



April 24, 2013

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

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

- Installing aeration technology in response to trace benzene readings in defined area of Parachute Creek
- Parachute Creek sample just upstream of Colorado River confluence shows no benzene
- 145 barrels (60 percent) of hydrocarbon fluids recovered
- 142 test and recovery sites
- Continue to work under supervision of state and federal regulators
- Significant progress in defining the extent of the affected area

Williams today announced completion of phase 1 of the air sparge systems designed to remove volatile organic compounds from groundwater and surface water. Air sparging, which involves the injection of air into surface water and/or groundwater, is an EPA-accepted method for effectively reducing concentrations of volatile organic compounds, including benzene.

Williams' response includes the following actions:

1. Installing surface water aerator in Parachute Creek in the midst of previous trace level benzene detection points (Completed).
2. Installing surface water air sparging devices in Parachute Creek at areas impacted (Pending).
1. Constructing interceptor trench near the point where groundwater enters creek and install underground air sparge system in the banks of Parachute Creek (Under construction and nearly completed).
2. Drilling several additional monitoring wells to determine the extent of impacted groundwater (Completed).
3. Installed one additional product recovery well. Two more are planned.

Trace amounts of benzene are being detected in a defined area of Parachute Creek where environmental personnel believe groundwater is entering the creek. The area is about 1,500 feet linearly downstream of the pressure gauge that was the source of natural gas liquids.

Real-time samples on Parachute Creek taken on April 22 both just upstream of its confluence with the Colorado River and at the point where the town of Parachute diverts water for its irrigation supply show no detection of benzene. Williams continues twice-daily sampling of Parachute Creek at this diversion point. Multiple other creek surface sampling sites both upstream and downstream of the defined area where benzene is believed to be entering the creek continue to show no detection of benzene. Williams has a [map](#) showing the creek surface sampling sites and the most recent test results available at AnswersforParachute.com.

Since first receiving lab results on April 18 showing a trace amount of benzene in Parachute Creek, Williams has received subsequent samples showing a maximum benzene detection of 3.9 parts per billion. The Environmental Protection Agency's standard for safe drinking water is 5 parts per billion.

Since Parachute Creek has not been designated as a drinking water supply by the state Water Quality Control Commission, the actual benzene standard on the creek is 5300 ppb to protect aquatic life, according to water quality control regulations by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Benzene is highly biodegradable and evaporates quickly into the atmosphere on the surface of the water. Environmental specialists continue the stringent regimen of surface and ground water sampling.

For more information visit AnswersforParachute.com

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