

Utah Department of Environmental Quality Press Releases

For the Year 2005

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Drinking Water Board Sends Emergency Funds to Gunlock and St. George

January 18, 2005

Contacts:

Ken Wilde, Engineering Manager, Division of Drinking Water, 801.536.0048
Laura Vernon, UDEQ Public Information Officer, 801.536.4484

(Salt Lake City, Utah) The Utah Drinking Water Board today authorized the use of \$542,500 in financial assistance to the cities of Gunlock and St. George to help repair drinking water infrastructure damaged by flooding of the Santa Clara River last week.

The Gunlock Special Service District will receive \$205,000 and the City of St. George will receive \$337,500 in grants and zero-percent-interest loans to make emergency repairs of the water lines, repair and replace damaged facilities, clean and realign the river channel and construct protective barriers for drinking water facilities.

“These communities are in desperate need of immediate financial assistance to rebuild,” said Ken Wilde, engineering manager for the Utah Division of Drinking Water. “Through these loans and grants, Gunlock and St. George will get the support they need to provide high quality drinking water to residents and visitors in the area.”

Update on Untreated Sewage Entering Santa Clara and Virgin Rivers: Health Advisory Still in Effect

January 18, 2005

Contacts:

Walt Baker, Acting Director, Division of Water Quality, 801.538.6088
Laura Vernon, UDEQ Public Information Officer, 801.536.4484

(Salt Lake City, Utah) - Efforts are continuing to repair sewer line breaks in the area of Santa Clara and down stream from the city. St. George City estimates the repairs will be

completed sometime Tuesday afternoon. However, health officials are still urging the public to stay away from the Santa Clara River and Virgin River downstream of the Santa Clara River (near the Dixie Center). This public health advisory will remain in effect until monitoring results confirm that bacteriologic levels have returned to acceptable levels.

Breaks in the sewer lines due to flooding have resulted in an estimated 1.5 million gallons a day of untreated sewage entering the Santa Clara River and subsequently into the Virgin River.

Contact with potentially contaminated water can expose the public to waterborne diseases. Health officials are encouraging people who have been exposed to the river water to wash their hands well in hot soapy water and to seek immediate medical attention if they become ill. Frequent hand washing is the best prevention of illness at this time.

“Red Light – Green Light” Air Quality Program Extended Two Weeks

March 1, 2005

Contacts:

Bob Dalley, Utah Air Monitoring Center, 801.887.0762
Grant Koford, Bear River Health Department, 435.792.6575

(Salt Lake City, Utah) — The “Red Light-Green Light” air quality program, which curtails wood burning during winter inversions, has been extended two weeks to March 14 in Cache, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah counties.

State air quality officials and the Bear River Health Department have extended the program, which normally runs Nov. 1 to March 1, because of continuing winter conditions and the possibility of more inversions. Inversions trap pollution near the ground where it can impact respiratory health, especially for children, the elderly and those with respiratory illnesses.

“With winter conditions still lingering, it makes sense to extend the program so that people know when to protect themselves and how they can help keep the air clean,” said Division of Air Quality Director Rick Sprott. “When it comes to public health, it’s better to be cautious and protective,” he said.

Through March 14, residents are asked to adhere to the wood-burn control program and follow any health advisories that may be issued.

As a reminder, wood-burn conditions are identified as “red, yellow, and green.” A “red” condition indicates burning is prohibited, “yellow” means a voluntary no burn, and “green” means burning is allowed.

Residents are asked to drive as little as possible during “red” and “yellow” days because cars contribute significantly to the area’s air pollution. More information on actions residents can take to reduce pollution is available on the “Clean Air Utah” web site at www.cleanair.utah.gov.

The “Red Light – Green Light” program reduces particulate air pollution (PM10 and PM2.5) and carbon monoxide. PM10 particles are 10 microns or less in diameter, approximately 1/10 of the diameter of human hair. PM2.5 are particles smaller than PM10.

Pollution conditions are monitored by DEQ’s Division of Air Quality and 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 “Clean Air Utah” web site at www.cleanair.utah.gov.

Cache County residents may call (435) 792-6612 for recorded daily updates on the wood-burn conditions in their area, or visit the Bear River Health Department’s Web site at www.brhd.org (opens in a new window).

DEQ, Sandy City to Host Choose Clean Air 5K Walk/Run

March 2, 2005

Contacts:

Renette Anderson, Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality, 801.536.4478
Emma Crandall, Sandy City Parks & Recreation, 801.568.2906

(Salt Lake City, Utah) - Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Sandy City Parks and Recreation will sponsor the Choose Clean Air 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, April 30, 2005, at 10 a.m., at Hidden Valley Park, 11600 S. Wasatch Dr., in Sandy.

This summer, DEQ will again be encouraging Wasatch Front residents to “Choose Clean Air” by reducing the number of short trips they take by car and instead try walking, biking, and carpooling to get around their communities. The goal is to reduce summer smog.

“The walk/run will be a great opportunity for you to see how relaxing and healthful it can be to get out and walk or run,” said DEQ’s Renette Anderson.

The cost to participate is \$10 per person or \$6 per person for a family of three or more before April 22. After April 22, the cost is \$15 per person. No family discount.

A free event T-shirt will be given to those who register before April 22. Participants who take the “Clean Air” pledge to reduce air pollution during the summer will receive a free pedometer.

Sandy City Parks and Recreation is accepting registrations in person at 400 E. 8680 South, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; by mail to Sandy City Parks and Recreation, 400 E. 8680 South, Sandy, UT 84070; or online beginning April 1 at www.sandy.utah.gov.

After April 22, those wishing to participate can register in person at Sandy City Parks and Recreation or until 15 minutes before the walk/run at Hidden Valley Park.

For more information and to download a registration form, please visit www.deq.utah.gov/5kwalk/index.htm, or call Sandy City Parks and Recreation at 568-2900 or Utah Department of Environmental Quality at 536-4480.

Air Quality Wood-Burn Season Ends

March 15, 2005

Contacts:

Bob Dalley, Utah Air Monitoring Center, 801.887.0762

Grant Koford, Bear River Health Department, 435.792.6575

(Salt Lake City, Utah) - The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Bear River Health Department today announce the end of this season’s Choose Clean Air “Red Light, Green Light” air quality program, which curtails wood burning and other polluting activities, such as driving, along the Wasatch Front and in Cache County during winter inversions, as of Monday, March 14.

The program normally ends March 1, but because of continuing winter conditions and the possibility of more inversions, DEQ and the Bear River Health Department decided to extend this winter’s program by two weeks.

During the season, which began Nov. 1, 2004, the Division of Air Quality called two “red” days and 20 “yellow” days in Salt Lake and Davis counties, and zero “red” and

“yellow” days in both Utah County and Weber County. Furthermore, the Bear River Health Department called 17 “red” days and 18 “yellow” days in Cache County.

“Broad public action has been a key element in minimizing pollution,” said Utah Division of Air Quality Director Rick Sprott. “Utahns understood their role in preserving air quality and adhered to the wood-burn advisories. We also saw incredible citizen actions in Cache County where the campaign focused on curbing the use of cars just prior to and during inversions.”

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 people are asked to reduce vehicle trips, use mass transit and conserve energy. 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 (PM2.5 and PM10) is the primary winter pollutant. Wood burning produces soot and dust that are components of particulate, as are emissions from vehicles and other engines. Fine particles can become lodged in delicate lung tissue, decreasing lung function, especially for people with respiratory and cardiovascular ailments.

Clean Utah Accepts First Four Companies Into Program

March 17, 2005

Contacts:

Renette Anderson, Utah DEQ, Clean Utah Coordinator, 801.536.4478
Daren Koldewyn, Autoliv Ogden, 801.625.4960
Norm Davis, La-Z-Boy Utah, 435.257.9304

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Four companies have been accepted into the Clean Utah program, based on commitments to reduce or prevent pollution. They are Red Hanger Cleaners, ModusLink of Lindon, Autoliv North American Ogden Facility and La-Z-Boy Utah.

Red Hanger Cleaners operates 16 dry cleaners and one laundry service in various locations along the Wasatch Front with 125 employees. ModusLink of Lindon is a supply chain management company that employs 440. Autoliv North America Ogden Facility manufactures automobile safety equipment and has 430 employees. La-Z-Boy Utah in Tremonton manufactures upholstered residential furniture and has 1,000 employees.

“These companies have good compliance records and are committed to protecting the environment and being a responsible employer and neighbor,” said Utah Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Dianne Nielson. “We applaud them for their good work and encourage other companies to apply for the Clean Utah program.”

To be considered, all four companies passed a compliance screen to ensure they were in good standing with local, state and federal environmental requirements.

Red Hanger Cleaners and ModusLink of Lindon have entered the program at the Entry Level where they will develop an Environmental Management System (EMS). The focus of an EMS is on planning, implementing, reviewing and improving the processes and actions a company undertakes to meet its business and environmental goals. Once an EMS is complete, the companies will apply to the Partner Level.

Autoliv and La-Z-Boy both have existing EMS programs. They enter the Clean Utah program at the Partner Level where they will complete projects aimed at improving their environmental performance, further minimizing their impact. As a result of their actions, less pollution will enter the air shed and more materials will be recycled, resulting in less waste being disposed of at the local landfill.

Autoliv recently started to recycle fabric left over from the making of airbags. Prior to recycling, approximately 4,400 pounds per month of nylon and silicon coated fabric were disposed of in the landfill. All of this fabric is now being collected, resold and ultimately reused for textiles. As its second project, Autoliv plans to convert a passenger shuttle van from gasoline to natural gas.

La-Z-Boy also chose a recycling project. The company has been recycling materials used in productions for a while but after completing an EMS, employees discovered there were other items that could be recycled. A plan was developed and the company was able to reduce the amount of trash it sent to the landfill by 7 percent, increasing the amount recycled from 2.7 million pounds in 2003 to 3.02 million pounds in 2004.

For its second project, La-Z-Boy improved the efficiency of its air conditioning system, thereby reducing air emissions.

The second-round of Clean Utah applications will be accepted through April 15 by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. Clean Utah is a voluntary program designed to recognize and reward companies for taking steps to reduce or prevent pollution. Any facility or entity governed by applicable federal, state or local environmental regulations is eligible to participate, provided it has a good compliance record.

The application, instructions and program information are available on the Web at <http://www.deq.utah.gov/cleanutah/index.htm> or from Renette Anderson at 801-536-4478 or 800-458-0145.

Utah Supports DOE Decision to Move Moab Tailings Pile

April 6, 2005

Contacts:

Laura Vernon, UDEQ PIO, 801.536.4484
Tammy Kikuchi, Governor's Office, 801.538.1503

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. today announced his support of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) decision to move the Moab tailings pile to Crescent Junction located 30 miles north of Moab and 15 miles east of Green River.

“This is exciting news for Utah,” said Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. “The DOE and Secretary Bodman are proving that they are willing to listen and work with us to find a reasonable solution for the mill tailings that pose a very real threat to the Colorado River and downstream water users. We appreciate their attention to this most pressing environmental need.”

This decision reflects the tremendous efforts of a stakeholder group to reach a workable solution where Grand County, Moab City and various state and federal agencies contributed to this positive outcome.

“The State of Utah is thrilled with the decision DOE has made,” said Utah Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Dianne Nielson. “The work on uranium mill tailings reflects years of cooperation at the local, state and federal level and with stakeholders. Agencies have provided good science and careful evaluation to support moving the tailings pile from the banks of the Colorado River. This is an essential and welcomed next step to improving the environment and protecting public health.”

State Water Quality Director Appointed

April 8, 2005

Contacts:

Walt Baker, Division of Water Quality, 801.538.6088
Dianne Nielson, Department of Environmental Quality, 801.536.4402

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Walter Baker has been appointed as director of the Utah Division of Water Quality and executive secretary of the Utah Water Quality Board. Baker has been serving as interim division director and board executive secretary since May 2004.

“Walt has extensive knowledge and experience managing water quality issues,” said DEQ Executive Director Dianne Nielson. “We are fortunate to have Walt’s leadership and expertise as we work to improve and sustain the quality of Utah’s surface and ground water.”

Baker began his career with DEQ’s Division of Water Quality in 1984 as an environmental engineer. In 1988 he became the manager of the division’s Construction Assistance Section. He was then promoted in 2003 to manager of the Engineering and Water Quality Management Branch. Prior to DEQ, he worked for five years with a consulting engineering firm in Vernal.

“I appreciate Dianne’s trust. I am also keenly aware of the trust that the citizens of Utah have placed in the Division of Water Quality to uphold our mission, which is to protect Utah’s streams, lakes and ground water so their various uses can be sustained. This is an enormous challenge, but I pledge my best efforts to merit that trust,” Baker said.

Baker has been widely recognized for his service to protect and improve water quality. He recently received the Water Environment Association of Utah’s Grant K. Borg Extraordinary Service Award. In 2000, he received the Water Environment Federation’s Arthur Sidney Bedell Award. The Utah Rural Water Association named him a “Friend of Rural Water” in 1998.

His leadership experiences include serving as president of the Water Environment Association of Utah in 1998 and on the association’s Board of Directors for eight years. He served as committee chair for four years. He recently completed a one-year term as chair of the national State/EPA Revolving Fund Workgroup. Baker also participates in a number of water quality management committees, including the Western States Water Council, Bear River Commission and the Upper Colorado Basin Salinity Control Forum.

Baker is a registered professional engineer in Utah. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in civil and environmental engineering in 1979 from Utah State University.

Raw Sewage Discharging into Malad River

April 28, 2005

Contacts:

Scott Belnap, Garland City, (435) 257-3118

Mike Weibel, Bear River Health Department, (435) 792-6520

Walt Baker or Rob Herbert, Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6146

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Garland City is experiencing a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Garland City is discharging untreated sewage into the Malad River at 1400 South. This remedy will continue until the overflow problem is under control. As a health precaution, the public is advised to stay away from the river.

The Malad River is not a source of drinking or irrigation water. Although the Malad River drains into the Bear River, which is used for irrigation water, the irrigation season has not started yet.

Environmental health specialists from the Bear River Health Department have been on scene monitoring the situation. Utah Division of Water Quality personnel are en route to Garland City to assist with the sewer overflow problem and closely monitor impacts to the Malad River. Impacts to the environment are not yet known.

Raw Sewage Discharge into Malad River Ceases Health Advisory Remains in Effect

May 2, 2005

Contacts:

Scott Belnap, Garland City, (435) 257-3118

Mike Weibel, Bear River Health Department, (435) 994-1122

Walt Baker, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6088

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The sanitary sewer overflow problem in Garland, Utah is under control and the discharge of untreated sewage into the Malad River has ceased. However, the public is still advised to stay away from the river. This health advisory will remain in effect until lab results show that e-coli levels have return to normal.

Environmental health specialists from the Bear River Health Department and water quality scientists from the Utah Division of Water Quality will continue to closely monitor impacts to the Malad River. More water quality lab results are expected on Monday.

On Thursday, Garland City experienced a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Garland City began discharging untreated sewage into the Malad River at 1400 South. The public was advised to avoid contact with water from the river.

The Malad River is not a source of drinking or irrigation water. Although the Malad River drains into the Bear River, which is used for irrigation water, the irrigation season has not started yet.

Health Advisory for Malad River Lifted

May 4, 2005

Contacts:

Scott Belnap, Garland City, (435) 257-3118

Walt Baker, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6088

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The health advisory for the Malad River in Garland, Utah has been lifted. Lab results show that e-coli levels have returned to normal and the water is safe for human contact.

On Thursday, April 28, Garland City experienced a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Garland City officials discharged untreated sewage into the Malad River for about two days. A health advisory to avoid contact with water from the river was issued.

The Malad River is not a source of drinking or irrigation water. Although the Malad River drains into the Bear River, which is used for irrigation water, the irrigation season has not started yet.

Raw Sewage Discharging into Malad River

May 11, 2005

Contacts:

Bill Bishop or Scott Belnap, Garland City, (435) 257-3118
Mike Weibel, Bear River Health Department, (435) 792-6520
Walt Baker or Rob Herbert, Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6146

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Garland City is experiencing a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Garland City is discharging untreated sewage into the Malad River at 1400 South. This remedy will continue until the overflow problem is under control. As a health precaution, the public is advised to stay away from the river.

The Malad River is not a source of drinking or irrigation water. Although the Malad River drains into the Bear River, which is used for irrigation water, the irrigation season has not started yet.

Environmental health specialists from the Bear River Health Department have been on scene monitoring the situation. Utah Division of Water Quality personnel are en route to Garland City to assist with the sewer overflow problem and closely monitor impacts to the Malad River. Impacts to the environment are not yet known.

Raw Sewage Discharging into Ditch then Salt Creek

May 11, 2005

Contacts:

Paul Fulgham, Tremonton City (435) 257-2676
Mike Weibel, Bear River Health Department, (435) 792-6520
Walt Baker or Rob Herbert, Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6146

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Tremonton City is experiencing a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall and snowmelt. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Tremonton is discharging untreated sewage

from a collection transmission main into an unnamed irrigation runoff ditch at 1200 South and 1000 West. The unnamed irrigation runoff ditch flows west and discharges into Salt Creek, which flows southward to the Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area.

This remedy will continue until the sanitary sewer overflow problem is under control. As a health precaution, the public is advised to stay away from unnamed ditch at and Salt Creek.

Environmental health specialists from the Bear River Health Department have been notified of the situation. Utah Division of Water Quality personnel will monitor the discharge for impacts to Salt Creek. Impacts to the environment are not yet known.

Chemical Releases to Utah's Air and Water Continue to Decrease

May 11, 2005

Contacts:

Mike Zucker, Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, (801) 536-4143

Renette Anderson, Utah DEQ Public Affairs, (801) 536-4478

(Salt Lake City, Utah) -Chemical releases to Utah's air and water continued to significantly decrease while releases to land increased in 2003, according to the Utah Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) 2003 Data Summary compiled by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These releases are allowed under various environmental permits as a result of industrial operations.

"We are very encouraged by these decreases of chemical releases to Utah's air and water," said Brad Johnson, director of DEQ's Division of Environmental Response and Remediation.

The most notable decrease is the amount of chemical releases to the air. Utah's releases to the air decreased 51 percent from 18.5 million pounds in 2002 to 9.1 million pounds in 2003. This is the lowest total release to air for Utah in the 17-year history of the TRI program. The reduction is primarily due to a decrease in chlorine emissions from U.S. Magnesium.

Releases to surface water decreased nearly 10 percent from 63,000 pounds in 2002 to 57,000 pounds in 2003. The total consists almost entirely of nitrate compounds released from Chevron Products Company to the Great Salt Lake. Kennecott Utah Copper facilities reported releases of various metals to the Great Salt Lake.

Chemical releases to the land increased about 49 percent from 154.5 million pounds in 2002 to 229.7 million pounds in 2003. Activities in Kennecott's Bingham Canyon mine, including a rise in the amount of ore rock mined and mining in an area that contained a higher concentration of lead, contributed to the increase. Additionally, a decrease in copper recovery from Kennecott's facilities resulted in an increase of copper in the waste stream. Of the total releases to land in Utah, Kennecott Utah Copper facilities reported 89 percent in the form of copper, lead, zinc, manganese, chromium, arsenic and other metal compounds, including naturally occurring metals in waste rock, which is excavated and moved during mining operations.

The TRI is an annual report used to inform citizens, industries and government regulators about wastes generated in Utah. Data are gathered at year's end and compiled the following year. The report may be used to evaluate 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 189 Utah facilities filed TRI reports for 124 TRI-listed chemicals and chemical categories. Approximately 64 percent of these facilities are located in Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah counties.

The TRI report is available on DEQ's Web site at www.superfund.utah.gov/serc/trihome.htm.

Sewage Discharging to Salt Creek Update

May 12, 2005

Contacts:

Paul Fulgham, Tremonton City (435) 257-2676

Mike Weibel, Bear River Health Department, (435) 792-6520

Walt Baker or Rob Herbert, Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6146

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Tremonton City has gained control of the sanitary sewer overflow problem and has stopped discharging untreated sewage into an unnamed irrigation runoff ditch at 1200 South and 1000 West.

The sanitary sewer overflow problem was due to heavy rainfall and snowmelt. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Tremonton yesterday began discharging untreated sewage from a collection transmission main into the ditch which flows west and discharges into Salt Creek, which flows southward to the Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area.

Bear River Health Department and Utah Division of Water Quality personnel will continue to monitor the situation for impacts to Salt Creek. Impacts to the environment are not yet known.

Raw Sewage Discharging into Ditch then Weber River

May 12, 2005

Contacts:

Lance Wood, Central Weber Sewer Improvement District (801) 731-3011
Mary Hazard, Weber-Morgan Health Department, (801) 399-7160
Walt Baker or Rob Herbert, Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6146

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Central Weber Sewer Improvement District (CWSID) is experiencing a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, CWSID is discharging untreated sewage from an overwhelmed lift station into a ditch at 2700 North and 2600 West in Farr West. The ditch discharges into the Weber River.

This remedy will continue until the sanitary sewer overflow problem is under control. As a health precaution, the public is advised to stay away from the ditch and Weber River.

Environmental health specialists from the Weber-Morgan Health Department have been assisting CWSID with this situation and Utah Division of Water Quality personnel will monitor the discharge for impacts to the Weber River. Impacts to the environment are not yet known.

Autoliv Selected for Environmental Recognition

May 13, 2005

Contacts:

Kathy Whitehead, Autoliv, Marketing Communications Manager, (801) 625-9396
Renette Anderson, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Clean Utah
Coordinator, (801) 536-4478

(Ogden, Utah) – In recognition of Autoliv's outstanding environmental management efforts, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) selected Autoliv's Ogden

Technical Center as one of four Utah companies honored to be the first accepted into the new Clean Utah program. This innovative program encourages and rewards businesses for going beyond compliance requirements to preserve and protect Utah's environment.

“We applaud Autoliv’s commitment to protect the environment,” said DEQ Deputy Director Bill Sinclair today at a recognition ceremony for Autoliv employees. “Autoliv’s willingness to take the initiative to implement pollution prevention as well as energy and natural resource conservation programs demonstrates their leadership as a responsible employer and good corporate neighbor.”

Guy Letendre, Autoliv vice president of engineering and Ogden Technical Center plant manager, acknowledged the great strides the facility has made to achieve such high levels of environmental responsibility.

“Although we are very proud of our latest recycling efforts, which have yielded more than two tons of cushion material recycled every month, the Ogden Technical Center has focused their sites even higher – to reduce waste through better product design,” Letendre said. “For example, our latest passenger airbag design weighs 40 percent less than previous generations. This saves thousands of tons of valuable resources and materials, while promoting increased fuel efficiency and other environmental benefits.”

In order to accomplish this magnitude of improvement, Autoliv’s EMS teams at all facilities rely on continuous improvement activities for energy reduction, pollution prevention, conservation of natural resources and recycling to optimize Autoliv’s positive environmental impact. Through the efforts of this team, not only has Autoliv achieved significant waste reduction, but also these efforts are expected to save the company millions of dollars.

To enter the Clean Utah program, Autoliv successfully passed a compliance screen to ensure it was in good standing with local, state and federal environmental requirements. They enter the program at the Partner Level.

More information about Clean Utah and Autoliv is available on the Web at www.deq.utah.gov/cleanutah/index.htm and www.autoliv.com (opens in a new window).

Autoliv North America has 15 facilities in Mexico, Canada and the U.S., six of these in Northern Utah. Autoliv was the first airbag manufacturer to be certified to ISO 14001, the international environmental standard. Autoliv manufactures automotive safety products for all major automotive manufacturers in the world. Sales in 2004 amounted to US \$6.1 billion and net income US \$326 million. The company's shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: ALV), its Swedish Depositary Receipts on the Stockholm Stock Exchange (SSE: ALIV) and its stock options on the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE: ALV.)

Administered by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Clean Utah is a voluntary program designed to recognize and reward companies for taking steps to

reduce or prevent pollution. Representatives from industry (including Autoliv), trade associations, environmental groups and regulatory agencies began working together in July 2001 to develop Clean Utah. DEQ launched the program in September 2004. Any facility or entity governed by applicable federal, state or local environmental regulations is eligible to participate, provided it has a good compliance record.

Water Health Advisory in Tremonton Lifted

May 16, 2005

Contacts:

Paul Fulgham, Tremonton City, (435) 257-2676
Mike Weibel, Bear River Health Department, (435) 792-6520
Walt Baker, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6088

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The health advisory for an unnamed irrigation runoff ditch and the Salt Creek in Tremonton, Utah has been lifted. Lab results show that e-coli levels have returned to normal and the water is safe for human contact.

On Wednesday, May 11, Tremonton City experienced a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall and snowmelt. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Tremonton City officials began discharging untreated sewage from a collection transmission main into an unnamed irrigation runoff ditch at 1200 South and 1000 West. The water from the ditch flowed west and discharged into Salt Creek, which flowed southward to the Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area. A health advisory to avoid contact with water from the ditch and creek was issued. Officials stopped discharging untreated sewage into the ditch on Thursday, May 12.

Water Health Advisory in Farr West Lifted

May 19, 2005

Contacts:

Lance Wood, Central Weber Sewer Improvement District (801) 731-3011
Mary Hazard, Weber-Morgan Health Department, (801) 399-7160
Walt Baker, Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6088

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The health advisory for a ditch that drains into the Weber River in Farr West, Utah has been lifted. Lab results show that e-coli levels have returned to normal and the water is safe for human contact.

On Thursday, May 12, the Central Weber Sewer Improvement District (CWSID) experienced a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, CWSID began discharging untreated sewage from an overwhelmed lift station into a ditch at 2700 North and 2600 West in Farr West. The water from the ditch discharged into the Weber River. A health advisory to avoid contact with water from the ditch and river was issued. CWSID stopped discharging untreated sewage into the ditch on Friday, May 13.

Health Advisory for Malad River Lifted

May 23, 2005

Contacts:

Scott Belnap, Garland City, (435) 257-3118

Walt Baker, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6088

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The health advisory for the Malad River in Garland, Utah has been lifted. Lab results show that e-coli levels have returned to normal and the water is safe for human contact.

On Wednesday, May 11, Garland City experienced a sanitary sewer overflow problem due to heavy rainfall. To relieve the overflow problem and prevent sewage from backing up into homes, Garland City officials discharged untreated sewage into the Malad River for about five days. A health advisory to avoid contact with water from the river was issued.

The Malad River is not a source of drinking or irrigation water. Although the Malad River drains into the Bear River, which is used for irrigation water, the irrigation season has not started yet.

DEQ Introduces New Color Code System for Ozone

May 31, 2005

Contacts:

Rick Sprott, Director, Utah Division of Air Quality, (801) 536-0072

Laura Vernon, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, (801) 536-4484

(Salt Lake City, Utah) The Utah Department of Environmental Quality today introduced a new color code system that will make it easier for Wasatch Front residents to understand daily summertime ozone pollution conditions. By seeing the color code, residents will be able to make easy, convenient choices to protect their health and the environment from ozone's damaging effects.

Use of the new system begins tomorrow when Wasatch Front counties officially enter the summer ozone season. It is similar to the "green, yellow, red" traffic light system used during the winter for particulate matter pollution. This is how the new color code system works:

"Green" means that air quality conditions are good and it is a "Choose Clean Air Day." Residents are encouraged to make clean air choices to help keep air pollution levels low.

"Yellow" means that pollution is beginning to increase and it is an "Air Quality Alert Day." Residents are encouraged to be proactive by parking their vehicles when possible and taking other steps to Choose Clean Air.

"Red" means that pollution levels are high and it is an "Air Quality Action Day." It is critical that residents be extra vigilant by parking their vehicles, using mass transit, carpooling, finding other ways of getting around and taking other actions to Choose Clean Air.

The public should be prepared for health advisories during Yellow and Red days. Those who must drive can help reduce ozone by filling the gas tank or mowing the lawn in the evening, avoiding use of gasoline-powered engines on polluted days, keeping their car well-tuned and tires properly inflated, driving the speed limit, avoiding idling in drive-through lanes, delaying errands, consolidating trips or taking other actions listed on the Choose Clean Air Web site at www.cleanair.utah.gov.

"Making clean air choices everyday is paramount to protecting our health and the environment from the harmful effects of ozone," said Rick Sprott, director of the Utah

Division of Air Quality. “Every little bit that residents can do everyday helps the air we breathe in big ways. We hope this new system, in tandem with our Choose Clean Air Web site and Air Quality Index meter, will make it easier to understand air quality conditions and take action.”

According to Dr. Eric Wood, associate occupational medicine residency director at the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, ozone can irritate the respiratory system, causing coughing, throat irritation and/or an uncomfortable sensation in the chest. It can lower an individual’s resistance to diseases such as colds and pneumonia. Those who are most sensitive to its impacts are the very young, the elderly and those with pre-existing breathing problems. People with respiratory diseases whose lungs are more vulnerable to ozone may experience health effects earlier and at lower ozone levels than less sensitive individuals. Ozone also makes people more sensitive to allergens, the most common triggers of asthma attacks. Even healthy adults doing heavy exercise or manual labor outdoors may experience unhealthy effects during high ozone periods. This is because, during physical activity, ozone penetrates deeper into the parts of the lungs that are more vulnerable to injury.

“Estimates are that one in three Utahns experiences some type of respiratory problem during high pollution periods, and emergency room visits and hospital admission for asthma increase about 24 hours after ozone levels are high,” Wood said.

Studies have shown that ozone can inflame and damage the lining of the lungs. Within a few days, the damaged cells are shed and replaced — much like the skin peels after a sunburn. However, if this type of inflammation happens repeatedly over a long time period, lung tissue may become permanently scarred, resulting in less lung elasticity, permanent loss of lung function and a lower quality of life.

People can reduce their exposure to ozone, especially between 2 and 8 p.m. when ozone concentrations are at their highest, by spending less time participating in vigorous outdoor activities, taking it a little easier when outside and exercising in the morning or later in the evening.

Air quality conditions are updated daily at 6:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., or as conditions change. For the latest air pollution information, residents can visit the Choose Clean Air Web site at www.cleanair.utah.gov, call the Air Pollution Hotline at 975-4009 in Salt Lake and Davis counties or (800) 228-5434 in Utah and Weber counties, or subscribe to the Choose Clean Air listserv to be automatically notified by email when air quality conditions change.

To subscribe to the listserv and find out ways to Choose Clean Air, visit the Choose Clean Air Web site at www.cleanair.utah.gov. Utah’s summer ozone season runs through Sept. 30.

PowerForward Begins Fifth Season

Energy conservation initiative now under the direction of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality

June 3, 2005

Contacts:

Laura Vernon, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, (801) 536-4484
Margaret Oler, Utah Power, (801) 220-2592

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – PowerForward, Utah’s statewide energy conservation initiative, kickoffs its fifth season in an effort to maintain safe, reliable electrical energy at reasonable rates for consumers during the summer peak season.

New this year is the agency responsible for issuing PowerForward alerts to the media and the public. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will issue the familiar colors of a traffic light – green, yellow and red – to indicate a progression of conservation actions desired of the public based on weather predictions, regional power supplies and market power prices.

PowerForward alerts will be issued separately for the Wasatch Front and for the Dixie region as part of DEQ’s daily air quality reports sent to the media and available on www.cleanair.utah.gov. The alerts will also continue to be posted on www.powerforward.utah.gov (opens in a new window).

“The PowerForward initiative empowers consumers with practical, timely information on simple, voluntary actions they can take to conserve electricity during the high-demand summer peak season when electrical power is the most expensive to produce or purchase,” said DEQ Executive Director Dianne Nielson.

Nielson said that most summer days are expected to be “green” PowerForward days, calling for normal, common-sense conservation, such as turning off lights and TVs when you leave a room and doing laundry after 8 p.m. or on weekends.

“Yellow” days will be called when weather conditions and the demand for power coincide to push the state’s expected power needs above available supply. The idea is to increase conservation on those days to prevent Utah’s utility companies from having to pay high prices on the spot market to meet demand. Those spot-market prices eventually get passed on to the customers in the form of rate hikes. On yellow days, power users are encouraged to avoid non-essential power use between 2 and 8 p.m., raise air conditioning thermostats to 78 degrees or higher and turn off non-critical appliances not in use.

“Red” days will be called only when power generation and transmission conditions are threatening electricity supplies. Conservation on red days is critical to maintain electric system reliability.

“Energy conservation is something we should practice throughout the year, day in and day out, because it saves electricity, reduces our electricity bills and helps maintain reasonable rates,” said Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert. “However, summer is the time when our efforts to conserve electricity can really pay off. From a conservation standpoint and from an economic perspective, the summer peak hours are when electricity is the most expensive to purchase or produce and when conservation can do the greatest good.”

In addition, Herbert said that PowerForward helps maintain Utah’s electricity rates among the lowest in the nation.

“While Utah’s electricity is among the most reliable and least expensive in the nation, the increasing demand for electricity during the summer peak season is putting a strain on the electrical infrastructure,” said Rich Walje, executive vice president of Utah Power. “The demand for electricity during the summer peak season is increasing at twice the rate of the growth in the area. The single biggest impact on the growth of that peak demand is the conversion from evaporative cooling to central air conditioning in the area.”

Walje said that more than 50 percent of electrical energy used in homes today is used to cool things – people and food. He urged consumers to participate in programs offered by their respective utilities such as Utah Power’s Cool Keeper and See ‘Ya Later Refrigerator, and to look for the EnergyStar logo on appliances that indicate the most efficient appliance models.

Nielson said that simple, easy actions to conserve energy can make a big difference when everyone participates.

“We’re not asking Utahns to dramatically change their lifestyle – just be sensible in their use of electricity,” Nielson said. “We hope to make consumers more aware of those times during the day when energy conservation efforts will have the biggest impact. When everyone helps out just a little, the payoff for all of us will be substantial.”

Following are 10 simple things you can do to conserve energy this summer:

Set your air conditioning thermostat for 78 degrees or higher if health permits. Use fans instead of air conditioning when possible.

Do laundry after 8 p.m. or on weekends. The most critical time for energy conservation is from 2 to 8 p.m. on weekdays. Anything you can do to shift power use to hours before or after that six-hour daily block is helpful.

Turn off lights, TVs, VCRs and computers when not in use.

Use compact fluorescent light bulbs in fixtures that remain on three or more hours per day. They use 75 percent less energy and have 6 to 10 times the life expectancy.

Install light dimmers, motion sensors or timers. Use lights only when you need them.

Use the “air dry” cycle on dishwashers instead of “heat dry.” Wait to run your dishwasher late at night so the dishes can dry overnight.

Cook in a microwave oven or on an outdoor grill instead of using electric ovens.

If you have a second refrigerator, avoid using it and check with your local utility about recycling the appliance.

If permitted by local regulations, line dry clothes instead of using electric clothes dryers.

Open windows during the evening or early morning hours. Take advantage of the natural cooling effect of lower outside temperatures, then close windows, blinds and draperies during the heat of the day to maintain the cooler air inside the home.

PowerForward has been a highly successful program during periods of high demand for electricity due to high temperatures. For example, in July 2001, Utahns conserved 100 megawatts of electricity – enough to supply 51,300 homes for a day – on each of several “yellow” days. In July 2002, 90 megawatts of electricity was conserved on each of the 11 “yellow” days.

PowerForward runs from June 1 to Sept. 15 each year. The Utah Energy Office introduced it in 2001. Now under the direction of DEQ, PowerForward continues to be a partnership of Utah consumers, businesses, electric utilities, media and state and local government agencies. More information about PowerForward, including additional energy conservation tips, is available on the Web at www.powerforward.utah.gov (opens in a new window).

Grant Money Available to Help Communities Assess Contaminated Sites

June 14, 2005

Contacts:

Utah Division of Environmental Response & Remediation
Hillary Mason, 801-536-4162, or Paul Zahn, 801-536-4181

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been awarded a \$200,000 EPA Petroleum Brownfields grant to identify and assess petroleum contamination at environmentally challenged sites. DEQ is actively looking for sites throughout Utah to consider for this revitalization effort. Utah communities now have the opportunity to access this grant money to fund environmental assessments of underutilized properties with petroleum contamination.

“Brownfields” is the term used to describe property where reuse or redevelopment is complicated due to known or perceived environmental contamination. These properties are often difficult to revitalize, which can stall economic growth due to fear of liability or a lack of funding to investigate or cleanup.

“This is an excellent opportunity for your community to further economic development, promote environmental protection and support community revitalization,” said Brad Johnson, director of DEQ’s Division of Environmental Response and Remediation.

According to Johnson, many communities in Utah have been left with vacant contaminated land that hinders redevelopment and restoration of a healthy local economy and tax-base. The grant money has the potential to improve a community’s quality of life and leave a legacy of a healthier environment for future generations by cleaning up and redeveloping land into such things as open space, a commercial business or even affordable housing.

“DEQ is proud of the progress already made in transforming underutilized sites to productive use, and we are pleased to use this grant money for the opportunity to continue this effort,” said DEQ environmental scientist Hillary Mason.

This Petroleum Brownfields grant can be used for the following purposes:

- Site screening and eligibility evaluation
- Coordination and leveraging of available funding
- Site assessment
- Technical assistance and regulatory oversight
- Documentation and reporting of site assessments
- Obtaining site closure to help pave the way for redevelopment and beneficial reuse

For more information on obtaining grant money to renew your community, please contact the DEQ’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank program at 801-536-4100.

Utah has been successful in revitalizing numerous properties. To see examples of other Utah Petroleum Brownfield success stories, visit the DEQ’s Web site at <http://www.undergroundtanks.utah.gov/leakingtanks/ustfields.htm>

DEQ Issues Smoke Health Advisory

July 1, 2005

Contacts:

Bryce Bird, Division of Air Quality, 801.536.4064

Bob Dalley, Air Monitoring Center, 801.887.0762

(Salt Lake City) – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality has issued a wildfire smoke health advisory for southwestern Utah and an ozone health advisory for Washington County. Active children and adults, the elderly and individuals with respiratory and heart disease should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors in areas of wildfire smoke. Those having problems should contact their health care provider. This health advisory will remain in effect while smoke and high temperatures are prevalent in the area.

Particulate matter found in smoke can irritate the lungs and eyes. These fine particles can become lodged in delicate lung tissue, decreasing lung function, especially for people with respiratory and cardiovascular ailments. Ozone can irritate the respiratory system, causing coughing and throat irritation, and can aggravate existing respiratory conditions such as asthma.

More information is available on the Web at www.cleanair.utah.gov.

DEQ Signs Agreement With EPA to Study Agricultural Emissions

August 5, 2005

Contacts:

Rick Sprott, Utah Division of Air Quality, (801) 536-0072

Larry Lewis, Utah Department of Agriculture & Food, (801) 538-7104

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that establishes a collaborative working relationship to develop and implement the Utah Animal Feeding Operation Air Quality Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to

gather air emissions information from animal feeding operations and implement programs to reduce emissions.

“This strategy places a higher focus on local input and local solutions, allows an evaluation of best management practices for reducing air emissions and helps maintain a viable agriculture industry in Utah,” said DEQ Executive Director Dianne Nielson. Specifically, the strategy is designed to:

Quantify air emissions from Utah’s confined animal feeding operations, including emissions of ammonia, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, particulate matter and hazardous air pollutants.

Identify appropriate best management practices for different types of operations.

Identify which existing best management practices have air quality benefits, while avoiding impacts on water quality.

Identify operations that may be subject to the requirements of the Clean Air Act and other environmental regulations.

Develop a multi-area implementation plan that starts with a voluntary, incentive-based approach; meets Clean Air Act requirements; builds on the success of the strategy used for water quality protection; and maximizes air, water, and waste benefits.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is working with DEQ to implement the strategy. The departments, along with commodity groups and farm organizations, will form a partnership to implement the new EPA air quality program.

The departments will work to provide funding to help gather and analyze air emissions data, coordinate monitoring with owners of animal feeding operations and implement solutions where problems exist.

“One benefit of this strategy is that it will help Utah’s producers meet the requirements of state and federal regulations and maintain a strong agricultural presence in the State of Utah,” said George Hopkins, UDAF director of the Division of Conservation and Resource Management.

This strategy is a result of joint efforts by cooperating agencies to creatively find a solution that is locally driven, locally sensitive and locally effective. It is patterned after an existing State Water Quality Program that has been praised by the EPA as a model for the United States.

Health Officials Issue Fish Advisories For Two Southern Utah Waters

August 22, 2005

Contacts:

Utah Department of Environmental Quality: John Whitehead, (801) 538-6053

Utah Department of Health: Steve McDonald, (801) 538-6339

Salt Lake City - Fish consumption advisories have been issued in two Utah areas by state and local officials. The advisories are in effect for Gunlock Reservoir in Washington County, and Mill Creek in Grand County where elevated mercury levels have been found in fish.

Fish consumption advisory signs will be posted at access points to Gunlock Reservoir and Mill Creek stating that:

Adults should limit their consumption of largemouth bass taken from Gunlock Reservoir to no more than two 8-ounce servings per month

Adults can safely eat three 8-ounce meals of brown trout from Mill Creek per month, and

Women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children should not eat more than one 4-ounce serving per month from either location. A 4-ounce serving of fish is approximately the size of a deck of cards.

Eating more than these amounts over a long period of time could result in an intake of mercury that exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health recommendations, according to an analysis completed by the Utah Department of Health. Any health risks associated with eating fish from Gunlock Reservoir or Mill Creek are based on long-term consumption and are not tied to eating fish occasionally. There is no health risk to other recreationists, including those swimming, boating, and waterskiing.

Fish were collected from Gunlock Reservoir (near St. George) and Mill Creek (near Moab) as a part of a water quality investigation. Elevated mercury levels were found in six of eight largemouth bass collected from Gunlock Reservoir and three of five brown trout collected from Mill Creek. Bluegills and channel catfish from Gunlock were also tested but did not show elevated mercury levels.

Officials from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Department of Health, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Southeastern Utah District Health Department and Southwest Utah Public Health Department worked in partnership to issue this advisory.

Information about the advisory will also be distributed locally, and will be available at: http://www.deq.utah.gov/issues/Mercury/fish_advisories.htm and each of the agencies' Internet sites. More information about the health effects of mercury can be found at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts46.html>. A map of Utah highlighting the sites where fish were tested for mercury and the tests results can be found at: http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/documents/mercury_sample_sites_5-17-05.pdf. 217 samples of fish tissue were taken throughout the state and only 18 samples had elevated mercury levels.

Mercury levels will continue to be monitored. Advisories will be updated, as needed, based on additional information.

Utah Attains Air Quality Health Standards; Final Plans Submitted

September 12, 2005

Contacts:

Cheryl Heying, Utah Division of Air Quality, (801) 536-4015
Rick Sprott, Utah Division of Air Quality, (801) 536-0072

SALT LAKE CITY - New plans submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency demonstrate that Salt Lake County, Utah County, and Ogden City meet – and can continue to meet – particulate matter (PM10) standards through at least 2017.

The State is asking EPA to redesignate the three as PM10 attainment areas under the Clean Air Act. The areas were found in violation of the PM10 health standard in 1990. At that time, Utah also violated the ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide standards.

“Once EPA approves the PM10 plans, every area of the state will have the designation to confirm that they meet all air quality standards,” explained Rick Sprott, Utah Air Quality Director. “This is very significant. Only one other metropolitan area –Denver, Colorado - has ever accomplished this. The achievement is remarkable given that it occurred during a period of rapid growth in both the population and the economy.”

PM10 is small dust and soot particles, generally created during a burning or combustion process. Its primary sources include vehicles and small engines, industry, fireplaces and wood stoves. The nonattainment label has meant stricter controls for industry and vehicle emissions and made it increasingly difficult for communities to obtain federal highway funds.

“This is a milestone in which Utah citizens and businesses can take pride,” Sprott acknowledged. However, he also cautioned that “more work lies ahead” and encouraged residents and industry to be proactive in preventing air pollution.

“Newer standards for ozone and particulate matter are even more protective,” he said, “and we are very close to violating those.”

PM10 is about one-tenth the width of a human hair. It is most obvious as the thick, brownish haze that gets trapped in Wasatch Front Valleys during winter months during temperature inversions when the air is very still. PM can lodge in the lungs, affecting breathing and aggravating existing respiratory and cardiovascular disease. The elderly, children and people with chronic health conditions are especially sensitive to its impacts.

The PM10 plans are available at <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/SIP/Sipcomp.htm>

PowerForward Program Ends Its Fifth Season

8 yellow days for Wasatch Front; 9 for the Dixie Area

September 15, 2005

Contacts:

Rick Sprott, Utah Division of Air Quality, (801) 536-0072

Cheryl Heying, Utah Division of Air Quality, (801) 536-4015

SALT LAKE CITY - PowerForward, Utah’s electricity conservation initiative, completed its fifth season with 8 yellow days for the Wasatch Front and 9 yellow days for the Dixie Area.

“Yellow” days were called when weather conditions and the demand for power pushed expected power needs above available supply.

"July was warmer than normal," explained Rick Sprott, Utah Air Quality Director. "We had many days when temperatures were over 100 degrees. With an increased population and a higher percentage of homes that have air conditioning as opposed to swamp coolers, more electricity is required when temperatures soar."

On yellow days, power users were encouraged to avoid non-essential power use between 2 and 8 p.m., raise air conditioning thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, and turn off appliances not in use. Increasing conservation helped reduce demand, ensuring system reliability. Conservation also helped utility companies avoid paying high prices on the spot market. Spot-market prices eventually get passed on to customers in the form of rate hikes.

In 2004, the Wasatch Front had no yellow days and Dixie had 22 days. There were no red days in either 2004 or 2005. “Red” days are only called when power generation and transmission conditions are threatening electricity supplies and conservation is critical.

PowerForward runs from June 1 to Sept. 15 each year. The Utah Energy Office introduced it in 2001. This year, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality issued the familiar colors of a traffic light - green, yellow and red - to indicate a progression of conservation actions desired of the public based on weather predictions, regional power supplies and market power prices.

Clean Utah Welcomes Hexcel Corporation

October 5, 2005

Contacts:

Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director, (801) 536-4405

Renette Anderson, Clean Utah Coordinator, (801) 536-4478

(Salt Lake City) – Hexcel Corporation of West Valley will be officially welcomed as a new Clean Utah Partner today during a special presentation at the plant. Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, will make the presentation.

Hexcel manufactures carbon fiber and pre-impregnated tape, cloth and tow for the aerospace, automotive, construction, and recreational industries. Part of a well-known national chain, the West Valley plant currently employs 350. It was formerly known as the Hercules-Aerospace, Composite Products Division

Hexcel joins La-Z-Boy in Tremonton and Autoliv North America in Ogden at the Partner Level. ModusLink in Lindon, Park City Building Department, Red Hanger Cleaners, and Tooele Army Depot-North Area are Entry Level Clean Utah members.

To be accepted as a Clean Utah facility, applicants must first pass a compliance screen to ensure they are in good standing with local, state and federal environmental requirements. Those at the Entry Level work to develop an Environmental Management System (EMS), a continual cycle of planning and implementing then reviewing and improving processes that a company takes to meet its business and environmental goals.

With an EMS in place, a company is eligible for the Partner Level, where it actively works on projects aimed at improving environmental performance, further minimizing impact.

“Hexcel and its employees have worked diligently over the years to implement an Environmental Management System that has not only ensured compliance with environmental regulatory requirements, but one that has also significantly reduced waste through process improvements and recycling, “ explained Ken Bunkowski , Hexcel Site Manager. “This effort has been good not only for the environment but also for the financial performance of our business.”

Hexcel is now working on three environmental improvement projects:

Reduce plant-wide steam consumption. Hexcel uses approximately 33.5 million pounds of steam annually. Producing it requires five million gallons of water and 3.8 million cubic feet of natural gas. Reducing steam consumption by 10% will effectively reduce water and natural gas consumption by 502,000 gallons and 386,500 cubic feet respectively. Air quality will also benefit from the decreased burning of natural gas.

Implement methylene chloride recycling in labs. Hexcel currently uses slightly over 100,000 pounds per year. Recycling methylene chloride and using it one more time will reduce the amount purchased and the amount of hazardous waste needing disposal, saving the company money in both areas.

Fully integrate the plant-wide recycling program. Last year, the company recycled 1.6 million pounds. This year, the target is 2 million pounds. This includes wooden pallets, rolls of paper and poly film, empty steel drums and industrial solvents. Usable materials will be reduced, thereby reducing refuse waste and non-hazardous waste disposal costs.

“We commend Hexcel for its compliance record and its desire to be a leader in protecting our environment,” Sinclair said. “We encourage others to follow Hexcel’s example.”

Clean Utah applications are being accepted through October 15 by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. Clean Utah is a voluntary program designed to recognize and reward companies for taking steps to reduce or prevent pollution. Any facility or entity governed by federal, state or local environmental regulations is eligible to participate, provided it has a good compliance record.

The application, instructions and program information are available on the Web at www.deq.utah.gov/cleanutah/index.htm or from Renette Anderson at 801-536-4478 or 800-458-0145.

New Public Information Officer Named

October 18, 2005

Contacts:

Dianne Nielson, (801) 536-4402
DEQ Executive Director
Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4480
Public Information Officer

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Donna Kemp Spangler has been appointed the Public Information Officer for the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Executive Director Dianne Nielson announced today. Spangler replaces Laura Vernon, who resigned to accept a position with the private sector.

“Donna’s considerable experience as a reporter will be an asset to DEQ,” Nielson said. “She will be responsible to help us effectively communicate complex environmental issues so the public can make informed decisions.”

“I care deeply about Utah’s environment,” Spangler said. “I look forward to working with DEQ to enhance the public’s understanding of environmental issues and the agency’s role in protecting the quality of Utah’s environment.”

Spangler began her career as a reporter for The Review, in Oregon. She also reported for the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin and worked as editor of The Enterprise in Washington State before moving to Utah, where she was an environmental reporter for the Deseret Morning News from 1999 – 2004. Spangler is returning to Utah from Washington D.C., where she reported for the Exchange Monitor Publications on a variety of nuclear waste, nuclear energy, low-level waste disposal and homeland security issues.

Spangler earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, from the University of Portland in 1986. She has received numerous awards from the Utah and the Pacific Northwest Regional Chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists for environmental, legal affairs, special projects, and government reporting. Spangler is the co-author of “Horned Snakes and Axle Grease: A Guide to Archeology, History and Rock Art of Nine Mile Canyon.”

“Red Light-Green Light” Begins Tuesday

October 31, 2005

Contacts:

Rick Sprott, (801) 536-0072
Director, Division of Air Quality
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Planning Manager, Division of Air Quality
Donna Kemp Spangler, (801)536-4484
Public Information Officer, DEQ

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – With colder months just ahead – and higher energy prices hitting families much harder than in years past – many Wasatch Front residents will be firing up wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. And that means more attention is needed to managing air pollution. Tuesday, Nov. 1, marks the beginning of “Red Light-Green Light” Choose Clean Air, the highly successful Utah Division of Air Quality program now in its 13th season of curtailing air pollution caused by wood-burning and coal-burning stoves and fireplaces.

“The wood smoke program has been absolutely crucial for Utah to meet air quality standards in the winter,” said Rick Sprott, director of the Utah Division of Air Quality. “Citizens are well aware of the pollution smoke creates and nearly everyone heeds the ‘no-burn’ warnings.”

The program, which runs through March 1, 2006, provides daily notification to the public regarding when burning is allowed. Green means burning is allowed, yellow means voluntary no-burning, and red means no burning is allowed. Burn conditions are announced daily in newspapers, and on television and radio. Updates are available from the Air Pollution Index Hotline at 801-975-4009 (Salt Lake and Davis counties) and 800-228-5434 (all other counties), and from the Choose Clean Air website at www.cleanair.utah.gov.

Winter air pollution can pose serious health problems when fine particles become lodged in lung tissue, decreasing lung function, increasing susceptibility to respiratory infections and aggravating breathing problems like asthma and chronic bronchitis. Children, the elderly and those with existing heart and lung conditions are most sensitive to particulate air pollution.

“The latest medical research shows more and more serious health effects from particulate pollution,” Sprott said. “We now know that these small particles can cause cardio-

pulmonary disease and other serious problems, not just respiratory illnesses. This is a serious public health problem and pollution levels in Utah can cause these health problems.”

“Red Light-Green Light” is targeted at fine particulates (PM10 and PM2.5) and carbon monoxide emissions in Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber counties. The Bear River Health Department has its own wood-burning program for Cache County and residents can call 435-792-6612 for a recorded message. The Utah Division of Air Quality designated “yellow” or “red days” as pollution levels begin to approach unhealthy levels, as established by federal health-based standards for PM10, PM2.5 and carbon monoxide.

Air quality officials recommend replacing an old wood- or coal-burning stove or fireplace with a newer, Environmental Protection Agency-certified model that greatly reduces airborne pollutants. Stoves and fireplaces manufactured after July 1, 1990, meet the EPA’s stringent emissions standards, and they can cut wood smoke emissions by up to 85 percent. And switching to a clean-burning natural-gas fireplace inserts also reduces pollution.

Other emissions-reducing tips recommended by the Hearth Products Association include:

- Use only well-seasoned firewood, which produces less smoke.
- Use logs manufactured from sawdust and wax, which also produce less smoke.
- Using a fire-starter can cut particulate emissions by more than 69 percent.
- Build hotter fires with smaller pieces of wood, which produce less smoke.

Everyone can contribute to better winter air quality:

- Drive your vehicle as little as possible during red and yellow days. Reduce the number of trips in your car and walk to errands when possible.
- Keep your vehicle tuned up, and avoid excessive idling
- Car-pooling, using mass transit and telecommuting are all ways to help reduce vehicle pollutants.
- Avoid using snow-blowers and other gasoline powered equipment on red and yellow days.

Air quality officials routinely patrol the neighborhoods and will work with homeowners who are burning on “red” days to educate them on the implications of their actions. Fines, ranging from \$25 to \$299, may be imposed on offenders.

DEQ Manager Recognized for Tailings Removal

November 01, 2005

Contacts:

Loren Morton, (801) 536-4262
Division of Radiation Control
Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4480
Public Information Officer

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Loren Morton, a section manager for the Utah Division of Radiation Control, has been awarded the prestigious Governor’s Science and Technology Medal for his scientific work that led to the Department of Energy’s decision to move 13.5 million tons of uranium mill tailings from the former Atlas mill site on the banks of the Colorado River near Moab.

Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr. will honor Morton, along with 10 other recipients recognized for their achievements, at a 7 p.m. ceremony on Thursday at the Leonardo Center at Library Square, 209 East 500 South.

“It’s been a pleasure to work on the Moab tailings project, and be involved in the Department of Environmental Quality’s efforts to protect the Colorado River,” said Morton. “The credit for this endeavor must be shared with many others, including, Dr. Kip Solomon at the University of Utah; Phil Gardner and Terry Kenney of the U.S. Geological Survey in Salt Lake City; Paul Mushovic of the Environmental Protection Agency in Denver; Don Metzler and his staff at the DOE office in Grand Junction, and many local citizens of Moab. Together, we have had the privilege of protecting the environment for future generations.”

Bill Sinclair, deputy director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, nominated Morton to the State Advisory Council on Science and Technology for his efforts in providing key scientific information that supported the state’s position to remove the mill tailings that are threatening the Colorado River, a source of drinking water for 25 million people downstream.

“Loren’s vast knowledge and study of the site, in collaboration with partners at the University of Utah and the U.S. Geologic Survey, enabled the state of Utah and other stakeholders to demonstrate the tailings needed to be moved due to the potential of river migration and other events that could undermine the pile,” said Sinclair. “Loren has received kudos from many who have worked on this project for a long period, including

the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Grand County Council, and local Moab residents.”

In September, the Department of Energy signed the official decision to move the radioactive mill tailings to Crescent Junction, 30 miles away, culminating a 10-year-long effort that included lobbying efforts from Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. and Utah’s congressional delegation. The project is expected to cost \$400 million.

Morton has been with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality since 1984. For 10 years he worked as the hydrogeologist in the Utah Division of Water Quality before joining the Utah Division of Radiation Control where he monitors low-level radioactive waste facilities like Envirocare of Utah and uranium mills. Prior to DEQ, he was an engineering geologist for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Utah. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University where he earned both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree in geology.

DEQ Hosts Annual Lead Conference

November 7, 2005

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(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Lead poisoning prevention will be a key topic at the 10th Annual Western States and Tribes Lead Conference, hosted this year by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Nov. 9-10 at the Salt Lake City Library auditorium, 210 East 400 South.

To highlight awareness, Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr. has declared the month of November, “Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Month.” The declaration, to be delivered at the conference, emphasizes the importance of early prevention, such as getting children, preferably before the age of six, a blood test to screen for lead in their blood. “Many lead poisoned children remain undiagnosed and untreated,” the declaration states. “The most efficient way to identify children who are most at-risk for lead poisoning is to screen children in older homes, children whose parents are exposed to lead at work and children served by federal health care programs (including Medicaid) with a simple and inexpensive blood test.”

“Lead poisoning is one of the most preventable environmental exposures in children,” said Robert Ford, manager of the Hazardous Air Pollutants Section of the Division of Air Quality. “Yet more than 300,000 children nationwide still have unsafe levels of lead in their blood.”

Lead is a highly toxic metal that is found in lead-based paints in older homes built before 1978. Children are often at risk for exposure because they potentially could be playing in or around lead-contaminated dust and soil.

Dianne Nielson, executive director of DEQ, is one of the key speakers at the conference, which will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. A complete agenda can be found at: <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/HAPS/LeadConference/index.htm>.

Fish Advisory Issued for Green River in Desolation Canyon

November 10, 2005

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(Salt Lake City, Utah) – State and local officials today issued a fish consumption advisory for the Green River in Desolation Canyon where elevated mercury levels have been found in channel catfish.

Officials from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources collected the fish as part of an ongoing investigation of mercury in fish tissues. Elevated mercury levels were found in eight out of 10 channel catfish collected from the Green River in Desolation Canyon.

Fish consumption advisory signs will be posted at access points to the Desolation Canyon portion of the Green River stating that:

Adults should limit their consumption of channel catfish taken from the Green River in Desolation Canyon to no more than two 8-ounce servings per month; and

Women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children should not eat more than one 4-ounce serving per month from channel catfish in the Green River. A 4-ounce serving of fish is approximately the size of a deck of cards.

Eating more than these amounts over a long period of time could result in an intake of mercury that exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health recommendations, according to an analysis completed by the Utah Department of Health. Any health risks associated with eating fish from the Green River in Desolation Canyon are based on long-term consumption and are not tied to eating fish occasionally. There is no health risk to other recreationists, including those swimming, boating, and waterskiing.

Officials from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Department of Health, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Southeastern Utah District Health Department and Tri-County Health Department worked in partnership to issue this advisory.

Information about the advisory will also be distributed locally, and will be available at: http://www.deq.utah.gov/issues/Mercury/fish_advisories.htm and each of the agencies' Internet sites. More information about the health effects of mercury can be found at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts46.html>. A map of Utah highlighting the site where the fish were tested for mercury and the test results can be found at http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/documents/mercury_sample_map_8-22-05.pdf. A copy of the Health Consultation on the Evaluation of Mercury Concentrations in Fish from Desolation Canyon, Green River, Utah for 2000 and 2005 can be found at www.health.utah.gov/enviroepi.

Additional sampling of the Green river above and below Desolation Canyon will be conducted in 2006 to evaluate if this fish advisory should be expanded.

Proper Mercury Disposal Prevents Costly Cleanups and Exposure

December 19, 2005

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(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Accidents happen. Thermometers break. But when it comes to household spills of potentially toxic mercury, proper cleanup is essential, state environmental officials say.

“Our concern is that people aren’t aware that mercury is highly hazardous and there’s the potential of causing thousands of dollars in damage to the home because people don’t know how to properly clean it up,” said Neil Taylor, an environmental scientist with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR).

Taylor’s advice is never to vacuum or sweep up the mercury-tainted spill because it will break the mercury into smaller droplets. “When a thermostat breaks, I see people pull out their vacuum cleaner and what they just have done is spread it throughout the house and now are faced with an expensive cleanup,” Taylor said. “I want people to be aware there are places they can go to find out more about mercury, such as DEQ’s Web site (www.deq.utah.gov), including advice on how to dispose of the hazardous waste.

The number of calls to DERR about mercury contamination or spills has doubled over the last year. So far, the Division has received 11 mercury-related calls, compared to last year’s total of six. The increase could be attributed to wider awareness of the issue, said Brad Johnson, director of DERR. “People may be thinking about the potential dangers of mercury in light of the attention that has focused on mercury levels found in fish.” But mercury is found in a variety of places, including electrical switches in some automobiles, smelters and chemistry labs.

Mercury can be found in such household products as old thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs. When shattered and spilled it forms droplets that can accumulate in the tiniest of spaces and emit vapors into the air. Mercury affects the brain and the central nervous system, and can cause delayed mental development and learning disabilities, depending on how much mercury has entered your body and how long you have been exposed to it.

The Department of Environmental Quality does offer assistance to residents looking for a place to dispose of mercury. Additional information on mercury disposal can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/mercury/spills.htm> (opens in a new window).

For spills that are less than or equal to the amount in a thermometer:

DON’T

- Use a vacuum or broom
- Pour mercury down a drain
- Wash mercury-contaminated clothes
- Walk around, if shoes might be contaminated with mercury.

DO

- Remove everyone, including pets from the area of the spill.
- Turn off furnace or air conditioner
- Put on rubber or latex gloves
- Squeeze mercury onto damp paper towel. Place it in zip lock bag.

For more information on disposal, contact the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste at 801-538-6170. To report a spill or leak, call the DEQ spill hotline at 801-536-4123.

Background Information on Mercury
Mercury Work Group

Clean Up Completed on Remaining Portland Cement Sites

December 28, 2005

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(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) has completed cleanup work on two 15-acre sites contaminated by cement kiln waste that was deposited during manufacturing by the former Portland Cement Plant in Salt Lake City, later purchased by Lone Star Industries.

The \$3.3 million project involved the removal of 40,000 tons of cement kiln dust that contained heavy metals, including arsenic, lead, chromium, cadmium and molybdenum. The first site is located at 9300 West and 600 North, about one mile south of the Great Salt Lake, and the other at 2500 West Center St. in North Salt Lake, near the Jordan River in Davis County.

The latest cleanup work is the culmination of a \$32 million Superfund project conducted between 1993 and 1998 on 71 acres near 1000 South Redwood Road in Salt Lake City. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency placed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in June 1986 because of its environmental risk to nearby industrial and residential areas. The cleanup of the additional two 15-acre parcels completes the process.

“This ties up the loose ends of contamination left behind in the Salt Lake Valley from Portland Cement and Lone Star Industries,” said Bob O’Brien, project manager for DERR. “These two sites weren’t part of the NPL because they weren’t considered enough of a risk due to their remote locations. But we were finally able to address these so-called orphan sites.”

DEQ initiated the most recent project from money left over from the Superfund account, which was funded in part by a 1995 bankruptcy settlement with Lone Star Industries.

In January of 2005, DERR entered into a contract with Envirocon of Missoula, Mo. to do the cleanup work for \$3.3 million. It took nine months to complete the project. Chromium-bearing bricks discarded on the sites were disposed at a hazardous landfill in Tooele County and the cement kiln dust disposed at the Salt Lake County landfill, as well as the Tooele County facility. A combined 30 acres of property has been seeded and restored and now can be put to productive use.

“We plan within the next year to do some groundwater sampling beneath the area to determine if there is any impact to the groundwater. Although we don’t expect that to be the case,” O’Brien said.