

Congressman Matheson Briefing Document

Red Butte Canyon Spill

June 20, 2010 / Final

Background. On Saturday, June 12, 2010, crude oil was discovered in Red Butte Creek that originated from a leak in a Chevron pipeline in Red Butte Canyon. The pipeline delivers crude oil from Colorado to the Chevron and other refineries in Salt Lake City.

Amount Released. Approximately 800 barrels of crude oil were released, traveling down Red Butte Creek and collecting in Liberty Park Lake with some sheen observed in the Jordan River above 600 South. As of June 19, 2010, approximately 610 barrels of oil have been recovered.

First Response. At approximately 6:53 a.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2010, Salt Lake City emergency responders were dispatched to respond to a report of petroleum odors on the grounds of the Veteran's Administration facility and identified crude oil in Red Butte Creek adjacent to the property. At approximately 7:44 a.m., Chevron Pipe Line Company (CPL) received notification of the crude oil by the Salt Lake City Fire Department. CPL personnel were immediately dispatched to shut down in the line, begin containment, and notify all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

Unified Command. A Unified Command was established with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Utah State/Local Representatives, and CPL. State and local agencies that have participated include Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake Valley Health Department and the City of Salt Lake.

Wildlife Rescue Efforts. Personnel from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources were consulted to rescue and clean water fowl with assistance from the Hogle Zoo and Salt Lake County Animal Services. As of June 19, a total of 366 birds have been cleaned, and 288 have been released.

Ongoing Cleanup Efforts Coordinated with Regulatory Agencies.

- Hazmat crews have continued to monitor air quality in areas affected by crude oil.
- A Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Team (SCAT) has walked along the impacted area and continues to address shoreline issues.
- The affected areas have been divided into 18 sections and each section has been surveyed for contamination and prioritization for clean-up efforts.
- Summary of mobilization: 237 total responders, 7920 feet of boom, 9 vacuum trucks and additional spill response equipment have been deployed.
- On Saturday, June 19, 2010, a release of water was made from Red Butte Reservoir to increase the creek's flow rate and water level in order to help flush remaining oil and oiled debris into booms.
- Chevron will continue to actively work to remove contaminated soils near the release site and along the Red Butte Creek corridor in the weeks or months to come. Additional longer term remediation and monitoring efforts will be coordinated with appropriate regulatory agencies.

Community Outreach. To date, community outreach coordinated with Salt Lake City and other governmental agencies has included:

- Mayor's Office offered early morning warning to residents via Facebook and Twitter, and public information releases from Joint Information Center on Saturday, June 12 to allow clean-up crews to deal with the spill at Red Butte Canyon and Liberty Park.
- Press conference with City and County officials held Saturday, June 12.
- Since Saturday, June 12, Chevron representatives have been canvassing affected neighborhoods to provide residents with updates related to the response effort.
- Wide Area Notification alert issued to residents in a two block-radius around Red Butte Creek from the Gardens down to Liberty Park, as well as a one-block radius around Liberty Park.
- Press conference held on Monday, June 14 at Liberty Park to update the public on the status of the spill response.
- Town hall meeting was held on Monday, June 14 at Clayton Middle School to provide updates to neighbors and concerned residents
- Chevron launched a website on Friday, June 18, to provide information related to the spill, including latest news, response activities, health and safety information, and claims information. The website can be found at www.redbuttecanyonspill.com
- Chevron has also established a YouTube channel and developed informational videos with subject matter experts to address issues related to health and safety concerns and recovery efforts: www.youtube.com/user/SLCRedButteOILSpill.

Claims. To facilitate claims issues and address general inquiries, Chevron established a toll-free phone number (866-752-6340) and an email address (SLCSPILL@chevron.com). The toll free claims line is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, if needed other languages will be made available in English and Spanish. Chevron has provided hotel rooms to those families requesting them as a result of the spill.

Oil Recovery. Crews have been working to recover freestanding oil from the release. As of Saturday, June 19, 600 barrels of oil have been recovered. To contain and recover the oil, booms and absorbent pads have been put in place from Red Butte Creek to the Jordan River; trucks equipped with vacuums have been pulling out oil and oily matter along river, creek and lake areas.

Pipeline Testing and Startup. The affected sections of the pipeline have been replaced and the plan to start-up the pipeline was reviewed by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The pipeline passed a test using pressurized water on Sunday, June 20.