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Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE
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Public Comment Period Runs Nov. 9-Dec. 10

Red Butte Creek Oil Spill Final Closure Document

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) is inviting the public to comment on a draft decision document and a related compliance order that brings closure to the requirements outlined in the Notice of Violation (NOV) issued to Chevron Pipe Line Company on July 13, 2010, in response to oil released into Red Butte Creek in June of 2010.

The draft decision document concludes that no further cleanup is needed since the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments found that traces of contamination remaining in the creek are not a threat to human health or the environment. Continued monitoring of the creek water, sediment, and insects to confirm these conclusions would be required to continue through 2015.

“Chevron is not completely off the hook,” said John Whitehead, assistant director of DWQ. “The risk assessments show that the water quality of Red Butte Creek is similar to that of other urban Salt Lake-area creeks unaffected by the oil spill. However, if additional contamination from the spilled oil is found in the future, Chevron can be required to do additional cleanup.”

The 30-day comment period will run from Nov. 9 to Dec. 10. An Open House will also be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at the Pingree School Gymnasium, 780 South Guardsman Way. Representatives from DWQ, Salt Lake City, Department of Health and Salt Lake Valley Health Department will be in attendance at the meeting.

Written comments on the draft decision document and related compliance order can be emailed to Chris Bittner at cbittner@utah.gov before 5:00 p.m. Dec. 10. For more information on the proposed Draft Decision Document and the proposed compliance order, and all other related documents, can be found at: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/locations/redbutte/index.htm>.

An earlier November 2011 settlement required Chevron to pay a \$3.5 million penalty; \$3 million of that to be used on restoration projects that enhance or protect the waterways harmed by the spill and a civil penalty of \$500,000 to the State of Utah. Chevron also paid \$1 million to Salt Lake City.

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