



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Alan Matheson
Executive Director

Brad T Johnson
Deputy Director

L. Scott Baird
Deputy Director

NEWS RELEASE

February 27, 2019

CONTACT

Donna Kemp Spangler
Communications Director
Office: 801-536-4484
Cell: 801-554-4944
dspangler@utah.gov

Source of Layton Vapor Still Unknown

Investigation by City, County Health Department and State Ongoing

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has not yet determined the source or cause of the petroleum odors detected in an area near the intersection of Gentile and Angel streets in Layton City.

DEQ, Layton City and the Davis County Health Department (DCHD) are working together to identify the source and looking at a number of possibilities.

“Despite extensive efforts by several agencies, we unfortunately have not yet been able to find the source of the vapors,” said Brent Everett, director of the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR). “It could be from a historical contaminant source now mobilized by runoff in the storm drain or a more recent petroleum release. That’s what we are trying to determine and locate.”

On Feb. 14, a resident reported petroleum odors in his basement, prompting city, county and state officials to actively investigate potential sources, pathways and extent of the vapors. Since then the following actions have been taken to ensure public health and isolate the source of the vapors:

- Feb. 14, DERR received a notification by a Layton resident of petroleum vapors in their home. After receiving the notice, DERR called the nearby gas station to request Automatic Tank Gauging (ATG) records. DCHD and Layton City Fire Department responded and began indoor air monitoring at the affected homes.
- Feb. 15, DERR reviewed ATG records from the last three months for possible failed leak detection. The records indicated no gasoline leak from the underground storage tanks.
- Feb. 16, the resident called the DEQ Environmental Incident Notification phone number to report the odors had gotten worse and that two other residents were also now smelling odors.
- Feb. 17, the National Response Center received a report of a possible release of hydrocarbons from an 8-inch pipeline. The reporting party later contacted the National Response Center to state they did not locate a release.
- Feb. 19, DERR initiated an investigation of the underground storage tanks at the nearby gas station and sent inspectors to the facility. DERR, with DCHD, also met with the residents and entered the homes to monitor the vapors.

-MORE-

- Feb. 21, DEQ Executive Director Alan Matheson authorized the use of emergency state funds under the Hazardous Substance Mitigation Act (HSMA) to abate the reported vapors in the basements of three homes.
- Feb. 22, DERR with Layton City responded to a resident's report of strong odors from a storm drain running along Angel Street to Kays Creek.
- Feb. 23, Division of Water Quality (DWQ) asked Layton City and the DCHD to collect water samples from the storm drain. This sample showed elevated levels of benzene, a petroleum byproduct. DCHD sampled drinking water at homes in the affected area. Results came back Feb. 27 showing no detectable levels of contaminants in the drinking water.
- Feb. 25, DEQ met with Layton City and DCHD to coordinate efforts to communicate with residents about the issue and jointly developed a public notice flier. DWQ and DERR collected six additional samples from the storm drain above and below the affected area and from Kays Creek. Results received Feb. 27 indicate petroleum contamination in the storm water line from Gentile Street to Kays Creek. A preliminary ground water sample was collected in the backyard (9 feet below the surface) of one of the affected residences. Results reported Feb. 26 indicate gasoline contamination.
- Feb. 26, subslab vapor samples were collected. Installation of vapor mitigation systems started by DERR's HSMA contractor. Layton City distributed a flier to the homes in the impacted area. Two additional homes were identified as having odors.
- Feb. 27, DCHD requested assistance with vapor identification from the National Guard. Goeprobe investigation began of the homes and nearby gas station.

Officials continue to work together and coordinate response with daily calls. A website with updates and sample results can be found at pvi.utah.gov.

###

About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah's air, land and water through balanced regulation. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.