Division of Radiation Control, 168 N. 1950 West, Room 212, Salt Lake City. In addition, these documents are available for review. Information regarding Envirocare's license application may also be obtained by contacting Bill Sinclair or Dane Finerfrock at (801) 536-4250.

The executive secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board will consider all public comments, both oral and written, before taking final action on Envirocare's license amendment application.

Containerized Class A waste typically consists of materials such as spent resin beads, which are used at nuclear power plants and packaged in high-integrity containers for transport and disposal at a radioactive waste facility.

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## **Division of Air Quality Asks Wasatch Front Residents to Reduce Summertime Smog "Spare the Air" Campaign Begins June 1**

May 31, 2001

Contacts:

Bob Dalley, Manager, Air Monitoring Center, (801) 887-0762  
Rick Sprott, Director, Division of Air Quality, (801) 536-4022

Wasatch Front residents can reduce summertime smog. Summer smog is a major health and environmental problem in Salt Lake, Davis, Weber and Utah counties. Continued exposure to smog can reduce lung function and lessen the body's ability to resist respiratory disease and other infections.

The Utah Division of Air Quality's "Spare the Air" campaign begins its eighth season Friday. The campaign runs through the end of September. During these four months, the Air Monitoring Center (AMC) may call voluntary no-drive days and issue health advisories when pollution levels increase.

"During these voluntary no-drive days, we are asking residents to leave their cars at home and stay indoors as much as possible," said Bob Dalley, AMC manager. "Actually, with fewer cars on the road on any given day during the summer, we can all breathe a little easier while improving air quality."

Since cars cause about 50 percent of our summer smog, residents can help keep pollution levels down by driving less. Leaving the car home one day a week, car pooling, riding a bike, walking, taking the bus or TRAX or telecommuting are ways to reduce smog.

In addition to driving less or not at all on polluted days, residents can do the following:

- If you must fill your car's gas tank or mow the lawn, do it in the evening when temperatures are cooler.

- Avoid using gasoline-powered engines such as chain saws, lawn mowers and leaf blowers on polluted days.

- Use cleaner alternative-fuel vehicles instead of gasoline-powered vehicles.

- Keep your car tuned, the tires properly inflated and the wheels aligned.

- Conserve energy by turning off unnecessary lights and appliances, turning the air conditioner to a slightly higher setting, cleaning the air conditioner filter often and closing the blinds during the day.

Keep household and garden cleaners, chemicals and solvents tightly sealed when not in use.

Ozone is the primary ingredient in smog. It is a gas which forms when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds are emitted into the atmosphere on a hot, sunny day. Major sources of nitrogen oxide emissions are motor vehicles, utility companies and industries burning fuel. Major sources of volatile organic compound emissions are motor vehicles, industrial and commercial processes and consumer solvents such as oil-based paints, lighter fluid, aerosol sprays and evaporation of gasoline from refueling and spillage.

When people breathe ozone, the lining of their lungs can become irritated and inflamed, much like a sunburn on the skin. Those most at risk are children who are active outdoors, adults who work or exercise vigorously outdoors and people with respiratory diseases such as asthma or emphysema.

There is such a thing as "good ozone." While harmful ozone is near the ground and can cause a number of health problems, "good ozone" is located nine to 50 miles above the ground and protects us from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

During the 2000 "Spare the Air" season, the AMC called nine voluntary no-drive days and issued health advisories for four days. Pollution from wildfires in the West was partly the cause for higher-than-normal pollution levels.

For the latest pollution update, call the Air Pollution Hotline at 975-4009 in Salt Lake and Davis counties or (800) 228-5434 in Utah and Weber counties, or visit the Air Pollution Index Report web site at <http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqamc/api.htm>.

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## **Ashley Valley Water Reclamation Facility Vernal, Utah**

June 14, 2001

Contacts:

Don Ostler, Utah Division of Water Quality Director, (801) 538-6081  
Laura Vernon, DEQ Public Information Officer, (801) 536-4484

**WHAT:** Grand opening ceremony and tour of the new Ashley Valley Water Reclamation Facility (Wastewater Treatment Plant)

**WHEN:** TOMORROW, June 15, 2001 1 p.m.

WHERE: 4000 E. 2200 South, Vernal, Utah -Directions attached

WHO: The following people will give brief remarks at the grand opening ceremony:

Allen Massey, Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board Chairman  
Don Ostler, Utah Division of Water Quality Director  
Max Dodson, U.S. EPA Region 8 Assistant Regional Administrator  
David Truman, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Charlie Calhoun, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Former Regional Director  
Brad Shafer, Senator Robert Bennett's Office

### **Historical Background**

In 1981, the Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board constructed the Ashley Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility to provide treatment for a 70-square-mile service area, which included Ashley Valley and the cities of Vernal and Maeser. The facility consisted of 250 acres of treatment lagoons, a winter storage reservoir, and pumping facilities.

After the facility began operating, water from the treatment lagoons began to seep into the soil at a flow rate of approximately 1 million gallons a day. The water surfaced on a hillside and eventually flowed into nearby Ashley Creek. As the water flowed through the soil, it dissolved and carried a naturally occurring element called selenium with it, polluting Ashley Creek. High concentrations of selenium in Ashley Creek had serious adverse environmental impacts on fish and waterfowl. Because of elevated levels of selenium in fish and waterfowl along Ashley Creek, the Utah Division of Water Quality and Tricounty Health Department issued a health advisory in 1991 cautioning people about consumption of fish or waterfowl from the area. The Ashley Valley sewage lagoons were shown to be a major contributor to the elevated levels of selenium in Ashley Creek.

After careful review of several alternatives for preventing further pollution of the creek, the Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board chose to abandon the lagoons and construct a new facility using a mechanical treatment process. Funding the project proved to be a major undertaking. However, federal, state, and local government agencies as well as the community gathered their resources and committed the funds necessary to design, construct, and maintain the new wastewater treatment facility. With help from Senator Robert Bennett, the U.S. Congress granted \$7 million for construction of the facility. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funded \$3.2 million for operation and maintenance. The sewer management board also received \$9.6 million in grants and loans from the Utah Water Quality Board and \$1.8 million from the Community Impact Board.

June 15, 2001, celebrates the grand opening of the new Ashley Valley Water Reclamation Facility. Once the new facility goes online, water flow into the lagoons will stop and the water that is already there will evaporate. The Utah Division of Water Quality will continue to monitor Ashley Creek for selenium. The creek's water quality is expected to return to beneficial and healthful use for fish and waterfowl.

## **Contacts**

Don Ostler  
Utah Division of Water Quality  
(801) 538-6081

Allen Massey  
Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board  
(435) 789-9805

Max Dodson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region 8  
(303) 312-6598

David Truman  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
(801) 524-3753

Senator Robert Bennett  
U.S. Congress  
(801) 524-5933

## **Quick Facts**

The Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board is comprised of three entities: the City of Vernal, the Maeser Water and Sewer District, and the Ashley Valley Water and Sewer District.

The new wastewater facility serves an area of nearly 70 square miles. The service area is located in northeastern Utah, 131 miles east and 28 miles south of Salt Lake City.

The service area has natural geographic boundaries on all four sides. The Asphalt Ridge and foothills form the west and south boundaries, foothills of the Uinta Mountains border the north, and the Sunshine Bench forms the east boundary

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## **Envirocare Receives Approval to Dispose of Higher Classes of Low-Level Radioactive Waste**

July 9, 2001

Contact:

Bill Sinclair, Executive Secretary, Utah Radiation Control Board, (801) 536-4250

The Executive Secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board has made a final decision to approve Envirocare's request for a license to accept and dispose of containerized Class A, B and C low-level radioactive waste. This technical decision is based on an exhaustive review by the Utah Division of Radiation Control (DRC) and its contractor, URS Corporation, of Envirocare's application, supporting technical documents and public comments. It has been determined that the proposed facility can be safely operated in accordance with state laws.

The license is conditional on the following actions:

The Legislature and Governor must approve the facility. If either the Legislature or Governor disapproves the facility, the license is immediately terminated.

The Legislature must determine the ownership of the site following 100 years of closure of the facility.

The Legislature must authorize sufficient resources to DRC to properly oversee transportation and disposal activities associated with Class B and C low-level radioactive waste.

Envirocare will not be allowed to construct the new facility or receive Class B and C low-level radioactive waste until these conditions are met.

"The focus now shifts from a technical decision that the facility can operate safely to consideration of the broader public policy questions by the Legislature and the Governor," said Bill Sinclair, Executive Secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board.

Interested parties have 30 days to appeal the Executive Secretary's technical decision. If there is no appeal, the approval process continues to the Legislature and Governor. However, if the technical decision is appealed, an administrative hearing process will occur before the Utah Radiation Control Board. Once the Board renders a final agency decision, the approval process continues to the Legislature and Governor, is terminated or continues under appeal to the Courts.

The documents supporting the Executive Secretary's decision are a license application submitted by Envirocare to DRC, a Safety Evaluation Report and a Radioactive Materials License prepared by URS Corporation and a modified Groundwater Discharge Permit

prepared by DRC. A copy of each of these documents is available for public review and for copying between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Utah Division of Radiation Control, 168 N. 1950 West, Room 212, Salt Lake City. These documents are also available for review and downloading at DRC's website at [www.deq.state.ut.us/eqrad/drc\\_hmpg.htm](http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqrad/drc_hmpg.htm).

In addition, the Executive Secretary reviewed the public comments before making a final decision. DRC prepared a public participation document that summarizes the public's comments and the Executive Secretary's response to those comments. This document is available for review at the DRC office or on the DRC website as listed above. During the 60-day public comment period and five public hearings, the Executive Secretary received more than 750 individual comments regarding the licensing action.

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## **Raw Sewage Spilling Into Jordan River**

August 22, 2001

Contact:

Don Ostler, Director, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6081

The Utah Division of Water Quality strongly recommends that the public not use or go near water from the Jordan River or surplus canal from approximately 3100 South and north to the Great Salt Lake until further notice.

Due to an electrical fire at the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility, the wastewater treatment plant this morning began bypassing raw sewage into the Jordan River near 3100 South where Millcreek and the Jordan River meet.

Affected cities are West Valley City, Salt Lake City, and South Salt Lake. People living north of 3100 South along the Jordan River to the Great Salt Lake should not irrigate, boat, fish, swim, or otherwise come in contact with the water. Drinking water will not be affected.

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## **Jordan River Health Advisory Still in Effect**

August 24, 2001

**Contacts:**

Jay Pitkin, Deputy Director Utah Division of Water Quality (801) 538-6087  
Laura Vernon, Public Information Officer (801) 536-4484

The health advisory issued Wednesday by the Utah Division of Water Quality for the Jordan River is still in effect. The advisory is likely to remain in effect through at least the weekend.

The Division of Water Quality and the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility began taking water samples of the Jordan River and the surplus canal after the wastewater treatment plant began bypassing raw sewage into the Jordan River near 3100 South Wednesday morning. Results from those water samples are not yet available but are expected within the next few days. The Division of Water Quality and Central Valley will continue to sample the water until results indicate that the Jordan River has returned to its normal water quality.

Meanwhile, the Utah Division of Water Quality strongly recommends that the public not use or go near water from the Jordan River or surplus canal from approximately 3100 South north to the Great Salt Lake. People living north of 3100 South along the Jordan River to the Great Salt Lake should not irrigate, boat, fish, swim, or otherwise come in contact with the water. Drinking water is not affected.

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## **Jordan River Health Advisory Lifted**

August 29, 2001

**Contact:**

Don Ostler, Director, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6081

The health advisory issued Aug. 22 by the Utah Division of Water Quality for the Jordan River has been lifted.

The Division of Water Quality issued the health advisory as a result of a 5-million-gallon spill of raw sewage into the Jordan River from the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility near 3100 South. Results of water sampling conducted by the Division of Water Quality and Central Valley indicate the river has returned to its normal water quality.

Based on the dilution and flushing of the river over the past seven days, the Division of Water Quality has determined that the effects of the sewage spill are no longer present. The Jordan River is used for irrigation, fishing, boating and other forms of recreation.

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## **Open House on Silver Creek Water Quality Study**

September 6, 2001

Contact:

John Whitehead, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6053

The public is invited to attend an informational open house regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality study of Silver Creek. The Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) will hold the open house on Sept. 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Miners Hospital Community Center, second floor, 1354 Park Avenue, Park City.

The TMDL study is examining the water quality of Silver Creek to determine where the sources of zinc and cadmium are and what can be done to restore water quality to meet state standards. DWQ expects to complete the study by next summer.

The results of a water quality data analysis completed recently and an initial inventory of possible pollution sources and locations will be available at the meeting. Comments and feedback from the public are needed to identify and verify source locations of metals.

This TMDL water quality study is being completed in cooperation with the Upper Silver Creek Watershed Stakeholder Group, which has been studying metals contamination issues in the upper Silver Creek Watershed.

Comments or questions regarding the open house or the water quality study should be directed to John Whitehead, Watershed Coordinator, Utah Division of Water Quality, at (801) 538-6053 or email at [jwhitehe@deq.state.ut.us](mailto:jwhitehe@deq.state.ut.us)

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## **"Red Light—Green Light" Air Quality Program Begins Nov. 1**

October 31, 2001

Contacts:

Bob Dalley, Air Monitoring Center Manager, (801) 887-0762

Rick Sprott, Division of Air Quality Director, (801) 536-4022

The Department of Environmental Quality's "Red Light – Green Light" program, which curtails wood burning along the Wasatch Front during winter inversions, starts its ninth season Thursday, Nov. 1, 2001, and continues until March 1, 2002.

Wood-burning conditions are identified as "RED, YELLOW, GREEN." The system, used to notify citizens when they can burn, is simple: A red traffic light indicates burning is prohibited, yellow means a voluntary no burn and green means burning is allowed. Stoves should be used properly to reduce pollution.

Residents will also be asked to drive as little as possible during red and yellow days because cars contribute significantly to the area's air pollution. Industries will be asked to minimize their release of air pollutants and to ensure that air pollution control equipment is functioning properly.

The program reduces particulate air pollution (PM10 and 2.5) and carbon monoxide in Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber counties. PM10 is particles of any kind that are 10 microns or less in diameter. They are 1/10 of a diameter of human hair. PM2.5 is particles smaller than PM10.

It is possible to have a "red day" without exceeding the federal health-based standards for PM10, PM2.5 or carbon monoxide because red days are called as pollution begins to approach dangerous levels.

Fines can be levied against violators, with first-time offenders charged up to \$25, second-time offenders pay \$50 to \$140 and third-time offenders face fines from \$150 to \$299.

Also beginning Nov. 1, the Bear River Health Department will initiate its own wood-burning program affecting Cache County, said Grant Koford, environmental scientist for the health department. Last winter, Cache County exceeded federal air quality standards for the first time ever.

To avoid similar exceedences and to maintain good air quality in Cache County, Koford said Bear River Health Department will voluntarily initiate red, yellow and green burn

days. The Division of Air Quality's daily air pollution reports to media and industries will now include Cache County wood-burn conditions.

Media and Cache County residents should contact Grant Koford at (435) 792-6575 for more information on Bear River Health Department's red light, green light wood-burning program.

Pollution conditions are announced daily by newspapers, television and radio stations. Recorded updates can be obtained from the Air Pollution Index Hotline at 975-4009 for Salt Lake and Davis counties and (800) 228-5434 elsewhere, and on the Air Monitoring Center homepage on the Internet at <http://www.deq.state.ut.us/eqamc/amc.htm>.