Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Press Releases

For the Year 2007

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Governors Call on Auto Industry to Work Toward Clean Cars

Suggest Partnership to Reduce Greenhouse Gases, Withdraw Legal Challenge

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Thirteen governors from across the United States today sent a letter to automotive corporations asking the industry to support the governors' commitment to address climate change.

"The public is demanding that states, in the absence of federal action, take real and meaningful steps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases," the governors wrote in the letter. "Ensuring that our automobiles have a lower carbon footprint is an essential piece of our greenhouse gas reduction strategy."

The letter went further to explain that the United States passenger vehicle/light duty truck sector is second only to the electricity sector in the amount of greenhouse gases emitted. California was the first state to adopt clean tailpipe standards, followed by 11 other states, leading to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 74 million metric tons by 2020.

The 13 governors asked the automotive leaders to withdraw the legal challenges to clean vehicle standards and work with the states to reverse the threat of global warming. "We do not believe it is productive for your industry to continue to fight state implementation of clean tailpipe standards," the governors said. "We would prefer to follow a path that encourages innovation not litigation."

"Your companies are on record as supporting efforts to combat climate change," remarked the governors. "Selling cars that meet the clean car standards is a major step in fulfilling your commitment. It is time for us to work together to reduce the transportation sector's contributions to global warming in our states and provinces."

States involved include: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah and Washington. Five Canadian provinces have also committed to adopting these standards.

A copy of the letter from the governors is attached.

September 12, 2007

G. Richard Wagoner Jr., President & CEO General Motors Corporation
P.O. Box 33170
Detroit, MI 48232-5170

Bob Nardelli , Chairman & CEO Chrysler, LLC
P.O. Box 21-8004
Auburn Hills, MI 48321-8004

Koichi Kondo, President & CEO American Honda Motor Co. Inc. 1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

Dear Sirs:

Alan Mulally, President & CEO
Ford Motor Company 1 The American Road Dearborn, MI 48126-0685

Yuki Funo, Chairman & CEO Toyota Motor North America 9 West 57th Street, 49th Floor New York, NY 10019

Carlos Ghosn, President & CEO Nissan North America Inc.
333 Commerce Street
Nashville, TN 37201

The impact of global warming presents a grave threat to public health, natural resources and our economy. The public is demanding that states, in the absence of federal action, take real and meaningful steps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Ensuring that our automobiles have a lower carbon footprint is an essential piece of our greenhouse gas reduction strategy.

In the United States, the passenger vehicle/light duty truck sector is second only to the electricity sector in the amount of greenhouse gases emitted. In some of our states, including California, the transportation sector is the largest source of emissions. This is why the clean tailpipe standards first adopted by California are already in place in 11 other states. Taken together, these states represent 35 percent of the United States' population. Implementation of clean tailpipe standards in these states will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 74 million metric tons by 2020. Adoption is under consideration by additional states, which will add substantial emission reductions.

Five Canadian provinces have also committed to adopting these standards in recognition of the fact that they are a critical component in addressing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.

In the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Massachusetts vs. EPA, the Court found that EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases and that authority is wholly independent of the U.S. Department of Transportation's authority to promote energy efficiency through the setting of vehicle mileage standards. The Court also held that EPA must exercise that authority if it finds that greenhouse gases may reasonably be anticipated to endanger health or welfare.

In light of this decision, we do not believe it is productive for your industry to continue to fight state implementation of clean tailpipe standards. As Governors committed to addressing the issue of climate change, we ask that you withdraw your legal challenges to clean vehicle standards and begin working with us to meet our joint obligations to begin reversing the threat of global warming

We would prefer to follow a path that encourages innovation not litigation. You manufacture and sell the automobiles used by the vast majority of drivers in the United States and Canada. You are building and selling clean vehicles in Europe and Japan. It is clear to us that there is a bottom-line upside to this approach. For example, the Ford Escape hybrid was voted North American Truck of the Year in 2005.

Your companies are on record as supporting efforts to combat climate change. Selling cars that meet the clean car standards is a major step in fulfilling your commitment. It is time for us to work together to reduce the transportation sector's contributions to global warming in our states and provinces. In this spirit, we stand ready to meet with you to establish a basis for partnership rather than litigation as we work to meet our joint obligations to reverse global warming.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

M. Jodi Rell
Governor of Connecticut

n E. Baldacci
overnor of Maine

Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland

Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

Eliot Spitzer
Governor of New York

2007 Ozone Forecasting Season Comes to an End

Fires Impact Air Quality This Summer

September 25, 2007

Contact:

Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Public Information Officer, DEQ

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The fires this summer, especially the historic Milford Flat fire, contributed to a series of unhealthy air quality days that gave rise to a record total of 40 days when residents were asked to limit their driving.

The Division of Air Quality (DAQ) ended its forecasting of the 2007 ozone season, which runs from June through September, with a total of 19 "red" days and 21 "yellow" days – 24 more than 2006.

"This was a somewhat typical summer for ozone in that the hottest month of July is typically when air quality deteriorates because of the heat," said Air Quality Director Cheryl Heying. "However, the smoke from several fires in Utah and outside of Utah made conditions worse."

The majority of the "no-drive" days came in July, when smoke shrouded much of the state due to the Milford Flat fire that ignited by lightning on July 6, and burned 363,052 acres, the largest wildfire in Utah history. Other fires burning throughout the state and nearby Idaho and California also contributed to poor air quality, caused by a mixture of ozone and fine particulate pollution.

DAQ began to issue "yellow" action days this summer in efforts to stem the rise of pollution, said Bob Dalley, manager of the Air Monitoring Center. "We have been trying to be more pro-active and more protective of public health."

Ozone is an invisible gas formed when vehicle emissions combine with heat and sunlight. DAQ issues a "yellow" action day when the ozone pollution is building and residents are encouraged to take proactive steps by voluntarily carpooling, consolidating vehicle trips,

and avoid fueling the car or mowing the lawn in the middle of the day. A “red” day means pollution levels are high, and residents should avoid using gasoline or diesel-powered engines.

DAQ will continue its three-day forecasts at http://www.airquality.utah.gov/, but now the focus will be wintertime pollution, when inversions trap fine particulate pollution in the valleys.

Groups Recognized for Pollution Prevention

September 26, 2007

Contact:

Vicki Bennett, Pollution Prevention Association Spokesperson, (801) 535-6540

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – ATK, La-Z-Boy and Utah Transit Authority are among the six entities that will be honored for outstanding efforts to reduce the amount of waste or pollution at the Utah Pollution Prevention Association’s annual awards presented Thursday at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), 168 North 1960 West.

The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 101. Rick Sprott, executive director of DEQ, will provide opening remarks and the award recipients will each give a brief presentation about their pollution prevention efforts.

This year’s Outstanding Achievement Award will be presented to **Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Company** for four pollution prevention projects that substantially reduced the amount of pollution to the air, land and water.

Other recipients of the Achievement Awards are:

Utah Transit Authority for reducing the idling of diesel trucks that eliminates thousands of smog forming chemicals each year;
ATK Aerospace Structure Division for recycling 31,000 pounds of material and reducing 95,000 pounds of non-hazardous waste and 9,000 pounds of hazardous waste;
La-Z-Boy, last year’s Outstanding Achievement Award recipient, for continuing to implement changes that resulted in a reduction of 53 tons of pollution in the landfill and cutting energy use by another 4.7 percent;

Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste Management Facility for converting the methane gas it collects into electricity that provides power for over 2,000 homes in Murray; and

Great Salt Lakekeeper will receive the Community Achievement Award for its 2006 Jordan River Parkway Cleanup Campaign. Between June and October, 498 volunteers collected 40,000 pounds of garbage and debris from a 23-mile stretch of the river, including 2,850 aluminum beverage cans.

Western Climate Initiative Members Set Regional Target to Reduce Greenhouse Gas

Emissions Eight States, Provinces Agree to Reduce Emissions by 15 Percent Below 2005 Levels by 2020

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

The eight members of the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) today announced the establishment of a regional goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the West to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

In February of this year the governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington created the WCI with a long-term commitment to significantly reduce regional GHG emissions thus lowering the risk of dangerous threats to the climate. Science suggests that this will require worldwide reductions between 50 and 85 percent in carbon dioxide emissions from current levels by 2050.

As part of this commitment, members of the WCI agreed to establish a Western regional GHG reduction goal by the end of August 2007 and design a multi-sector market-based mechanism, such as a load-based cap-and-trade program, by the end of August 2008 to help reach the goal. Each member will also participate in a multi-state GHG emissions registry.

Since February the state of Utah and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba also have joined the WCI. All eight states and provinces jointly agreed to the economy-wide regional goal announced today.

The regional goal reflects the combined impact of the individual GHG emissions goals that each WCI member has already set for itself and does not replace the members' individual goals. WCI members will use the regional goal in the design of the multi-sector market-based mechanism. Other U.S. states, tribes, Canadian provinces and Mexican states seeking to join the WCI must have an economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction goal that is consistent with the regional goal, in addition to other factors.

Presently, four other U.S. states (Colorado, Kansas, Nevada and Wyoming), three other Canadian provinces (Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan) and one Mexican state (Sonora) are participating as observers to the WCI's deliberations. Some of these entities, as well as others, may seek to join the WCI as full members.

WCI members have also begun work on meeting the August 2008 deadline for designing the multi-sector market-based mechanism. All eight WCI members joined The Climate Registry, a GHG emissions registry consisting of more than forty U.S. states, tribes, Canadian provinces and Mexican states.

More information about the WCI, including the regional goal and how it was calculated, is available on the WCI's Web site at www.westernclimateinitiative.org.
Attached are statements from WCI members and a copy of the WCI goal statement.

Utah Students Invited to Enter National Radon Poster Contest

Students, Parents, and Teachers Can Win Washington, D.C. Trip

September 28, 2007

Contacts:

Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 5364484
Public Information Officer, DEQ
David Neville, (801) 5360091
Radon Information Specialist

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Utah students have an opportunity to be creative when it comes to spotlighting the dangers of indoor radon, an invisible and odorless radioactive gas, by entering a poster in a national contest that could win them a trip to Washington, D.C.

Last year, Rachel Pinnock, a seventh grade student from Olympus Junior High School, won third place in the nation for her poster depicting a houseful of ghosts. She, along with her mother and teacher, received an all expenses paid trip to the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The National Safety Council, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is once again sponsoring a Radon Poster Contest for children ages 9-14 enrolled in a public, private, territorial, tribal, Department of Defense or home school. Members of a sponsoring club, such as a scouting organization, 4H, or art, computer, and science club are eligible. There is no entry fee, and only one entry per student is allowed. The entry deadline is **October 15, 2007.**

Poster topics must include one of the following themes:

What is radon?
Where does radon come from?
How does radon get inside our homes?
Radon can cause lung cancer!
Test your home for radon!

Statewide winners and runners up in each category will be entered in the national contest. The winning posters will be unveiled at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. during National Radon Awareness Month, January 2008, and will be reproduced and distributed nationally.

The national winner, a parent and a teacher or sponsoring organization's representative, will receive a free trip to D.C. to participate in the ceremony.

"Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, second only to smoking," said John Hultquist, radon program manager with the Division of Radiation Control. "Testing for radon in homes and schools is the only way to find out if a radon problem exists."

To find out how to enter, visit, www.nsc.org/issues/radon. For more information about radon, see www.radon.utah.gov or www.epa.gov/radon.

Fish Advisory Issued for Channel Catfish, Expanded for Carp in Utah Lake

October 2, 2007

Contacts:

Christina McNaughton, UDOH
(801) 538-6191
John Whitehead, DEQ
(801) 538-6053
Reed Harris, DNR
(801) 538-7420

Salt Lake City, Utah – After finding high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Utah Lake, state officials have issued a fish consumption advisory for channel catfish, and a previous advisory issued in May 2006 for carp has been revised based on new information. The PCBs were found in samples taken from the lake as part of an effort by the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Department of Health, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

PCBs are mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds. PCBs are oil liquids or solids consisting of man-made chemicals that are not naturally found in the environment.

Fish consumption advisory signs will be posted at access points to Utah Lake stating:

> The Utah Department of Health recommends consumption of carp fillets from Utah Lake be limited to one 4-ounce meal per month for adults. Children, pregnant women and women that can become pregnant should not consume any carp fillets from Utah Lake.
> Utah Department of Health recommends consumption of channel catfish fillets from Utah Lake be limited to one 4-ounce meal per month for adults. Children, pregnant women and women that can become pregnant should not consume any channel catfish fillets from Utah Lake.
> The offal (all tissue except the fillet) of any fish species tested from Utah Lake in this study (i.e. black bullhead, channel catfish, common carp, walleye, and white bass) should not be consumed due to high levels of PCBs.

Eating more than these amounts over a long period of time could result in an intake of PCBs that exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health recommendations. Any health risks associated with eating carp and channel catfish from Utah Lake are based on long-term consumption and are not tied to eating fish occasionally. There are no health risks associated with PCBs for other uses of the lake, such as swimming, boating and water skiing.

Black bullhead, white bass and walleye fillets were also tested and found to be safe for human consumption. The fish were collected as a follow up to the PCB advisory that was issued for carp in 2006. Because different standards are used for animal feed, all of the fish species tested are still considered safe for use as animal feed.

PCBs can be attached to sediments, with no effect to water quality. Because PCBs accumulate in fat, removing the skin and fat from fish fillets can significantly reduce exposure to PCBs from fish. Information about how to prepare fish is available at http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/30cwafish.pdf.

Information about the advisory and the health effects of PCBs is available at http://www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

Because elevated levels of PCBs were found in carp, other fish species were collected and analyzed this summer. An environmental investigation will be initiated as an effort to identify and clean up the source of PCBs, if possible.

“Red Light Green Light” Program Already in Action

October 29, 2007

Contact:

Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 5364484
Public Information Officer

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – With Jack Frost whispering in your ear to fire up the wood burning stoves and fireplaces, state air quality officials are cautioning people to spare the air. The Division of Air Quality’s (DAQ) “Red Light Green Light” Choose Clean Air’s winter program is already in action – a few days earlier than past years. The program, which usually kicks off Nov. 1, is aimed at curtailing air pollution caused primarily by vehicle emissions, wood burning stoves and fireplaces. Inversion days, which occur when cold air traps the pollution beneath a layer of warm air, have already arrived.

The program, now in its 15th season, keeps residents along the Wasatch Front apprised of poor air quality conditions that require everyone to limit their driving and wood burning. Today, Salt Lake and Davis county residents are asked to voluntarily limit their driving and not to burn. “This program has been absolutely crucial for Utah to meet air quality standards in the winter,” said Cheryl Heying, director of the Division of Air Quality. “It’s even more crucial with the tougher federal requirements that cut in half the allowable daily average of fine particulate pollution caused by combustion.”

DAQ monitors air pollution daily and provides a three day forecast on its Web site: http://www.airquality.utah.gov/.

“Green” means pollution is low and wood burning is allowed. When pollution builds, “yellow” signals for voluntary no wood burning and efforts to limit driving. When pollution levels approach the standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter of air a “red” mandatory no burning is issued. Fines can be imposed on offenders.

“If everyone does their part to heed the wood burning warnings and use mass transit whenever possible, it will make a significant difference in our air quality,” added Bob Dalley, manager of the Air Monitoring Center.

Kids Choice Awards: State Radon Poster Contest

November 15, 2007

Contact:

David Neville, (801) 5360091
Radon Information Specialist

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – In October, Utah students were challenged to create posters about radon. Last year the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received eight entries from three schools. This year, Utah students rose to the challenge creating 60 posters from eight schools depicting the dangers of radon, where it comes from, how it gets into our homes, and how residents can test their ho me for this invisible, radioactive gas.

Now it's time to vote for your favorite poster.

Log on to **www.radon.utah.gov** and vote for your favorite radon poster by the December 12 deadline**.** Winners will be for the following categories:

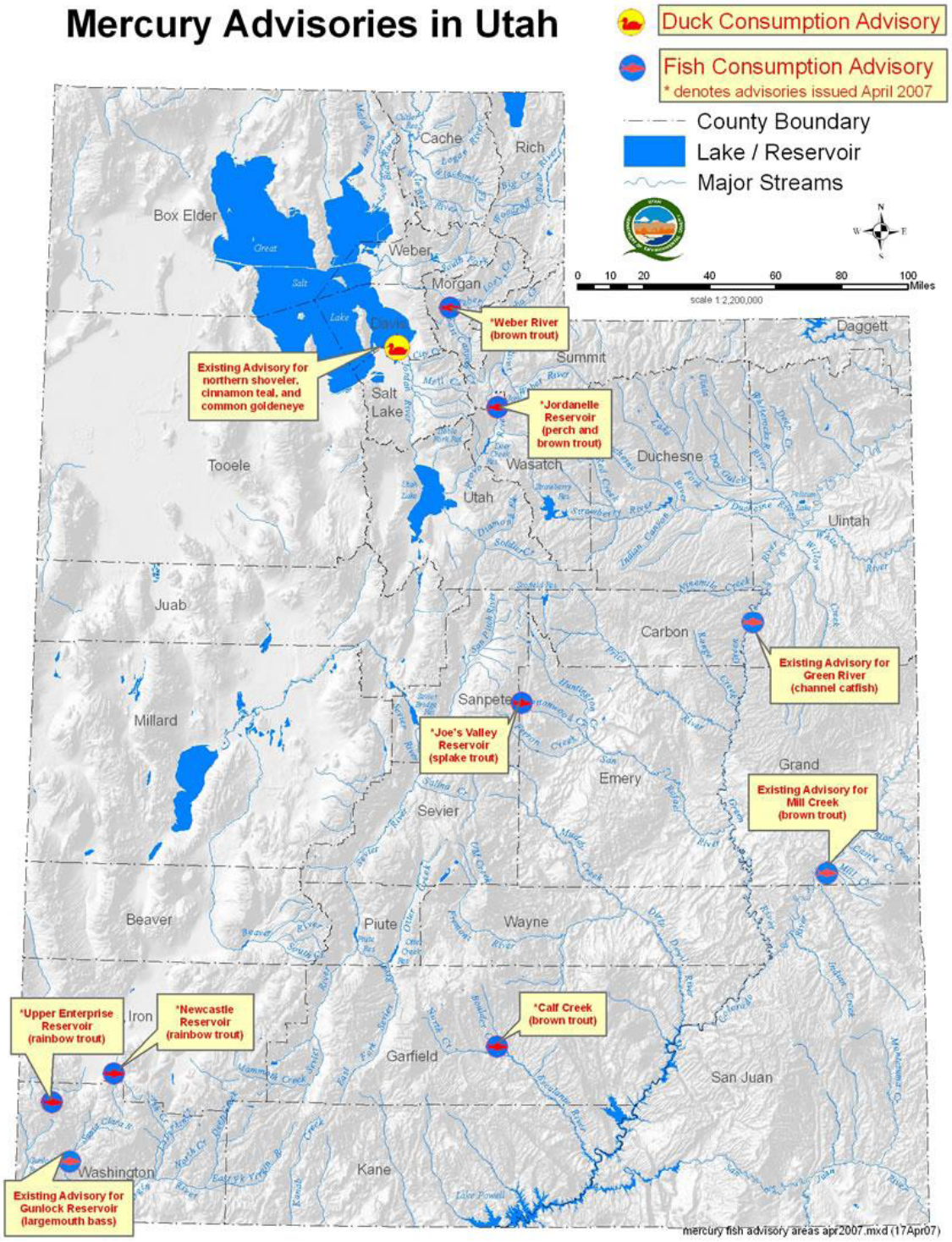
1. Best Hand Drawn Radon Poster
2. Best Computer Aided Radon Poster
3. Best Overall Radon Poster

Last year, Sara Jane Egan and Rachel Pinnock, both from Olympus Junior High School, won statewide. Pinnock went on to win for her poster in the National contest. The 2007 state winners will receive awards from DEQ and have their posters reproduced and framed.

"The poster contest is a great way to educate people about the dangers of radon, the leading cause of nonsmoking lung cancer," said John Hultquist, radon program manager with the Division of Radiation Control. "Testing for radon in homes and schools is the only way to find out if a radon problem exists."

Utah's Radon Program is also working with select intermediate schools to increase radon testing throughout Utah communities in preparation for January's National Radon Action Month.

For more information, visit www.radon.utah.gov.


Mercury Advisories in Utah
Duck Consumption Advisory
Fish Consumption Advisory
* denotes advisories issued April 2007
County Boundary
Lake / Reservoir
Major Streams
0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles
scale 1:2,200,000
Cache
Rich
Box Elder
Weber
Morgan
Davis
Salt Lake
Summit
Daggett
Tooele
Wasatch
Duchesne
Utah
Uintah
Juab
Carbon
Millard
Sanpete
Emery
Grand
Sevier
Beaver
Piute
Wayne
Iron
Garfield
San Juan
Washington
Kane
*Weber River (brown trout)
Existing Advisory for northern shoveler, cinnamon teal, and common goldeneye
*Jordanelle Reservoir (perch and brown trout)
Existing Advisory for Green River (channel catfish)
*Joe's Valley Reservoir (splake trout)
Existing Advisory for Mill Creek (brown trout)
*Upper Enterprise Reservoir (rainbow trout)
*Newcastle Reservoir (rainbow trout)
*Calf Creek (brown trout)
Existing Advisory for Gunlock Reservoir (largemouth bass)
mercury fish advisory areas apr2007.mxd (17Apr07)

Events in January to Recognize National Radon Action Month

December 31, 2007

Contact:

David Neville, (801) 5360091
Radon Information Specialist

(Salt Lake City Utah) – In recognition of January as National Radon Action Month, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is encouraging homeowners to test for radon gas, which can pose a serious health risk.

"Exposure to indoor radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for nonsmokers," noted DEQ Section Manager John Hultquist. "Since elevated levels of radon gas can occur in three out of every ten homes in Utah, I encourage all Utah residents to test for radon to protect them from this dangerous gas."

Radon, a natural decay product of uranium, is a radioactive gas released from rock, soil, and water. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Radon is classified by EPA as a carcinogen, causing about 21,000 deaths from radon induced lung cancer in the U.S. annually. EPA designates January as National Radon Action Month to raise awareness about radon and send the message that all homeowners and all homebuyers should test for radon.

"Winter is the perfect time to test for radon in homes," said Hultquist. "Radon tests are inexpensive and readily available. I urge all residents to test for radon, not only in the air but in their water if they have drilled wells, and take appropriate steps to reduce harmful levels."

If elevated levels are detected, there are various methods for reducing radon concentrations to acceptable levels. The costs of mitigating radon vary but it’s worth the investment when considering lung cancer has only a 15 percent survival rate five years after diagnosis.

For more information on the health risk posed by radon and how to test it, contact David Neville, DEQ Indoor Radon Coordinator, at (801) 5360091 or toll free at 18004580145 or visit www.radon.utah.gov.

NRAM

National Radon Action Month
Activities

2008

Date	Time	Event	Address	City
Wednesday, January 03	8:45 AM	Kid's Choice Radon Awards	5205 South Holladay Boulevard	Holladay
Wednesday, January 03	7:45 AM	Kid's Choice Radon Awards	2217 East 4800 South	Holladay
Thursday, January 04	3:30 PM	Radon Poster Contest Ceremony	168 North 1950 West	Salt Lake City
Monday, January 08	9AM - 11 AM	*CES Century21 McAffee Realtors	1385 East Fort Union Boulevard	Salt Lake City
Tuesday, January 09	6PM - 7PM	Radon - Public Information Session	550 North University Avenue	Provo
Wednesday, January 10	8:00 PM	Public Information Session on RADON	210 East 400 South	Downtown SLC
Monday, January 15	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	RADON Public Information Session	725 South Main Street	Bountiful
Tuesday, January 16	10:00 AM- 12:00 PM	*CES for Coldwell Bankers Residential	9071 South 1300 West #200	West Jordan
Tuesday, January 16	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	*CES for Keller Williams Realtors	6965 Union Park Center STE 160	Salt Lake City
Monday, January 22	6:00 PM	UCAN Radon Presentation	288 North 1460 West	Salt Lake City
Wednesday, January 31	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	*CES for Park City Board of Realtors	1889 Prospector Avenue	Park City
Tuesday, January 22	7:30 PM	Public Information Session on Radon	2880 West 3650 South	West Valley
Wednesday, January 23	7:30 PM	Public Information Session on Radon	2150 East Murray-Holladay Rd (4730 South)	Holladay
Thursday, January 24	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	*CES for Prudential Utah Real Estate	315 S. 500 E Ste. 202	American Fork
Thursday, January 24	7:30 PM	Public Information Session on Radon	10673 South Redwood Road	South Jordan
Wednesday, January 31	10 AM - 12 PM	*CES Park City Board of Realtors	1889 Prospector Avenue	Park City

*CES is a seminar providing two continuing education credit hours for Realtors

More events to come…

Governor To Hold Public Hearings on Divine Strake

January 8, 2007

Contacts:

Dianne Nielson, (801) 536-4402
Executive Director, DEQ
Donna Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Public Information Officer, DEQ

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – In response to overwhelming requests to allow the public's voice to be heard on the Divine Strake proposal, Governor Huntsman has requested the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to host two public hearings as follows:

St. George
Thursday, January 18, 2007
Dixie State College
Dunford Auditorium, Browning Building
225 South 700 East
5:00 – 8:00 PM

Salt Lake City
Wednesday, January 24, 2007
Utah State Capitol, West Building, Room 135 (Main Floor, NW)
450 N. State Street
5:30 – 8:30 PM

The Divine Strake experiment is proposed by the National Nuclear Security Administration's Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) and outlined in their "Draft December 2006 Revised Environmental Assessment, for the Large-Scale, Open-Air Explosive Detonation Divine Strake at the Nevada Test Site."

Governor Huntsman will make introductory remarks at the Salt Lake City hearing and a court reporter will record all public comments at both meetings. The Governor will include a transcript of the hearings in his comment letter to the NNSA/NSO opposing the Divine Strake experiment.

Bousfield Named Drinking Water Director

February 12, 2007

Contacts:

Ken Bousfield, (801) 536-4207
Director of Division of Drinking Water,
Dianne Nielson, (801) 536-4404
Executive Director of DEQ

(Salt Lake City, Utah) - Ken Bousfield has been appointed director of the Division of Drinking Water to oversee the 938 public water supply systems in the state.

Bousfield, a 31-year veteran of the Division of Drinking Water, has been serving as the interim director since former director Kevin Brown left his post on Dec. 1 to work in the private sector.

Dianne Nielson, executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality, made the announcement late last week.

"Ken will make an outstanding director," Nielson said. "His extensive experience as a manager for the Division's Compliance Section and his work with water systems stakeholders will enable the Division to continue its success in assuring quality drinking water for Utahns."

Bousfield was selected after an interviewing process that included participation from members of the Utah Drinking Water Board.

“Board members were delighted to participate with Dr. Nielson in the interviews of several well-qualified candidates for the position of director of the Division of Drinking Water and enthusiastically support Dianne’s appointment of Ken Bousfield to fill the position,” said Anne Erickson, chairwoman of the Drinking Water Board. “We have worked well with him in the past and look forward to working with him in this new position.”

Bousfield is a licensed professional engineer who began his career at DEQ in 1976. Nine years later, he became the manager for the Division’s Compliance Section, overseeing the implementation of 15 federally mandated new rules. Bousfield also has worked in the Engineering Section of the Division where he was involved in plan review, field inspections and oversight of financial assistance to water utilities.

Prior to his employment with DEQ, Bousfield worked for an engineering consulting firm in the Salt Lake area for over three years, assisting with the designs of water treatment and distribution systems as well as wastewater collection and treatment systems.

“I’m looking forward to strengthening our partnerships with the water industry and local water systems to ensure residents of Utah receive a safe and reliable supply of drinking water,” Bousfield said.

New Air Quality Forecasts Go Live

February 13, 2007

Contacts:

Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Public Information Officer

WHO: Rick Sprott, director of the Division of Air Quality
WHAT: Unveiling of a new Web page that forecasts air quality conditions
WHERE: Air monitor station at Hawthorne Elementary School, 1675 South 600 East
WHEN: 11 a.m. Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Choosing Clean Air is now just a click away. Starting today, the Utah Division of Air Quality’s Web page will begin forecasting air quality conditions intended to help the public decide when it is healthier to stay indoors and ride mass transit. The change responds to tougher air quality standards and the recent high pollution episodes in Utah.

On Dec. 18, 2006, the daily average standard for small particulate pollutant known as PM2.5 was nearly cut in half from 65 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) to 35 ug/m3.

“Since research has shown there is a significant health impact with this pollutant there is a greater need to advise the public more quickly and simply. We also want to provide forecasts that enable people to plan ahead and make better choices for pollution prevention and self protection,” said Rick Sprott, director of the Division of Air Quality.

Sprott will unveil the new Web page at a press conference held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the air monitor station located on the north end of Hawthorne Elementary School, 1675 South 600 East.

The Web site http://www.airquality.utah.gov/ has been reformatted to show the air quality conditions, using the same “red, yellow and green” color-coded information that emphasizes the air pollution warnings. A yellow means it is an “ACTION” air quality day, asking people to reduce pollution by minimizing driving. A red “ALERT” notifies the public on days when pollution is high and especially harmful for sensitive people. The new system will be used year round and emphasizes vehicle pollution over wood smoke since over half of the emissions are from cars and trucks.

Winter Air Program Ends with Record Reds

March 1, 2006

Contact:

Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4480
Public Information Officer

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The 2006-07 Winter Air Quality Alert program drew to an end today with a record-breaking 28 “red” days where the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) asked Salt Lake and Davis county residents to limit their driving and not use wood-burning stoves or fireplaces.

Utah and Weber counties also experienced a record number of “red” air quality days.

Tougher new federal air pollution health standards for microscopic particles prompted more “red” days this winter than in years past. (See accompanying chart). On Dec. 18, 2006, the daily average standard for small particulate pollutant known as PM 2.5 was nearly cut in half from 65 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) to 35 ug/m3. This new standards means people were alerted to the unhealthy air much sooner and helped people avoid it.

Beginning Nov. 1, 2006, DAQ called nine “yellow” days in Salt Lake and Davis Counties; 25 “red” days and 12 “yellow” days in Utah County; 17 “red” days and 17 “yellow” days in Weber County; and 10 “red” days and 13 “yellow” days in Cache County.

“The Choose Clean Air program has a high success rate where people pay attention to the alerts,” said Rick Sprott, director of DAQ. “This year we reformatted our Web page to forecast air quality conditions for three days to help the public make better decisions on days when they should limit their driving or stay indoors.” The Choose Clean Air Program lists many options for reducing vehicle pollution at www.cleanair.utah.gov.

The Web site www.airquality.utah.gov uses the same “red, yellow and green” color-coded information that emphasizes air pollution warnings. Instead of focusing on wood-burning, a yellow means it is an air “ACTION” day, asking people to reduce pollution by minimizing driving. A red “ALERT” notifies the public on days when pollution is high and especially harmful for sensitive people.

“The new system will be used year round to emphasize vehicle pollution,” Sprott said.

See Also: Winter Air Alert Program Summary

Foam in Green River Could be Naturally Caused

March 23, 200

Contacts:

Walt Baker, (801) 538-6081
Director, Division of Water Quality
Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Public Information Officer, DEQ

A foamy substance discovered floating in the Sand Wash area of the Green River early last week contains no harmful chemicals, according to preliminary test results conducted by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ).

Walt Baker, director of DWQ, said the sample from the foamy discharge was tested at the Utah Division of Laboratory Services (State Lab) and showed no elevated concentrations of substances or chemicals that would be harmful to the ecosystem or the public. But DWQ will continue to monitor the river through the end of the week to validate the initial lab result.

“It still remains unclear if the foaming was the result of an illegal discharge of a substance to the river or simply a natural phenomenon that typically occurs in the spring when increased runoff transports decomposing plants, leaves and algae, and the fatty acids they contain to streams and rivers,” Baker said. “In water the fatty acids act similar to bubble bath in a bath tub – when disturbed by wind, waves or currents, bubbles are formed.”

On March 12, an individual visiting the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in the Uintah Basin reported to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of seeing thick masses of foam on the Green River. On Monday, the BLM notified DWQ, which dispatched an environmental scientist to the area to collect water samples for analysis.

A sample collected by a BLM employee was tested at the State Lab. Although there was insufficient quantity of the sample to do a whole suite of tests that normally would be performed, the sample was sufficient enough to determine if it contained substances normally found in drilling fluids used in oil and gas recovery.

Celebrate Earth Day: Get the Mercury Out

April 2, 2007

Contacts:

Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Public Information Officer, DEQ
Sonja Wallace, (801) 536-4477
Pollution Prevention Coordinator, DEQ

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – In recognition of Earth Day, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) encourages residents to take advantage of free disposal of mercury products such as old thermometers, old chemistry sets and thermostats, at local Health Departments statewide.

Last year, DEQ teamed up with local Health Departments to offer mercury disposal at selected locations where white plastic 5-gallon buckets marked for hazardous waste disposal are situated. This year, the buckets have been provided courtesy of Veolia Environmental.

“A total of 375 pounds of mercury was collected between April and October last year. The tremendous success has prompted many local Health Departments to offer this service year round,” said Sonja Wallace, pollution coordinator for DEQ. “Since Earth

Day is celebrated in April, it is a reminder to get rid of mercury responsibly by keeping it out of the landfills."

In addition to mercury disposal, many local Health Departments are offering residents a chance to exchange their old mercury thermometers for digital ones.

Mercury is a neurotoxin and, when released to the environment, can present health risks, including learning disabilities and mental problems. Children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to mercury exposure. Never deliberately break or remove the mercury from the products but in cases of mercury spills the mercury should be carefully gathered into a double plastic bag or inside a sealed container. Never use a vacuum cleaner or broom to clean up mercury. Visit www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/spills.htm for more information on proper clean up.

This collection service is for Utah residents only. Salt Lake Valley Health Department is holding community collection events April through September. Visit one of the following locations for dates and times to turn in your mercury-bearing products:

Wasatch Front

Salt Lake City: Jordan Park, 1100 South 900 West (enter off of Fremont Avenue). Fourth Thursday of each month April – September 2007, 7-10 a.m.

Holladay City: Holladay City, 4626 South 2300 East. Third Thursday of each month, April – September 2007, 7-10 a.m.

Sandy: Sandy Public Works, 8775 South 700 West. Second Thursday of each month, April – September 2007, 7-10 a.m.

Farmington: Davis County Health Department Environmental Health Services Division, 99 S. Main St., Farmington, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 801-451-3296 for more information.

Layton: Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District, 650 E. Highway 193, Layton, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Call 801-614-5600 for more information.

Provo: Utah County Health Department, 151 S. University Ave. Suite 2600, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Ogden: Weber-Morgan Health Department, 477 23rd St., Ogden, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Tooele County

Tooele: Tooele County Health Department, 151 N. Mail St., Tooele, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Cache County

Logan: Bear River Health Department Environmental Services Building, 85 E. 1800 North, Logan, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Brigham City: Bear River Health Department, 817 W. 950 South, Brigham City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Summit/Wasatch Counties

Park City: Summit County Public Health Department, 6505 N. Landmark Drive, Park City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Kamas: Summit County Public Health Department, 110 N. Main St., Kamas, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Coalville: Summit County Public Health Department, 85 N. 50 East, Coalville, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Heber: Wasatch County Health Department, 55 S. 500 East, Heber City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Northeast Uinta Basin

Vernal: TriCounty Health Department, 147 East Main St., Vernal, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Roosevelt: TriCounty Health Department, 281 East 200 North, Roosevelt, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Central Utah

Richfield: Central Utah Public Health Department, 70 Westview Drive, Richfield, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday during April 2007.

Southwest Utah

Cedar City: Southwest Utah District Health Department, 260 East DL Sargent Drive, Cedar City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

St. George: Southwest Utah District Health Department, 168 North 100 East, St. George, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Southeast Utah

Price: 28 S. 100 East, Price, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

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New District Engineer for Cedar City Area

April 10, 2007

Contacts:

John Chartier, (435) 865-5152
District Engineer
Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Public Information Officer

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is pleased to announce that John Chartier will be the new District Engineer for parts of southern Utah. He replaces District Engineer Scott Hacking who has transferred to the Vernal area.

Chartier is a 1995 graduate of Utah State University in civil and environmental engineering. He has worked as a consultant for 11 years in the Fillmore office of Sunrise Engineering. He will join District Engineer Randy Taylor in serving the communities of southern Utah, representing DEQ in helping Iron, Garfield and Beaver counties with environmental issues.

“I really enjoy working with the communities to help them with their water and wastewater systems,” Chartier said.

Bill Sinclair, deputy director of DEQ, is pleased Chartier has joined DEQ to serve a much-needed region. “Chartier has the skills to help communities with environmental improvements,” he said. “We are happy he will be working as the District Engineer for the southern region that includes Cedar, Panguitch, Escalante and Beaver city areas.”

Chartier will move to the Cedar City area, along with his wife, Angela, and their three children.

UDAF's Hopkin Receives Water Quality Award

April 19, 2007

Contacts:

George Hopkin, (801) 538-7177
Utah Department of Agriculture & Food
Walt Baker, (801) 538-6081
Water Quality Director

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – George Hopkin, director of resource conservation for the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), is the recipient of the prestigious 2007 Calvin K. Sudweeks Water Quality Award for his work in helping reduce agriculture runoff in Utah.

"During the past 15 years, Hopkin has provided the leadership to maintain the excellent collaborative working relationships between the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food," said Walt Baker, director of DWQ. "George and his staff have managed the day-to-day operation of the Agriculture component of the state's Non-point Management Program that has led to improved water quality."

Every year the Utah Water Quality Board recognizes an individual who has shown outstanding leadership in the water quality field. The award is named for a former state water quality director who was instrumental in leading Utah through dramatic changes in water quality, including the move to treat wastewater.

Under Hopkin's leadership he has administered and managed nearly $16 million Clean Water Act grants, with a majority of the money supporting projects to address non-point source pollution. He also administers a state loan program that improves agriculture production and water quality, and provides support to the local Soil Conservation Districts in conducting and sponsoring 319 watershed and demonstration projects to address pollution from agriculture.

"I am honored to be recognized for this achievement," Hopkin said. "Our partnership with Water Quality is essential to helping support agriculture activities while reducing the amount of pollution in watersheds."

The award was presented at the Water Environment Association of Utah's annual meeting in St. George on April 18.

Fish Advisories issued for Six Waterways across the State

April 23, 2007

Contacts:

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Utah Department of Environmental Quality
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Utah Department of Health
Walt Donaldson, (801) 538-4760
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Fish consumption advisories have been issued for certain species of trout in six popular fishing areas, including two in northern Utah and four in southern Utah after state officials found elevated levels of mercury in fish.

The advisories are in effect for brown trout from the Weber River near Morgan, Utah and Jordanelle Reservoir in Wasatch County; rainbow trout from the Upper Enterprise Reservoir in Washington County and Newcastle Reservoir in Iron County; brown trout from Calf Creek in Garfield County and splake trout from Joe's Valley Reservoir in Emery County.

Fish consumption advisory signs will be posted at access points to Joe's Valley and Upper Enterprise reservoirs stating that:

Adults should limit their consumption of splake Trout taken from Joe's Valley Reservoir and rainbow trout from Upper Enterprise Reservoir to no more than one 8-ounce serving per month; and

Women who may become pregnant, pregnant woman, nursing mothers, and young children should not eat more than one 2-ounce serving per month from either location.

Fish consumption advisory signs will be posted at access points to Jordanelle and Newcastle reservoirs, Weber River and Calf Creek stating that:

Adults should limit their consumption of brown trout from Jordanelle and rainbow trout from Newcastle reservoirs and brown trout from Weber River and Calf Creek 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 any of the locations.

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 affected areas are based on long-term consumption and are not tied to eating fish occasionally. There is no health risk associated with mercury for other uses of the reservoirs, river or creek, such as swimming, boating and waterskiing.

Fish were collected from the waterbodies as part of an ongoing water quality investigation. Officials from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Department of Health, Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the local Health Departments worked in partnership to issue this advisory.

Information about the advisory and the health effects of mercury is available at http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/fish_advisories.htm and each of the agencies' Internet sites. The final report on the evaluation of mercury concentrations in fish sampled from streams, lakes and reservoirs in Utah can be found at http://health.utah.gov/epi/enviroepi/FishHgStatewide2007Final.pdf .

Mercury Fish Advisory Map:

Map of Mercury Advisories in Utah (.jpg image, 276 kb)

Map of Mercury Advisories in Utah (PDF file, 199 kb)

First Water Week Draws Flood of Events

May 3, 2007

Contacts:

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Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Alane Boyd, (801) 712-1619
Intermountain Section AWWA
Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Department of Environmental Quality

Water is the theme throughout the week of May 6-12 as various organizations, schools and libraries host activities to celebrate the first annual state-designated Water Week.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) joins numerous organizations throughout the state to partner with the Intermountain Section of the American Water

Works Association (AWWA) to promote a week-long series of activities around the state that celebrate the wonder of water.

“I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to recognize the importance of water and the need for conservation,” said Dianne Nielson, executive director of DEQ.

Gov. Jon Huntsman signed HB 20 into law during the 2007 legislative session that commemorates the first full week of May each year as State Water Week. The bill, sponsored by House Minority Leader Ralph Becker (D-Salt Lake), is intended to raise awareness of the importance of water conservation, quality and supply in the state.

“Water is a basic and essential need of every living thing and is a finite natural resource of great value and importance to everyone in Utah,” said Stephanie Duer, water conservation coordinator for the Salt Lake City Department of Public Works and chairwoman of the Intermountain Section’s Youth and Consumer Education Committee. “We want to celebrate the essence of water and what it means to all of us.”

A poetry contest sponsored by Barnes & Noble will kick off the events that also include a golf tournament, water quality symposium, library exhibits and elementary school classroom lessons.

The activities include:

> Poetry Slam: 8 p.m. Friday, May 4, Sugarhouse Barnes & Noble McIntyre Center, 1104 E. 2100 South. The poetry will highlight water and all of its benefits. Prizes will be given and the winners will have the opportunity to read their poems on KRCL as part of Water Week.
>
> Official Kick-off: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, Living Planet Auditorium, 725 E. 10600 South, Sandy. Rep. Ralph Becker will join Mike Styler, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources and Scott Paxman, assistant general manager for Weber Water Conservancy District in making presentations. The event will be followed up at 6 p.m. with a banquet.
>
> Summit Academy: 1-3 p.m. Monday, May 7, about 76 first graders will participate in a lesson about water. The school is located at 1285 E. 13200 South, Draper.
>
> Channing Hall: 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, May 8, about 75 fourth graders will take part in lessons about water with third grade students hearing lessons between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. that same day. The school is located at 13515 S. 150 East, Draper.
>
> Oak Hollow Elementary: 9-11 a.m., Wednesday, May 9, third graders will learn about water while second graders will learn about water between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The school is located at 884 E. 14400 South. At 1-3 p.m. Thursday, May 10 first graders at the elementary will participate in water discussions.

Spring Water Quality Symposium: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, May 10 at the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy. College students from Utah and Idaho will join with the water industry professionals to share ideas and talk about their current projects. Two $500 scholarships will be awarded to students for the top research projects.

Water for People Golf Tournament: 8 a.m. Friday, May 11 at Talons Cove Golf Course, 2220 S. Talons Cove Drive in Saratoga Springs. Proceeds from the Golf Tournament will go to support Water for People and their Kuntaja Water Project in the Rualblantyre District of Malai. Last year the Intermountain Section of AWWA raised more than $6,000 to help this country improve its quality of life by supporting sustainable drinking water resources.

For more information on events and activities visit www.waterweek.org

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Utah Joins Thirty State Effort to Address Climate Change

May 8, 2007

Contact:

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Governor's Spokesman
Office (801) 538-1924 Cell (801) 541-1981
Donna Spangler
Department of Environmental Quality
Office (801) 536-4484 Cell (801) 554-4944

The Climate Registry to serve as North American platform to track greenhouse gas emissions

Salt Lake City – Governor Jon Huntsman announced today that Utah is joining with thirty states as a charter member of The Climate Registry, marking the largest multi-state effort to address climate change. Dianne Nielsen, executive director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, has been tapped to represent Utah on the Registry.

"Utah is proud to be among the founding members of the Climate Registry. This is a positive step in building collaborative and responsive options for addressing the issue of climate change," Governor Huntsman said. "The Climate Registry is Earth-Friendly and Business-Friendly and shows state leadership to address climate change. Utah is proud to

be a founding member and looks forward to taking actions to protect our children's future."

The list of charter members includes the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and the Campo Kumeyaay Nation. Two Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Manitoba, have also committed to participate.

The newly formed organization will assist in measuring, tracking, and verifying emissions of greenhouse gases, the gases that cause climate change. It will also provide the measurement and reporting infrastructure to support voluntary, mandatory, market-based and emissions reduction programs that are consistent across borders and industry sectors. The Registry will begin to accept reporting data in January 2008.

This is a voluntary program for Utah and provides Utah businesses with the opportunity to get credit for early reductions of greenhouse gases. The Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change, organized in 2006, is working to provide policy recommendations for review and consideration.

By working together, Registry members are laying the foundation for climate actions that will benefit generations to come.

Governor Appoints New Energy Advisor, DEQ Director

May 17, 2007

Contact:

Mike Mower
Governor's Spokesman
Office (801) 538-1924 Cell (801) 541-1981

Salt Lake City – Governor Jon Huntsman announced today the appointment of Dr. Dianne R. Nielson as his energy advisor, replacing Dr. Laura Nelson.

Dr. Nielson is currently part of Governor Huntsman's cabinet as executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality. She will be replaced by Rick Sprott, director of the Division of Air Quality at DEQ.

“Laura’s tenacity and brilliance have driven Utah’s energy policy and programs in progressive and innovative ways. I appreciate all she has done and wish her the very best,” Governor Huntsman said. “Dianne will be a great asset in this position, just as her expertise and perspective have proven so valuable at DEQ. Rick is a great addition to the cabinet and I look forward to our continued work. I’m grateful for both Dianne’s and Rick’s willingness to serve Utahns in this important area of public policy.”

The transition will happen over the next several weeks.

“Governor Huntsman’s leadership in energy efficiency and energy policy is making a difference in Utah and the West. There is much work to be done,” Dr. Nielson said. “Energy efficiency is essential now. At the same time, Utah is working to meet its future energy needs while sustaining our environment, economic development and quality of life. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges of accomplishing these goals, and I appreciate Laura Nelson’s significant work on Utah’s energy initiatives.”

Dr. Nelson is leaving for personal reasons and plans to continue to consult with Governor Huntsman on energy-related issues.

“It has been an absolute honor to work with Governor Huntsman. He is a tremendous visionary and Dianne will bring those visions to light,” Dr. Nelson said. “This is a very difficult decision, but it is important for me and my family to make this transition at this time.”

Ozone Season Begins Early with Call for Action

May 17, 2007

Contacts:

Bryce Bird, (801) 536-4064
Manager, Division of Air Quality
Cheryl Heying, (801) 536-4015
Manager, Division of Air Quality

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Unseasonably warm temperatures have prompted the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) to jump start its ozone alert program by calling a “yellow” action day today, Friday and Saturday in Salt Lake, Davis, Weber and Utah counties, asking residents to take voluntary measures to limit their driving.

“We are seeing moderately high pollution levels and need people to limit their driving for the sake of air quality and people who are sensitive to pollution,” said Bryce Bird, manager of DAQ’s air standards branch.

Typically, the summer ozone alert program begins in June and runs through Sept. 30, signaling days when smog can pose a health risk. During last year's ozone season, 16 no-drive days were called – four more than in 2005 – all in the month of July. This year, residents will be able to make better choices by clicking on DAQ's Web page www.airquality.utah.gov to find three-day forecasts in Salt Lake, Davis, Cache, Weber and Utah counties. The ozone alerts are part of the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Choose Clean Air campaign, a color-coded system that during the winter alerts people to days when inversions trap fine particulate pollution in the valleys. The problem in the summer is ozone – an invisible gas formed when vehicle emissions combine with heat and sunlight. If the levels are high (0.08 parts per million or 80 parts per billion), officials will issue health warnings and a voluntary no-drive day.

Air Quality conditions are posted daily on the Choose Clean Air Web site: www.cleanair.utah.gov, as well as extended forecasts at www.airquality.utah.gov. "Green" means the air quality conditions are good and residents are encouraged to make clean air choices to help keep air pollution levels low. "Yellow" means the pollution is building and residents are encouraged to take proactive steps by voluntarily carpooling, consolidating vehicle trips, and avoiding fueling the car or mowing the lawn in the middle of the day. A "red" day means pollution levels are critically high, and residents should avoid using gasoline and diesel-powered engines.

PowerForward Kickoff: Utahns Urged to Conserve Energy

June 4, 2007

Contact:

Glade Sowards, (801) 536-4020
Energy Program Coordinator,
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
Public Information Officer

WHO: Gary Herbert, Lieutenant Governor
Rich Walje, President, Rocky Mountain Power
Peter F. McMahon, President, Kennecott Land
Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, Utah Department of Environmental Quality

WHAT: 2007 PowerForward Kickoff event announcing the beginning of the annual summer electricity conservation campaign emphasizing Energy Star® homes and other home energy saving measures.

WHERE: Model Energy Star Home, 10941 So Navarro, South Jordan, Utah

WHEN: 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 5

WHY: Electricity conservation and efficiency measures can save Utahns money on their power bills and are particularly critical during hot summer months when electricity demand peaks and power prices are at their highest.

VISUALS: Energy efficiency features on display in an Energy Star® home, blower door home energy rating test demonstration, and Daybreak community energy announcement.

Heying Appointed Air Quality Director

June 6, 2007

Contacts:

Cheryl Heying, (801) 536-4015
Division of Air Quality
Rick Sprott, (801) 536-4257
Director, Division of Air Quality

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Rick Sprott, the newly appointed executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) today named Cheryl Heying to replace him as the director of the Division of Air Quality. The move is in response to Governor Jon Huntsman's recent appointment of Dianne Nielson as his energy advisor and Sprott as the executive director of DEQ.

"Cheryl is an incredibly strong leader whose expertise in air quality issues is recognized throughout the West," said Sprott. "She is highly regarded by DEQ employees and stakeholders in Utah for her work in addressing such issues as mercury contamination, haze, particulate pollution and ozone. The Division will shine under her leadership."

Heying will move into her new post on June 9. Sprott will serve as acting director of DEQ until Senate confirmation expected on June 20.

Heying began her career at DEQ in 1988 with the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste. She left Utah for Nevada for a few years while her husband completed his medical residency program in Reno. She returned to Utah and for the last six years has been the manager of the Planning Branch for the Division of Air Quality, overseeing the development of plans to comply with federal air quality regulations, including tougher new rules for fine particulate pollution.

Heying has worked as an environmental consultant and an environmental regulator for the state of Nevada. She graduated from Utah State University with a master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She lives in Salt Lake City with her husband, Eric Wood, and daughter Emma.

"The quality of our air impacts everyone. New tougher regulations to improve the air will require a concerted effort on everyone's part. I look forward to the challenge and working in partnerships with stakeholders to develop strategies on accomplishing these goals."

It's Official: Sprott New Director at DEQ

June 20, 2007

Contact:

> Rick Sprott, (801) 536-4404
> Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality
> MEDIA AVAILABILITY
> 10:30-11:30 A.M. Thursday, June 21 at DEQ

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Senate has confirmed Rick Sprott as executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ), third executive director since the agency was created in 1991. Sprott, a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and former director of the Division of Air Quality (DAQ), says he will stay the course charted by his predecessor.

"The outstanding staff at DEQ is a credit to Dianne Nielson's leadership. I expect to continue the path forward that she established by emphasizing leadership through partnerships, strong science and efficient management," Sprott said.

He takes over for Nielson, who served 14 years as DEQ executive director before being tapped by Governor Jon Huntsman to become his energy advisor earlier this spring. Upon his appointment, Sprott appointed Cheryl Heying (pronounced Hine) as his replacement as director of DAQ.

Ernest Wessman, chairman of the Air Quality Board, praised the appointment.

"In my years working with Rick, I've come to appreciate his ability to find solutions by working with the regulated community, as well as other groups, to find ways to improve the air quality in the state of Utah," Wessman said.

A Missouri native, Sprott began his career in Utah as a permit writer for the DAQ in 1994 and quickly rose to manager of the Planning Branch before becoming director in

December 2000. Prior to joining DAQ, he was a career Air Force officer who served in a variety of assignments related to aerospace maintenance and acquisition. He held three command positions.

Sprott received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Grinnell College in 1968 and a master's of environmental management from Duke University in 1994. He is the newly elected president of the Air and Waste Management Association for 2009, where he has been a member since 1993 and on the Board of Directors since 2003.

Agreement Reached on Kennecott Groundwater Cleanup

July 9, 2007

Contact:

Doug Bacon, (801) 536-4282
Department of Environmental Quality
Paul Murphy, (801) 538-1892
Utah Attorney General's Office

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation will continue to clean up a 20-square-mile section of groundwater under an agreement filed today in Utah District Court by the company, the state of Utah and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Today's agreement formalizes a consent decree between the parties which requires Kennecott to extract groundwater from the core portion of the contaminated area by shrinking its size, preventing contamination from spreading and intercepting and collecting runoff waters.

In a joint announcement, The Utah Attorney General's Office and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) praised the agreement.

"This agreement is the result of a partnership effort that culminates with a consent decree that allows EPA and the DEQ to ensure this remedy is implemented by Kennecott," said DEQ Executive Director Rick Sprott.

"People who live near or around this area deserve to know that everything possible is being done to make sure the water is clean and that the area will not be contaminated. This agreement will help make that possible," said Attorney General Mark Shurtleff.

In 1995, Utah and Kennecott entered into a consent decree to resolve damages to groundwater in the southwest part of the Salt Lake Valley. Kennecott paid damages in the

amount of $9 million in cash for damages and placed a $28 million line of credit into a trust fund to be used for groundwater treatment.

By 2004, the total value of the funds had grown to $62.5 million. The state approved a joint proposal from Kennecott and the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District to use the funds to build two water treatment plants to supply the communities in the affected area with drinking water.

The proposed consent decree will still need to be finalized by state and federal agencies but Kennecott plans to continue the remedy work it has been doing for the past 15 years. Specifically, Kennecott, with primary oversight by the state and review by EPA, will be required to continue implementing the following:

> Operate and maintain source controls to keep further contamination from occurring.
>
> Continue pumping out the groundwater acid plume in the amount of 1200 acre feet per year.
>
> Operate a barrier well system to keep contamination from spreading.
>
> Provide financial assurance in the amount of $15 million to insure continuation of the remedy work.
>
> Pay $5 million as reimbursement of EPA response costs (including reimbursement for State funding paid by EPA).
>
> Pay significant stipulated penalties if Kennecott fails to perform its obligations under the Consent Decree.

The proposed consent decree will be subject to a 30 day public comment period, after which EPA and the state will evaluate the comments and determine whether or not to finalize the decree. A copy of the consent decree, and details and deadlines for comments, are available at http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/nrd/index.htm.

Residents Near Fires Should Limit Outdoor Activity

July 10, 2007

Contact:

> Donna Kemp Spangler, (801) 536-4484
> Public Information Officer, DEQ

Residents living near the fires burning in south-central Utah should limit their outdoor activity as the air is deemed unhealthy.

The Utah Division of Air Quality has issued a health advisory for much of Utah, warning that the smoky air contains high levels of ozone mixed with fine particles that can aggravate the lungs.

“We are experiencing a double-whammy,” said Cheryl Heying, air quality director for the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). “Hot temperatures have contributed to increased ozone and the fires are contributing to the particulate pollution that can irritate the lungs.”

Ozone and particulate pollution is most troublesome for people who have heart and lung disease, people with respiratory problems, children and older adults. Even prolonged exposure to unhealthy air in healthy adults can lead to lung damage.

Air quality officials recommend avoiding long-term exposure outdoors during the heat of the day. For instance, consolidate errands or exercise outside when temperatures are cooler in early morning or late evening. For more information on ways to avoid the pollution and things you can do to help curb the pollution, visit: http://www.cleanair.utah.gov/.

Neighborhood Fireworks Contribute to Poor Air Quality

July 17, 2007

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(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Before you light those sparklers, think about this: fireworks pollute the air.

The Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) supports Governor Jon Huntsman’s ban on personal fireworks this Pioneer Day, not only because of wildland fire dangers but also because fireworks pump fine-particle pollution in the air, prompting an unhealthy spike in air pollution that make it difficult for people to breathe.

“Traditionally, the air monitors record extremely high concentrations of fine particulate pollution associated with fireworks displays after the Fourth of July and Pioneer Day,” said Cheryl Heying, air quality director. “Those most impacted by the unhealthy air

pollution are young children, older adults, pregnant women and people with respiratory problems."

The Governor signed an emergency declaration today, calling on a statewide ban on personal fireworks because of the fire danger in the state. The dry, hot weather also has contributed to unhealthy levels of air pollution caused, in some cases, smoke from fires.

On July 4, many air monitor stations recorded levels that exceeded the federal health standard for fine-particle pollution known as PM 2.5. Most notably, the high levels were recorded in areas surrounding smaller gatherings of neighborhoods or families igniting their own fireworks rather than watching a large professional display.

Short-term exposures to the particle pollution can aggravate asthma attacks and lung disease. In people with heart disease, short-term exposures have been linked to heart attacks and arrhythmias.

For more information, please visit: http://www.airquality.utah.gov/fireworks.htm.

Home is the Best Spot to Watch Key Bank Implode

August 14, 2007

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Salt Lake City – The best seat in the house to watch the demolition of the 20-story Key Bank Tower at 50 South Main Street is the one by the television set.

The Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) strongly encourages people to avoid the downtown area 6:30 Saturday morning when the Key Bank Tower is schedule to implode, shooting a cloud of dust in the sky.

Key Bank, part of the former Crossroads Plaza Building, has been stripped of all hazardous materials prior to the demolition. As part of the demolition approval, the General Contractor, Okland Construction, has agreed to a dust control plan that includes establishing a zone – from North Temple to 200 South, between 200 West and State Street – to protect the surrounding area from dust during the implosion.

Even so, wind could carry the dust beyond the zone.

“Dust can be a serious issue, especially for young children and older adults, making it difficult to breathe and potentially damaging lungs,” said Bryce Bird, manger of the air quality planning branch. “Those individuals sensitive to airborne dust should consider avoiding the area near the implosion until all of the cleaning activities are complete.”

An air sampling plan will evaluate the impacts of the demolition, with results not immediately available following the demolition. Key Bank is being demolished to make way for City Creek Center, a mixed-use development set to open in 2011.

Utah to Set its Own Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal

August 22, 2007

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Salt Lake City – Governor Jon Huntsman announced he will work with Utah industry and other stakeholders to develop State goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as part of a regional initiative to reduce emissions by 15 percent by 2020 released today.

In May, the Governor joined with the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), six states and two Canadian provinces, committed to reducing GHG emissions in the West, including establishing a regional GHG reduction goal by the end of August 2007. Presently, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and the provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba, have individual state/provincial GHG goals.

The regional goal is an aggregation of goals from all eight WCI members, but it does not replace the members’ individual goals.

As part of joining the WCI, Huntsman committed the State to developing a GHG reduction goal by June of 2008. He intends to use a stakeholder-based process to establish targets for greenhouse gas reductions based on economic factors and consideration of all sectors of the economy that generate greenhouse gas emissions. The goal also will reflect the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council’s pending recommendations to the Governor.

In Utah, electricity generation and vehicles are the two largest sector emitters of GHG. Coal-fired generation provides about 85 percent of Utah's electricity. Technologies can be implemented to capture and sequester carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants. Emissions of GHG from vehicles can be reduced through changes to lower carbon fuels and increased miles per gallon ratings on vehicles.

"Coal-fired generation will remain an important part of our energy mix," Huntsman said. "Utah's goal will encourage economic development through new and innovative technologies while improving energy security, broadening and enhancing our renewable energy sector of our economy and improving the air quality in our State."