May 3, 2013

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

Company Deploys Additional Resources to Continue its Focus on Protecting Parachute Creek

- Aeration and air sparging technology are helping Williams make progress to remove trace amounts of benzene from defined area of creek
- Company increasing its air sparging efforts with additional resources including:
  - Adding additional blower to increase aeration of Parachute Creek
  - Adding eight additional vertical sparge wells next to the air sparging trench to strengthen the existing treatment
- Parachute Creek sample just upstream of Colorado River confluence shows no benzene
- The point where the town of Parachute diverts water for its irrigation well shows no benzene
- Colorado Water Quality Control Commission says the actual benzene standard on the creek is 5,300 ug/L (micrograms per liter) to protect aquatic life
- 145 barrels (60 percent) of hydrocarbon fluids recovered
- 145 test and recovery sites
- Continue to work under supervision of state and federal regulators

Recent water samples from Parachute Creek indicate Williams is making progress in its remediation efforts that are removing hydrocarbons from groundwater and from a defined area of Parachute Creek.

Creek Sample location 6 which is approximately 1,300 feet from the spill site showed benzene levels at 5.3 parts ug/L on May 1. On May 2, the sample showed the level for this test site at 4.7 ug/L.

Other test sample sites downstream remain static (under 2.2 ug/L) or show no detection for benzene.

Williams is using air sparging, which involves the injection of air into surface water and/or groundwater. It's a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-accepted method for effectively reducing concentrations of volatile organic compounds, including benzene.

In all, Williams has 17 daily surface water test sites on Parachute Creek and deploys an on-site mobile laboratory for rapid results. Williams also conducts visual patrols of the creek 24 hours per day/seven days per week.

<u>Williams' response includes the following actions:</u>

- Installed surface water aerator in Parachute Creek in the midst of previous trace level benzene detection points.
- Installed surface water air sparging devices in Parachute Creek at areas impacted.

- Constructed interceptor trench near the point where groundwater enters creek and install underground air sparge system in the banks of Parachute Creek.
- Drilled several additional monitoring wells to determine the extent of impacted groundwater.
- Installed six hydrocarbon recovery wells.
- Installed nine absorbency booms.
- Installed 77 temporary monitoring wells.

For more information visit AnswersforParachute.com

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