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NEWS RELEASE

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DEQ Investigators Isolate Source of Layton Petroleum Vapors

SALT LAKE CITY – The source of gasoline odors in a Layton city neighborhood has been narrowed down to petroleum products in the groundwater.

Scientists from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have identified petroleum products in the groundwater adjacent to a gas station on Gentile Street. Once in the soil, the petroleum dissolved in the groundwater and moved along the natural pathway toward the neighborhood at the intersection of Gentile and Angel streets. Along this pathway, it encountered a secondary track in the back-filled sewer trench and worked its way into the 40-year-old storm drain along Angel Street. The vapors then traveled from the storm drains into people's homes.

“We’re working with the owner of the gas station to see if the underground storage tanks are contributing to the plume,” said Brent Everett, director of the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR). “In addition we will continue our work to abate the vapors in the affected homes, identify all sources, define the extent of the plume, and begin cleanup efforts.”

DEQ, Layton City and the Davis County Health Department (DCHD) have been working together to identify the source since residents near the intersection of Gentile and Angel streets reported petroleum odors on Feb. 14.

Vapor recovery systems were installed in three homes using funds available through Utah’s Hazardous Substance Mitigation Act (HSMA). These systems will soon be operational and the displaced residents are returning home.

“It’s nice to be getting back home and getting life back to normal,” said Mark Berger, one of the affected residents. “Things have improved significantly, and we have moved back in.”

DERR scientists are unsure of the extent of the plume and encourage residents who smell petroleum odors in their homes or emanating from a storm drain to call 9-1-1 so the Fire Department can respond.

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Investigators from DERR were able to identify the source by drilling Geoprobes in the neighborhood and analyzing the chemistry of the vapors.

Results from drinking water tests showed no contamination. Water samples from the storm drain, however, showed hydrocarbon contamination.

For more information, visit pvi.utah.gov.

**The previous version indicated that the exact leak had been located. This has been updated to accurately reflect what's being reported in the field.*

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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.