



**April 18, 2013**

## **Williams Update on Activity Near Its Parachute, Colo., Facility**

Williams today received the first lab results that show a trace amount of benzene at a single location in Parachute Creek. The samples showed a maximum of 2.8 parts per billion; the Environmental Protection Agency's standard for safe drinking water is 5 parts per billion.

In response to the sampling results received today, Williams collected additional real-time samples farther downstream. Those samples found benzene at 1.8 ppb, 1.5 ppb and 1.1 ppb, respectively. Real-time samples taken at the point where the town of Parachute diverts water for its irrigation supply 2.7 miles downstream of the gas facility continues to show no detection of benzene.

Williams continues twice-daily sampling of Parachute Creek at this diversion point. The town of Parachute uses this reservoir to provide irrigation water, not as a source of drinking water. As a precautionary measure, the city of Parachute's irrigation gate on Parachute Creek will remain closed until additional data is collected. The point of benzene detection is approximately 1,200 feet downstream of the pressure gauge that was the source of natural gas liquids discovered nearby on March 8.

Upon receiving the lab results, Williams officials immediately notified the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the state regulatory agency supervising the response to a hydrocarbon fluids release near the Williams' Parachute, Colo. natural gas plant. Williams also has notified town and county officials as well as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, benzene is highly biodegradable and evaporates quickly into the atmosphere on the surface of water. Environmental specialists continue the stringent regimen of surface and ground water sampling.

### **Williams' immediate actions:**

- Collecting additional samples 300 and 600 feet downstream of the benzene-detection point at CS6 (Creek Sample 6)
- Adding additional sampling points downstream of the detection point
- Processing the additional samples with an onsite lab as well as sending to a stationary laboratory for certified results
- Mobilizing to install aeration technology downstream of the detection point in order to remove the benzene
- Adding an additional boom in the creek downstream of detection point
- Notified the state and federal regulatory agencies
- Notified officials with the city of Parachute and Garfield County

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For more information visit [AnswersforParachute.com](http://AnswersforParachute.com)

*Additional information about benzene is attached.*

### **Information about benzene**

Benzene is a chemical that is a colorless or light yellow liquid at room temperature, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It has a sweet odor and is highly flammable. Benzene evaporates into the air very quickly. Its vapor is heavier than air and may sink into low-lying areas. At concentrations of up to 5 parts per billion, it meets the Environmental Protection Agency's standard for safe drinking water.

- Benzene floats on the water's surface and dissolves only slightly in water.
- Benzene is formed from both natural processes and human activities.
- Natural sources of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires. Benzene is also a natural part of crude oil, gasoline, and cigarette smoke.
- Benzene is widely used in the United States. It ranks in the top 20 chemicals for production volume.
- Some industries use benzene to make other chemicals that are used to make plastics, resins, and nylon and synthetic fibers. Benzene is also used to make some types of lubricants, rubbers, dyes, detergents, drugs and pesticides.