

1998 Region 8 Press Releases

[EPA Headquarter's News](#)

December

- 12/08/98 [Students and teacher awarded for environmental education initiatives](#)
- 12/03/98 [Environmental Justice Grants Training Workshop: Pueblo, CO](#)
- 12/02/98 [EPA Seeks to Warn Public of Lead-Paint Risk in Housing](#)
- 12/01/98 [EPA sponsors public meeting \(12/14/98\) to discuss animal waste](#)

November

- 11/02/98 [EPA Announces Competition for \\$200,000 Brownfields Grants](#)

October

- 10/29/98 [EPA sponsors public meeting to discuss drinking water data quality](#)
- 10/16/98 [EPA, Ft. Collins Settle Audit Issues](#)
- 10/09/98 [Whatley Ranch Owners Agree to Restore Damaged Wetlands](#)
- 10/07/98 [Routine Quarterly Ground-water Monitoring at Shattuck Superfund Site](#)
- 10/01/98 [Questions & Answers on Shattuck Superfund Site](#)

September

- 09/25/98 [District, Contractor pay Fine for Wetlands Violations](#)
- 09/23/98 [Amoco Agrees to Settlement at Casper Refinery](#)
- 09/23/98 [EPA Applauds Amoco/WDEQ Casper Refinery Settlement](#)

- 09/23/98 [EPA - CDPHE - DENVER Meeting on Shattuck Sampling](#)
- 09/18/98 [EPA to Sample at Shattuck Site](#)
- 09/17/98 [EPA Responds to City of Denver's Data on Shattuck](#)
- 09/11/98 [EPA Responds to Environmental Justice Charge](#)

July & August

- 08/12/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Westminster, CO](#)
- 08/12/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Kimball, SD](#)
- 08/12/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Sioux Falls, SD](#)

- 07/21/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Florence, CO](#)
- 07/21/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Greeley, CO](#)

07/21/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Salt Lake City, UT](#)

August

08/20/98 [Yellowtail Guest Opinion on Colorado "self-audit" law](#)

08/19/98 [PCB Rules to Change; Meeting Set](#)

08/14/98 [EPA, Denver-area Refineries Settle Waste Violations](#)

08/12/98 Released in Colorado [Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City](#)

08/12/98 Released in North Dakota [Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City](#)

08/12/98 Released in Utah [A Perchlorate Forum Will be Held in Salt Lake City](#)

08/12/98 Released in Wyoming [Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City](#)

July

07/23/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Colorado Citizens and Groups](#)

07/23/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Montana Citizens and Groups](#)

07/23/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To North Dakota Citizens and Groups](#)

07/22/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Wyoming Citizens and Groups](#)

07/22/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Utah Citizens and Groups](#)

07/22/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To South Dakota Citizens and Groups](#)

07/09/98 [The last truck of radioactive and hazardous waste will leave the RAMP Industries Site on July 10!](#)

07/09/98 [Open house July 16 to discuss metals contamination in North Denver soil with area residents](#)

June

06/18/98 [Judge grants Injunction over "financial assurance" in Power Engineering Case](#)

06/18/98 [Questions and Answers About EPA's Annual Toxics Release Inventory Report](#)

06/18/98 [EPA's Denver Office Releases Regional Toxic Chemical Pollution Figures](#)

06/15/98 [Oil Pit Cleanups Ordered in Montana](#)

06/09/98 [Murray Smelter Consent Decree Lodged](#)

May

05/21/98 [EPA Issues Complaint to Spanish Fork, Utah](#)

05/08/98 [EPA, Colorado Settle with Platte Chemical Company](#)

05/06/98 [Brownfields Pilot Grant Announced for Missoula, MT](#)

05/06/98 [Brownfields Pilot Grant Announced for Kemmerer, WY](#)

05/05/98 [EPA Statement about Northern Front Range Air Quality Study](#)

April

04/30/98 [EPA Proposes \\$45,000 fine for DOE](#)

04/17/98 [EPA Responds to Environmental Education Critic M. Sanera](#)

- 04/16/98 [EPA answers Post Columnist on Environmental Education](#)
- 04/13/98 [EPA Envirocare Review Finds "No Serious Non-compliance"](#)
- 04/08/98 [Free EPCRA Training in Colorado on 4/14/98 for Petroleum Bulk Station Facilities Representatives](#)
- 04/07/98 [Cleanup Orders at Oily Waste Pits in Montana](#)
- 04/01/98 [PCB Spill At Standing Rock Reservation, ND; Questions & Answers](#)
- 04/01/98 [Free EPCRA Training in Wyoming on 4/7/98 for Coal Mining Facilities Representatives](#)

March

- 03/18/98 [EPA Responds to Columnist on Colorado Self-Audit Law](#)
- 03/11/98 [Free EPCRA Training for Metal Mining Facilities Representatives on 3/31/98 - UT](#)
- 03/09/98 [EPA's Position On Billings/Laurel SO₂ State Implementation Plan](#)
- 03/03/98 [Free EPCRA Training for Metal Mining Facilities Representatives on 3/5/98 - CO](#)

February

- 02/26/98 [EPA counters Rocky Mtn. News editorial on Colorado self-audit law](#)
- 02/23/98 [Cleanup of Pallas Yard rail site finalized](#)
- 02/23/98 [Oily Pond Cleanup Ordered in NW Colorado](#)
- 02/17/98 [Morrell Pays \\$250,000 Penalty](#)
- 02/17/98 [EPA Counters Post Editorial on "Self Audit"](#)
- 02/06/98 [EPCRA Training Offered to Colorado Companies that Generate Electrical Power](#)
- 02/04/98 [EPA, Serck Services Settle Haz Waste Case](#)

January

- 01/28/98 [EPA Offers a Free EPCRA Workshop in Salt Lake City](#)
- 01/22/98 [Colorado Air Quality for 1996](#)
- 01/22/98 [Montana Air Quality for 1996](#)
- 01/22/98 [Utah Air Quality for 1996](#)
- 01/21/98 [Balco UIC Settlement](#)
- 01/15/98 [Outdoor Classroom Teaches Students About Environment](#)
- 01/14/98 [Pineridge Ground Water Protection Plan](#)

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [Region 8 News & Information](#) | [1997 Region 8 Press Releases](#) | [EPA Headquarters News & Events](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region08/news/news98/news98.html>
Last Update: December 9, 1998

r8webmaster@epa.gov



- EPA Newsroom
- Browse EPA Topics
- Laws, Regulations & Dockets
- Where You Live
- Information Sources
- Educational Resources
- About EPA
- Programs
- Business Opportunities
- Jobs
- Recursos en Español



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Newsroom

[Recent Additions](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Print Version](#) Search:
[Advanced Search](#)

[EPA Home](#) > [EPA Newsroom](#)

This page has moved. The EPA Newsroom is now located at:

<http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/>

This page originally created: Monday, February 3, 2003



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Students and teacher awarded for environmental education initiatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 8, 1998

Fran Wiscamb 303 312 6613
CeCe Forget 303 312 6605
Jody Ostendorf 303 312 7814

Denver -- Place Middle School students and their faculty sponsor won the 1998 President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) for developing an outdoor classroom and initiating several environmental education projects.

The PEYA program encourages kids to learn about their environment and create strategies for improving their community's public and environmental health. Projects compete regionally and nationally and are judged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on impacts, benefits, how environmental needs were met and other criteria. PATTYANNE Corsentino, the "Tiger Team's" teacher/sponsor, and one or more student team representatives will be recognized by Carol Browner, U.S. EPA Administrator, at a ceremony for all PEYA award winners in Washington, D.C. on March 24th, 1999.

The students' first accomplishment was designing and building an outdoor classroom. Place Middle School was built on a landfill and the students' future "classroom" was a vacant lot overrun with weeds, with one tree. Students worked with a landscape architect to design the space and select plants. They identified partners such as the U.S. Forest Service, Denver Digs and Denver Urban Resources Partnership. Fund raising efforts yielded materials for a garden, which was dedicated on June 4th, 1998.

Students planned an "outdoor adventure" for 600 Denver-area elementary school students, inviting them to the outdoor classroom to have fun learning about nature. Participants learned about non-point source pollution, pond and creek wildlife, making recycled paper, dissecting owl pellets, fishing and more at 12 hands-on learning stations.

The Tiger Team chose Cherry Creek, which runs in front of Place Middle School, for their Earth Force project. Earth Force is a Pew Foundation grant-funded program that promotes experience for 10-14 year-old kids in community problem solving and environmental action. The students' project included adopting a section of the creek for clean-up, making the creek wheelchair accessible, and increasing awareness among Cherry Creek path users of the riparian habitat's value and the consequences of human impacts.

Of the 14 Denver metro area schools participating in the Earth Force program, Place Middle School was invited to sponsor the Earth Force Summit. Students from all over met at the school's outdoor classroom to share and celebrate their different projects. The summit activities were videotaped for inclusion in Earth Force's national video on its Community Action & Problem Solving (CAPS) program.

"The students' motivation goes beyond themselves," Pattyanne Corsentino said. "They love doing something for others and sharing their excitement about the natural world around them. Academically, we also see dramatic improvements in testing (reading levels improved at least two grade levels for many of them), attendance and behavior. Many of my students carry their service activities beyond school and volunteer in the community," she continued.

For more information about PEYA and/or the Earth Force program, contact Place Middle School's Tiger Team sponsor Pattyanne Corsentino at (303) 758-6111 or EPA's environmental education assistant Fran Wiscamb at (303) 312-6613 or via Email: wiscamb.fran@epa.gov

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Environmental Justice Grants Training Workshop: Pueblo, CO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 3, 1998

Elisabeth Evans 303-312-6053
Jan Buhrmann 303-312-6557
Jody Ostendorf 303-312-7814

Denver --The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host a free grants writing workshop for its Environmental Justice (EJ) Grants Program at Pueblo City Hall, in the 3rd floor conference room, on Wednesday, December 9, 1998 from 1-4 p.m.

Workshop participants will learn the EJ grants process including: writing effective proposals, identifying EJ projects/activities eligible for funding, and completing the grant application package. The grants program is designed to help low-income and minority communities identify and assess pollution sources, and implement environmental awareness and training programs for affected residents.

In general, the program will support community stakeholders in devising strategies to improve their environment. Grant eligibility extends to community groups, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, state and local governments, and federally recognized tribal governments.

Since EJ's inception in 1994, EPA has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grant funds to grassroots, community development and non-profit organizations in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. Funding has included support for a public education program to inform residents of environmental hazards in their community, and bilingual outreach

to warn migrant farm workers and their families of the dangers of pesticide exposure.

For more information on the grants workshop, visit the [Grants workshop portion of the Region 8 EJ grants webpage](#), phone Nancy Reish or Marcella DeVargas toll-free at 800/227-8917, or contact them via Email at the following addresses:

reish.nancy@epa.gov

devargas.marcella@epa.gov

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA Seeks To Warn Public of Lead Paint Risk in Housing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 2, 1998

Bob Vick EPA 303/312-6204
Martin Hestmark EPA 303/312-6776
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

DENVER -- About 64 million U.S. homes are contaminated with paint containing high lead levels, according to Environmental Protection Agency officials. To protect families who may be unaware of the dangers lead-based paint poses, EPA is now actively enforcing a law that requires sellers, landlords, brokers and real estate agents to provide disclosure forms and information pamphlets to prospective buyers and tenants of dwellings built before 1978.

The Real Estate Notification and Disclosure Rule became effective September 6 1996. The regulation, jointly issued by EPA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), targets housing built prior to 1978 because lead-based paint was commonly used in those older dwellings.

Under the disclosure rule, sellers, landlords and real estate agents must *disclose the presence and location of known lead-based paint* to purchasers and tenants of property built before 1978. *If owners don't know* whether lead-based paint was used on their property, they *still must inform* prospective buyers and tenants that it may be present.

Buyers have 10-days to inspect housing units for the presence of lead-based paint prior to finalizing a purchase. All sales and leasing contracts must include specific lead paint notification

and acknowledgment language. The rule also requires property owners to provide clients with an EPA-approved lead hazard information pamphlet.

Although the requirements have been in place for more than two years, EPA and HUD provided a one-year grace period to give the regulated community enough time to inform and educate its members of the requirements under the disclosure rule. Meanwhile, both EPA and HUD have undertaken extensive public awareness and information campaigns to educate the real estate community and others about the rule and what it requires. However, after examining leasing, rental and sales contracts in the **Denver** metro area over the past four months, EPA found that **compliance is severely lacking**. So far, inspectors have reviewed files of about **380 apartment and real estate agencies** and found **more than 50 percent of the records were missing proper lead-based paint disclosure forms**.

EPA has **NOT YET** begun penalizing individuals or companies in the Rocky Mountain Region for failing to notify clients about the possible existence of lead-based paint in their dwellings. Instead, it has elected to extend the compliance date to cover leases and contracts dated on or after September 6, 1997. Currently, the Agency is sending non-compliance notices (penalty warning letters) to all known landlords and real estate agents throughout the area to inform them of their responsibilities. EPA plans **TO REINSPECT** those records previously found in violation. It also **WILL REVIEW** other leasing and sales records not already inspected to ensure that the hazards of lead-based paint are known, understood and controlled.

Those who fail to comply with the disclosure rule can face a penalty of up to \$11,000 per violation. As an example, if an owner of a 100 unit apartment complex failed to issue any lead paint disclosure forms, that individual risks fines of \$11,000 per unit, or \$1.1 million. Landlords, real estate agents and others who repeatedly violate the rule could face larger fines. EPA recently announced four civil lawsuits outside this region for alleged violations of the disclosure rule with penalties totaling \$439,725.

Lead affects virtually every system of the body. It is harmful to all ages, but it's especially damaging to children, fetuses and women of child-bearing age. In fact, lead poisoning is the number one environmental health threat American children face. Health problems range from learning disabilities, decreased growth, behavioral difficulties, to permanent damage of the nervous system, impaired hearing and even brain damage. Young children, in particular, are most vulnerable because their nervous systems are still developing. Pregnant women also are at considerable risk to the effects of lead poisoning, as lead can pass through their bodies to their babies.

EPA plans to continue its ongoing lead education programs. Those who are concerned about possible exposure to lead paint or are interested in testing for or safely removing contaminated materials should contact their local or state health department. EPA and HUD also have established a "Tips and Complaints" hotline (1-800-424-LEAD) for anyone seeking information

about lead-based paint, lead poisoning, or for individuals who wish to report any alleged violations of the disclosure rule.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA sponsors public meeting (12/14/98) to discuss animal waste strategy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 1, 1998

Debbie Thomas 303 312 6373
Carl Lucero 303 312 6829
Jody Ostendorf 303 312 7814

Denver -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will sponsor a public meeting December 14th at the Hyatt Regency Denver Hotel from 2 - 5 p.m. to answer questions and listen to concerns about EPA's and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) draft Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations.

The strategy, released in early October, seeks to minimize water quality and public health risks associated with animal feeding operations. It is not a regulation or a rule. The strategy establishes a national expectation that all animal feeding operations develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans by the year 2008. Up to 330,000 feeding operations nationwide are likely to be affected.

The "listening session" will begin with a brief overview of the strategy, but the majority of time will be spent answering questions and listening to concerns. The agencies hope to hear a wide range of perspectives from environmental groups, commodity and farm groups, communities, the general public, and state, local and tribal governments.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Those wishing to speak may make arrangements in advance by calling (303) 236-2903 Ext. 255, or may sign up at the session. The draft strategy is available on

the internet at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov> or <http://www.epa.gov/owm/afostrat.htm>

Copies may also be obtained by calling (303) 236-2903, Ext. 255.

The public comment period ends January 19, 1999. Written comments on the draft strategy may be mailed to: Denise Coleman, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20012-2890, or e-mail them to: denise_c.coleman@usda.gov

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Announces Competition for \$200,000 Grants

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - November 2, 1998

David Ostrander EPA 303/312-6931
Kathie Atencio EPA 303/312-6803
News Office EPA 800/227-8917

WHO - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT - EPA will Fund New Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots in 1999. The grants help States, communities, tribes, and others interested in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to assess, safely clean up, and promote the sustainable reuse of brownfields. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

WHEN - There will be two rounds of competition for the pilots. The application deadline for the first round of pilots is December 11, 1998. The deadline for the second round is March 22, 1999. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Region 8 Brownfields Program by calling Kathie Atencio at 303-312-6803. EPA expects to select up to 100 pilots by the end of May 1999.

HOW - States, cities, towns, counties, and Federally recognized Indian tribes that have an interest in environmentally sound redevelopment of brownfields are invited to apply. The pilots are awarded on a competitive basis. To ensure a fair selection process, evaluation panels consisting of

EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and other federal agency representatives will assess how proposals meet selection criteria outlined in a newly revised application booklet. The booklet, "The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots" dated October 1998 and the solicitation notice can be obtained by calling the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or 703-412-9810. Copies of the guidelines can also be obtained through the internet at the following location:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

To date, the Agency has funded 226 Brownfields Assessment Pilot nationally. In Region 8, EPA awarded four pilots in Colorado, one in Montana, one in North Dakota, one in South Dakota, five in Utah, and two in Wyoming.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming

EPA sponsors public meeting to discuss drinking water data quality

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 29, 1998

Aundrey Wilkins 303 312 6245
Rich Lathrop 303 312 6780
Jody Ostendorf 303 312 7814

Denver -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will sponsor a public meeting November 5th to obtain comments on EPA's draft action plan to improve drinking water data quality. The meeting will be held at the Lakewood Sheraton, 360 Union Blvd. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The EPA plan addresses data quality at all levels: from laboratories and public water utilities to local government, state government, and EPA, where data are housed in the Safe Drinking Water Information System database. In particular, EPA would like to hear the public's ideas on the following:

- What is an appropriate data quality goal?
- How do data quality problems originate?
- How can EPA characterize, quantify and improve data quality?
- How should data quality activities be prioritized?
- How can EPA improve the way water quality data is presented on its Envirofacts web site?

For more information on the meeting, please contact Aundrey Wilkins, U.S. EPA, at 303-312-6245 or via Email at wilkins.aundrey@epa.gov

To register, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA, Ft. Collins Settle Audit Issues

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 16, 1998

Carol Rushin 303-312-6051
Mike Risner 303-312-6890
News Office 303-312-6780
Toll-Free 800 227 8917

Fort Collins, CO -- In a wide-ranging audit to assess its compliance with environmental laws in 1996, the City of Fort Collins found some 200 problems and reported them to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Colorado. Most of the problems were fixed quickly and the City has worked cooperatively with EPA to address those that remained through a settlement agreement announced today.

Applying its "self-audit" policy, EPA waived any penalty on 193 of those findings and accepted "supplemental environmental projects (SEPs)" and small penalties for 7 items that did not qualify for waivers.

In announcing a settlement today, EPA enforcement director Carol Rushin said her agency had "been most impressed with the City's attitude and willingness to perform the audit and address the concerns that were identified."

Rushin said while the agreement will ultimately benefit the city and its environment, the City is to be commended for performing the audit. "Environmental auditing is simply an example of good government by the City," Rushin said.

While the Agency waived action on most of the City's findings, seven issues remained. Three

involved hazardous waste handling. Four concerned the lack of adequate spill prevention and response plans at four City facilities where quantities of oil are stored. Such plans required by law since 1974 are key to keeping oil out of America's waterways.

As part of the settlement, Fort Collins will undertake "supplemental environmental projects (SEPs)" worth some \$47,000 and pay a penalty of \$9,205. The city will pay another \$6,561 to a trust fund the Coast Guard uses to respond to oil spills.

The projects include:

- a pilot program to find ways to clean vehicle parts relying less on solvents and toxic materials,
- a systematic "mapping" and analysis of City processes that use and generate toxic and hazardous wastes to find ways to prevent pollution,
- designing and holding a training class on the writing of spill prevention plans for other Colorado communities.

The projects are to be completed by December, 1999.

Under its self-audit policy, EPA can waive penalties for many environmental infractions that companies or communities report and correct themselves. In some cases, the Agency lacks that flexibility and must seek penalties, parts of which can be offset by environmental projects.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Whatley Ranch Owners Agree to Restore Damaged Wetlands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 13, 1998

Jody Ostendorf 303 312 7814
John Brink 303 312 6214
Connally Mears 303 312 6217
Toll-Free 800 227 8917

Denver -- To avoid possible civil penalties of up to \$27,500 per day, per violation, Whatley Ranch owners Gary and Nancy Carlston reached an agreement recently with EPA to restore environmental damages caused by illegal discharges on their property.

Located two miles north of Breckenridge, the 525-acre property contains streams and wetlands which feed into the Blue River. The Blue River flows into the Colorado River and eventually discharges into the Gulf of California. The Carlstons used backhoes and bulldozers to alter wetlands, creeks and beaver ponds on the property. With no permit to discharge the dredged or fill material, they violated the Clean Water Act and disturbed wildlife habitat.

"Property owners and contractors planning to do any earth moving work in wetlands or streams should contact the Corps of Engineers and make sure they have any needed Clean Water Act permits before they begin to work," EPA Sr. Enforcement Coordinator Connally Mears said. The Corps of Engineers' office to contact for information on permit requirements in Summit County is located in Grand Junction at (970) 243-1199.

The Carlstons have agreed to restore a beaver pond and wetlands complex, remove the illegal

discharges and monitor their restoration results. They also agreed to protect wetland hydrology in a large willow wetland that the previous owner had tried to drain with an 80-foot long drainage trench. If successful, the Carlstons' efforts should fully repair the impacts of their unauthorized activities.

"EPA is very concerned about compliance and permitting issues in the mountain areas of Colorado because of the significant environmental value of the wetlands and streams that remain, and the intense development pressures due to second home construction and recreation," EPA Assistant Regional Administrator Carol Rushin said.

The wetlands and pond, and the streams that connect them, provide habitat for migratory birds, fish, elk and beaver. A young moose was recently spotted on the property. Wetlands also help improve water quality, detain floodwaters and connect with underground aquifers.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Routine Quarterly Ground-water Monitoring at Shattuck Chemical Superfund Site

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - October 7, 1998

James Hanley, EPA 303/312-6725
Eleanor Dwight, EPA 303/312-6813
Toll-Free # EPA 800/227-8917

WHO: Shattuck Chemical Company with EPA , Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Denver Department of Environmental Health oversight

WHAT: As part of it's on-going quarterly monitoring responsibility, Shattuck Chemical Company will sample ground-water monitoring wells.

WHEN: Wednesday and Thursday, October 7 & 8, 1998

WHERE: On and near the site at 1805 S. Bannock, Denver, Colorado

WHY: The company, with EPA and State oversight, is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the recently constructed remedy at the site. The company solidified and capped the radium-contaminated wastes on the site to prevent the release of gamma radiation and radon gas into the air and radionuclides into the ground water. Ground water is monitored quarterly:

- To make sure the remedy continues to work by confirming that the solidified material is not leaching metals into ground water.
- To measure decreases in ground-water contamination over time.

[Shattuck Chemical Company Fact Sheet](#)
[Index to Region 8 Shattuck Information](#)

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON SHATTUCK SUPERFUND SITE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 1, 1998

James Hanley, Technical Project Manager 303-312-6725
Eleanor Dwight, Community Involvement Coordinator: 303-312-6813

Is this remedy working?

- Yes. The solidification immobilizes metals and radionuclides. Tests conducted by Shattuck and EPA on the stabilized material at the site show that metals are indeed immobilized. The tests attempted to dissolve metals and radionuclides from the solidified material. This test showed that the metals were firmly bound by the solidification process and did not leach. As an additional safeguard, the cap is designed to prevent water from seeping into the material.
- Radiation readings taken this summer on the monolith showed radiation levels to be no higher than you would find in other areas of Denver.

Denver released groundwater sampling data which the City said showed that the remedy was failing. Does recent sampling show that the remedy is failing?

- **Groundwater sampling results taken recently can not show that the remedy constructed last summer is failing.** Groundwater contamination measured recently is the result of past contamination and would be contaminated regardless of whether the wastes at Shattuck were removed or isolated on site. Groundwater measurements taken recently

cannot possibly measure the effectiveness of the current remedy. It will be several years before we can expect sampling data to show groundwater improvement. The wastes from the Shattuck site did contaminate groundwater. Since no one is drinking this water, it does not pose a health threat. The remedy addressed the long-term cleanup of the ground water by isolating the wastes so that they no longer were a source of contamination. Over time, the groundwater will naturally cleanse.

- Denver released unverified, preliminary sampling results. At a meeting last week, representatives from EPA, CDPHE and the City looked at these preliminary results and questioned the reliability of some of the analysis and interpretation. To verify reliability of the data, the lab analysis techniques must be examined. EPA received the City's complete laboratory data records yesterday and has begun reviewing it. However, the City has not provided EPA with their groundwater field data including height of the groundwater table when they sampled.
- The City appears to have based its claim that the remedy is failing on one sample taken from a single well. It is important not to jump to conclusions about anything based on a single, unverified sample.
- In response to the City's charges, EPA immediately sampled groundwater Saturday, 9/19/98 in the same locations that the City had sampled. Our sampling shows that radionuclide contamination is not present in the storm sewer about which the City was so concerned. In general, EPA's sample results corresponded with the City's except for the single well that the City's tests had identified as very contaminated. EPA's data showed much lower levels.
- In addition, this summer EPA and Shattuck sampled groundwater at the edge of the immobilized waste. These sampling results showed that groundwater met all of our targets except uranium. Our target ground water concentration for uranium is 30 picocuries/liter. This sampling showed contamination levels around 60 picocuries/liter. Inasmuch as the construction of the remedy may have temporarily caused some uranium release, this is not a cause for concern. However, if we do not see improvement over the next several quarters of sampling, we will need to take some corrective action.

How serious is the groundwater contamination from the Shattuck site?

- There may be many sources of contamination to the groundwater in the area of the Shattuck site. Shattuck has contributed to the contamination. Because this groundwater is not used for drinking, there is no exposure, and therefore, no threat to the health of area residents.
- Radiological contamination in groundwater from the Shattuck site is comparable to levels

of radionuclides from naturally-occurring uranium found in some drinking water wells in Colorado's mountains. Listed below are the results of two studies on drinking water wells in the mountains/foothills and a comparison with the Shattuck groundwater plume.

- Jefferson County Study, October 1990-April, 1991
 - Sampled 50 private drinking water wells - mountains/foothills
 - 9 wells - 20-49 picocuries/liter
 - 4 wells - greater than 100 picocuries/liter
 - All wells: Range - 0 -867 picocuries/liter uranium-total
 - Mean - 52.6 picocuries/liter
 - Median - 5.7 picocuries/liter

- Masters Thesis, Colorado School of Mines (1991) - Errol P. Lawrence
 - Sampled 47 private water supply wells - Conifer area
 - 6 wells - 14-35 picocuries/liter
 - 1 well - 36-70 picocuries/liter
 - 8 wells - greater than 70 picocuries/liter
 - All wells: Range 1-840 picocuries/liter dissolved uranium
 - Mean - 49 picocuries/liter
 - Median - 2.2 picocuries/liter

- Shattuck off-site area monitoring (September 19, 1998)
 - Sampled 9 wells - west of Shattuck property
 - 2 wells - greater than 100 picocuries/liter
 - 3 wells - less than 20 picocuries/liter
 - 2 wells - 20-49 picocuries/liter
 - 2 wells - 50-99 picocuries/liter
 - All wells: Range: 8-155 picocuries/liter uranium
 - Mean: 52 picocuries/liter
 - Median: 40 picocuries/liter

Groundwater remediation goal: 30 picocuries/liter

Is the Platte River threatened by the radioactive contaminants in the ground water?

- Even though contamination is reaching the Platte River, it poses no health threat. Radioactive contamination is not detectable in the river. As a precaution, EPA and the State in cooperation with Denver will monitor the river to gather additional information on impacts to the environment.

Does the site pose a long-term threat to health and the environment?

- The cleanup dramatically reduced site risks. Recent air monitoring showed that radiation levels at the site were no higher than you would find in other areas of Denver.
- Groundwater that was contaminated prior to completion of the remedy will cleanse itself over time. This may take many years. Since the water is not used for drinking, there is time for this process to take place. If groundwater does not improve over time, EPA and Shattuck may undertake additional work.

How can EPA and the State guarantee that this remedy will be permanently protective?

- Stabilization has been used at over 100 sites nationwide, often in metropolitan areas, as a permanent treatment for a variety of contaminants. The Shattuck remedy was designed for at least 200 years' protection and will probably remain effective considerably longer than that.
- The Shattuck wastes have been isolated and solidified and residents are safe from any threat posed by the site. EPA and Shattuck will continue to monitor the site. EPA and Shattuck will be responsible for assuring the remedy remains protective.

EPA and the State initially proposed to remove the wastes at Shattuck and dispose of them off-site. Why did they change their minds?

- First and foremost, a cleanup plan must protect health and the environment. The goal of the Shattuck remedy is to prevent excess cancer due to breathing radon gas and exposure to gamma radiation.
- We identified two options that met this goal: Excavation with disposal offsite and onsite consolidation, solidification, stabilization and capping. Because we had removed similar material from a number of locations in Denver, we initially proposed excavation and off-site disposal even though it was more expensive. Subsequently, we learned that disposal costs had increased and the only disposal site that could accept this waste was having regulatory difficulties. We also had a PRP that wanted to manage the waste on their property. The Record of Decision describes in detail the reasons for selecting the on-site remedy. Briefly, however, they were:
 - Cost-effectiveness;
 - The Superfund law's preference for on-site treatment and disposal.
- Solidification/stabilization eliminates the movement of contaminated material and reduces radon coming from the contaminated soils. Capping deflects precipitation, prevents liquid from leaching through treated soils and provides a barrier to radiation.

Did EPA and the State mislead the public about this remedy by claiming that it had been used successfully in many other locations?

- No. EPA has a long-standing commitment to provide accurate information to the public. The public record bears this out.
- EPA and the State have consistently and publicly said that the solidification and stabilization remedy had been used all over the U.S at a variety of sites for a variety of contaminants, especially metals. For example:
 - A '94 EPA fact sheet described the Pepper's Steel and Alloy facility in Medley, Florida, where more than 120,000 cubic yards of heavy metal and PCB-contaminated soils were stabilized, solidified and disposed on site.
 - A '96 EPA fact sheet explained that capping has been used for radiological sites including several U.S. Department of Energy sites in Western Colorado.
 - EPA's [Internet Fact Sheet on the Shattuck Site](#) (under "Issues") says, "Stabilization has been used effectively at over 100 sites nationwide to treat a variety of contaminants, often in metropolitan areas. The radium at the Shattuck site is a metal and will behave like a metal when treated."
- We can find in our records no instances of misleading information.
- Solidification and stabilization is a treatment technique commonly used for metals. Uranium is a metal. Stabilization eliminates the movement of contaminated material and reduces radon coming from the contaminated soil. Capping is a common treatment which places a barrier between people or elements and the solidified material. The cap is contoured so that water runs off the pile. Capping shields radiation and prevents contact with the treated soils.

Did EPA and the State leave the materials in place because this was a low income community? Would the decision be different in an affluent area?

- No. Socioeconomic status of the neighborhoods where the Denver Radium wastes were found had no impact on cleanup decisions. The record shows that we removed the wastes from areas in Denver that appear to be low income, minority areas and, at the City's request (Pena letter 8/9/85), left the material in place under streets in more affluent neighborhoods.

[Shattuck Chemical Company Fact Sheet](#)

[Index to Region 8 Shattuck Information](#)

Text Correction: 10/6/98

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA Site](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

District, Contractor pay Fine for Wetlands Violations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 25, 1998

Mike Risner 303-312-6890
Amy Peterson 303-312-6906
Rich Lathrop 303-312-6780

DENVER - - The Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and its contractor have paid an \$80,000 penalty for diverting a section of Coal Creek and disturbing a wetland near the city of Lafayette in 1993 without the permit required under the nation's Clean Water Act.

An area resident reported the work to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which issues "section 404" permits that regulate construction in and near waterways. The Corps determined the work required a permit and turned the matter over to the Environmental Protection Agency for enforcement.

When EPA proposed a penalty in 1994, the District countered that it was allowed to relocate the stream channel under a general permit that allows some work in headwaters and isolated locations.

After four days of hearings in Denver and a site visit last year, administrative law judge Andrew S. Pearlstein of Washington, DC rejected those District arguments. Pearlstein noted the work violated the CWA and went well beyond bank stabilization, to actual relocation of the streambed of Coal Creek. That cannot be done without permit and Corps officials testified that such stream alteration generally would not receive a permit because it is not likely to be the least

environmentally damaging way to correct an erosion problem.

The judge also rejected the District's "headwaters" argument, noting that a 1982 Corps opinion placed the headwaters some 10 miles upstream from the City of Lafayette's shops where the work took place.

In his initial decision, Judge Pearlstein found that Kemp & Hoffman, a Northglenn construction company, erred when it relied on District assurances that permits for the work were in order. The company should have insisted on seeing the permits, Pearlstein wrote. The company paid \$5,000 of the penalty.

The District was assessed the bulk of the fine \$75,000 for its decision to "discharge fill into waters of the U.S." without the needed permit.

Created by the legislature in 1969, the UD&FCD is the stormwater drainage and flood-control authority for 33 cities and towns and six metro-area counties. With a budget from property tax mill levies, the UD&FCD undertakes from \$12 million to \$18 million worth of projects in the 1,608 square miles of the District each year.

Since 1995, the District has carried out all the mitigation work required under the EPA order. "EPA normally tries to settle these actions without an adversarial proceeding, " said Michael T. Risner, the agency's director of legal enforcement in Denver, "but sometimes we are unable to reach agreement and have to take the issues to court. We look forward to working with the District in the future."

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Amoco Agrees to Settlement at Casper Refinery

RELEASE UPON REQUEST - September 23, 1998

Charles Figur EPA 303/312-6915
Felix Flechas EPA 303/312-6014
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

Questions & Answers

Q In lay terms, what will the agreement require of both Amoco and WDEQ?

A Evidence shows it is critical that some clean-up work begin immediately, therefore, the agreement requires Amoco to commence cleanup without delay. An example of the type of critical cleanup mentioned above includes a plan for Amoco to build a "wall" beneath the ground that will stop the flow of contamination to, and under, the North Platte River. Several other clean-up actions are scheduled to begin in the near future as well.

Over the longer term, Amoco will perform on-and off-site investigations. WDEQ will select the long-term clean-up measures Amoco must complete based on the results of those investigations and other studies (for instance: risk assessments).

Q What was EPA's role in obtaining an agreement between Amoco and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ)?

A EPA, at Judge Brimmer's request, helped WDEQ develop a settlement acceptable as a substitute for our existing clean-up order.

Q Who else is involved in the agreement?

A The City and County will be involved in the decision making process set up by the consent decree. The public also will have more chances than usual to offer input.

Some of the planned clean-up work will go through the traditional public comment process; other work issues will be handled through a "collaborative process." WDEQ, Amoco and another entity (determined by the City and County) will publicly debate the merits of various options for each stage of cleanup. The public will have the opportunity to comment at a number of yet undetermined points in the process. WDEQ, Amoco and the City/County will soon set this process in motion.

Q *How serious were the pollution threats and what are the short/long term affects on air, soil or water quality?*

A Some of the pollution threats and existing pollution are very serious in the short- term and are being addressed more rapidly. Other problems are being addressed through the longer-range plans.

We emphasize, however, that we do not know the entire scope of impact that the facility had on the environment, nor are we certain of the actual severity some of the existing conditions pose. This is why we feel it is crucial for Amoco to continue performing actual clean-up work while the consent decree is being finalized and approved.

Q *When will actual cleanup at the site begin?*

A That depends on the time it takes to thoroughly characterize the extent of the problems at the site and which cleanup options WDEQ chooses for Amoco to perform. We believe actual work might proceed more rapidly under this decree than it has in the past.

However, under an EPA "corrective action order" and a separate permit, clean-up work already has begun. Amoco also is performing offsite remediation under WDEQ's supervision.

Q *What other types of clean-up activities will Amoco conduct?*

A Soils and ground water will be returned to safe levels. Amoco also will clean up the river bed and Soda Lake.

Q *How long will all this take to finish?*

A Cleanups of this nature can take decades to complete. To ensure continued environmental and public-health protections, long-term monitoring requirements could be imposed for additional decades after Amoco completes the first phases of its clean-up work. Additional work might be

required many years from now to bring the soils, ground water and surface waters into compliance with the most stringent clean-up standards.

Q What activities will EPA perform as part of the agreement?

A EPA has no formal role, and is not a party to the consent decree. EPA will withdraw its clean-up order if the decree is "entered" by the Judge. The Agency will then operate in its usual oversight role.

Q How is "oversight" defined?

A EPA will review and comment on Amoco's actual clean-up activities and on the work WDEQ proposes that Amoco perform. The Agency also will ensure that all activities result in a cleanup that meets federal requirements.

Q Why was it imperative to devise such an agreement among the parties?

A It was not essential from EPA's perspective, but apparently it was imperative for WDEQ and Amoco. EPA presumes it was critical for an agreement to be reached because WDEQ and the citizens were embroiled in litigation, with a potentially lengthy and expensive trial looming on the horizon. Furthermore, the likely outcome of such a trial was not apparent.

In addition, it appears the agreements Amoco previously reached with both the citizen plaintiffs and a community group, known as the Community Facilitation Initiative (CFI), were dependent upon Amoco and WDEQ achieving a workable settlement of their own. However, we must emphasize that the CFI agreement does not affect WDEQ's responsibilities under the consent decree.

Q Does Amoco admit responsibility for causing the pollution and an obligation to remove it?

A To a degree. Through the consent decree, Amoco has accepted enough responsibility, and has offered assurance that necessary clean-up work will get done.

Q Was public comment considered during negotiations that led to this agreement?

A The public had ample opportunity to comment on the consent decree; both written and verbal comments were accepted. The judge will not finalize (or "enter") the decree before late September, and only after comments received have been evaluated to see if any substantive changes to the existing agreement are justified.

Q Does the agreement satisfy EPA's previous clean-up orders?

A Yes. The decree satisfies our existing clean-up requirements.

Q *Will it eliminate any pending lawsuits against Amoco?*

A Some lawsuits will go away, such as the State's action against Amoco and the citizen suit. It remains to be seen whether all existing suits will be withdrawn.

Q *Is EPA satisfied with the agreement and Amoco's role in its implementation?* **A** Yes. The **consent decree** provides Amoco and WDEQ the opportunity to achieve the same, or even a higher, degree of environmental clean up as the EPA order and permit.

Q *Does the agreement mean EPA will no longer seek pollution remedies at this facility through the courts?*

A No. Though, EPA does not expect to require more cleanup of Amoco's facility than WDEQ will through this consent decree.

Q *What if yet undiscovered pollution is linked to this facility in the future?*

A Amoco is responsible for properly dealing with all pollution from the facility. The company owned and operated this facility for almost 80 years, so there is no complicated ownership picture to fight over.

Q *Why did Amoco take so long to settle this matter? Wouldn't it have been easier and less expensive for all involved to have come to this sort of agreement in the first place?*

A We will not guess about Amoco's methods and motives. Now that a settlement has been reached, we prefer to focus on the future cleanup of the facility. The good news is that because of this successful resolution, the process can move forward and positive steps can be taken to return the area to productive use.

Q *What happens next?*

A The assessment and clean-up processes directed by the order begin. Amoco starts doing actual remediation work. Amoco, WDEQ and the City/County commence a "collaborative process," as described in the decree, and decide the next set of activities Amoco will perform.

[\[EPA R8 Homepage\]](#) [\[News 1998\]](#) [\[News and Info\]](#) [\[Comments/Questions\]](#) [\[Search EPA\]](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA Applauds Amoco/WDEQ Casper Refinery Settlement

RELEASE UPON REQUEST - September 23, 1998

Charles Figur EPA 303/312-6915
Felix Flechas EPA 303/312-6014
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

The agreement, which would settle a Federal District Court (Wyoming) lawsuit, covers all property associated with Amoco's former refinery in Casper. It includes a three-mile long pipeline to "Soda Lake" and the "Soda Lake" surrounding area. It also covers areas considered off-site, but affected by pollution from the facility. EPA Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail backs the consent decree because he believes it will invigorate the clean-up process. "This agreement presents an opportunity for clean-up work to be conducted at an accelerated pace, while taking into account the requirements of the hazardous waste laws and public opinion," Yellowtail remarked.

The consent decree establishes the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) as the primary regulator to oversee necessary corrective actions, which include pollution removal and site restoration. It also allows Amoco to conduct all cleanup under one set of requirements and procedures. EPA also supports the "Collaborative Process," an innovative procedure included in the settlement, which calls for WDEQ, Amoco and the City and County to attempt, in advance, to reach agreement on work to be performed.

EPA points out that two elements of the Collaborative Process are particularly noteworthy. Citizens will have more opportunity for meaningful input into decision-making than usual. Also, WDEQ retains its decision-making responsibility for investigations and cleanup if an agreement is

not reached in a reasonable amount of time through the Collaborative Process.

After much delay and difficulty, EPA looks forward to real progress at the site as actual clean-up activities begin in earnest.

[\[EPA R8 Homepage\]](#) [\[News 1998\]](#) [\[News and Info\]](#) [\[Comments/Questions\]](#) [\[Search EPA\]](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA - CDPHE - DENVER Meeting on Shattuck Sampling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 23, 1998

Jim Hanley, EPA 303-312-6725
Dale Vodehnal, EPA 303-312-6761

DENVER - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the City of Denver met today to discuss ways to address the City's concerns about the contaminants in the groundwater from the Shattuck Chemical Superfund site.

In response to concerns expressed by the City, EPA's emergency response team last Saturday sampled wells, ponds and storm sewers near the site. EPA's Steve Way said, "The City and the State recommended locations to be sampled. This was a joint effort... The results from this sampling will be available next week. As soon as we have this data we will release it." The City was given "splits" of the samples. Splits are portions of the sample that another entity can use to make an independent assessment of the sample.

Since no one is drinking the groundwater, there is no actual exposure threatening human health. This area's groundwater has been contaminated for decades. One source of this contamination is the Shattuck site where radium processing took place. Now that the site has been controlled and the wastes stabilized and capped, groundwater should improve over time. The City, CDPHE and EPA have agreed to work jointly in the future on groundwater issues.

Discussion at today's meeting included the weekend sampling, long-term monitoring plans, additional data needs and what will happen next.

[Shattuck Chemical Company Fact Sheet](#)

[Index to Region 8 Shattuck Information](#)

[\[EPA R8 Homepage\]](#) [\[News 1998\]](#) [\[News and Info\]](#) [\[Comments/Questions\]](#) [\[Search EPA\]](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA TO SAMPLE AT SHATTUCK SITE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 18, 1998

Jim Hanley 303 / 312-6725
Max Dodson 303 / 312-6598
Steve Way 303 / 312-6723

DENVER -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will take water samples beginning Saturday morning, Sept. 19th near the Shattuck Chemical Superfund site. This action is in response to community concerns, as well as those expressed by the City and County of Denver and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment.

EPA plans to take samples from: the South Platte River, a storm sewer which empties into the River, wells on the adjacent Overland Municipal Golf Course and ponds on the Aqua Golf Driving Range.

"State and City officials are eager for answers to questions raised from the recently released data," says EPA Assistant Regional Administrator Max Dodson. "We want that information as quickly as possible. We owe it to the community."

EPA will use the data to determine what future studies or work might be necessary. EPA will make the sampling results public as soon as possible.

[Shattuck Chemical Company Fact Sheet](#)

[Index to Region 8 Shattuck Information](#)

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA RESPONSE TO CITY OF DENVER'S DATA ON SHATTUCK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 17, 1998

Max Dodson, Asst. Regional Administrator 303-312-6598
Barry Levene, EPA Superfund Program 303-312-6807
Eleanor Dwight, Community Involvement Coordinator: 303-312-6813
In Region 8: 1-800-227-8917 plus last 4 digits

DENVER - EPA is very concerned about recent statements by Mayor Webb about the City's ground-water monitoring data in the area of the former Shattuck Chemical site. EPA is currently evaluating the data we received just yesterday.

While preliminary review shows high concentrations in one of ten monitoring wells reported in the City's data, no one uses this ground water as a source of drinking water. Therefore, there is currently no human health threat to anyone in the community from contaminated ground water. In addition, according to the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, the South Platte River meets all water quality standards for protection of human health.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is also evaluating the City's data. CDPHE has historically taken the lead for cleanup at this site, and we will continue to work with that State agency to resolve the community's concerns. The State has demonstrated good leadership in handling similar wastes, such as those at the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute. If the City's data verify the ground-water problem can be attributed to the Shattuck site, EPA, working with the State, will re-evaluate the cleanup decision and take whatever action may be necessary to maintain protection of public health and the environment.

For more information, view the [Shattuck Chemical Company Fact Sheet](#).

EPA will meet with Denver officials next Wednesday, September 23, unless the City can meet with us sooner, to determine if the City's data show problems not detected in previous sampling and to confirm the results of our evaluation. We plan to investigate other possible sources of the contamination because the City's data showed copper, manganese, and zinc, which were not generated by former operations at the Shattuck site. This may be an area-wide ground-water contamination issue not solely attributable to this site which may require further study and we may have to expand the area of analysis.

The Shattuck cleanup plan calls for quarterly ground-water monitoring to assure the effectiveness of the cleanup. If the results of our meeting with the City indicate the schedule for ground water sampling should be changed, we will do that, in addition to re- evaluating site risks.

[Shattuck Chemical Company Fact Sheet](#)
[Index to Region 8 Shattuck Information](#)

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comments/Questions](#) | [Search EPA Site](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Responds to Environmental Justice Charge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 11, 1998

Letters to the Editor
Rocky Mountain News
400 W. Colfax
Denver, CO 80201

Dear Editor:

Is it fair for neighborhoods already beset by environmental problems to be subjected to additional sources of pollution? We think most Americans would answer, "No."

Should government consider whether its decisions would add environmental threats to families already surrounded by many sources of pollution? Most would say, "Yes." That is what EPA advocates in its environmental justice guidelines.

Dave Skinner's August 28th "Speakout" article charges that EPA's draft environmental justice guidance is an Agency ploy to expand its authority. This is not true. EPA, like all government agencies, must comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity or national origin. Nationally, EPA has received more than 50 complaints charging environmental discrimination. We developed these guidelines to help us respond to such complaints fairly and effectively.

Environmental justice is not "emotional pleas and distorted rhetoric," as Mr. Skinner claims. Real children, real families are surrounded by waste dumps and industrial pollution. There are still communities in this country where many children have elevated blood lead levels. Low income, minority neighborhoods are exposed to toxic chemical releases as high as 450 times the national

average. In some of these communities adult cancer rates are soaring.

Mr. Skinner suggests that these conditions are less the result of intentional discrimination than the historic pattern of economic development. Whatever the cause, the resulting risk to present day residents is still the same. The proposed environmental justice guidelines may prevent future government decisions from making the problem worse.

EPA's goal is the fair treatment of all people, regardless of race and income, in the application of environmental laws. That is not political rhetoric. It's our job.

Sincerely,

Carol Rushin
Assistant Regional Administrator
For verification: (303) 312-6053 or
Communications Office at (303) 312-6600

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Westminster, CO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 12, 1998

Charla Colson (303) 312-6280
Jack Rychecky (303) 312-6812
Treatment Plant (303) 452-8010

WESTMINSTER, COLORADO - The Big Dry Creek Water Reclamation Facility has earned a first place excellence award in a six-state region from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Westminster Plant took top honors in regional competition. After placing first in a contest among plants in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, the application was forwarded to Washington D.C. for national competition. The national contest includes plants from all 50 states.

The treatment plant is classified as a medium/secondary plant. It treats an average flow of 6 million gallons of wastewater per day. Its 1997 peak flow was 15 million gallons.

Big Dry Creek serves a population of 90,342 people and covers a 28 square mile area. Its collection system is made up of 356 miles of pipe.

The topics addressed in the application included collection system maintenance, treatment processes, laboratory services, biosolids, and automation.

The collection system maintenance program has been improved by a water line replacement

program and wastewater system maintenance program. It is now using a trenchless technology to rehabilitate damaged sewer lines and control root and grease problems. The trenchless technology has been a success in convenience for residents, completion time, cost, and excavation-less methods.

The plant staff has made several changes resulting in large savings. Outsourcing the laboratory work rather than doing it in-house resulted in a savings of approximately \$315,000 over the last 3 years. Facility modification rather than new construction resulted in a cost savings of \$500,000 and an electrical saving of \$140,000 a year.

The philosophy of the operation of the plant is stated in a letter from Alex Iacovetta, Utilities Operations Manager. He said, "The management and staff have dedicated themselves to exploring new and innovative ways to meet the needs of municipal wastewater treatment and collection."

EPA's operations and maintenance award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment plants.

According to Charla Colson, EPA Region 8 Operations & Maintenance Award Coordinator, "The federal government has spent billions of dollars in the last 20 years on wastewater treatment plants in an effort to keep our waters clean. Plants such as the Big Dry Creek Water Reclamation facility are examples of what we have been promoting. This operation is one of the best in the United States."

The Region 8 Operations & Maintenance Award was presented to Mayor Nancy Heil, Director of Public Works Ron Hellbusch, Acting Plant Supervisor Ray Glasmann and plant staff at the August 10 City Council meeting. EPA Municipal Systems Chief Jack Rychecky was on hand to present the award.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Kimball, South Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 12, 1998

Charla Colson (303) 312-6280
Jack Rychecky (303) 312-6812
Mayor Robert Miller (605) 779-6277

KIMBALL, SOUTH DAKOTA - The City of Kimball Wastewater Treatment Plant has earned a first place excellence award in a six-state region from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Kimball won the small/secondary category in competition with plants from South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The plant treats an average of 137,000 gallons of wastewater each day. It serves a population of about 750.

The facility is operated by Wastewater Superintendent Robert Mashek and Assistant Wastewater Superintendent Norman Munger. Robert Miller, Kimball Mayor, submitted the city's excellence award application to EPA.

Kimball was rated number one in the areas of process control and field monitoring, financial management, staff training, and pollution prevention. Operation of the plant continually focuses on excellence in operation along with financial and environmental savings.

In 1989 the Kimball plant was upgraded to treat combined wastewater and storm water flows. The new design modified the existing facility and added an artificial wetlands. It was designed by Schmucker, Paul, Nohr and Associates of Mitchell, South Dakota.

Construction of the new system resulted in a \$500,000 savings over constructing separate wastewater and storm water systems. This decreased the per capita capital investment requirement by more than \$675. In addition actual annual operation and maintenance costs have proven to be less than projected costs.

Pollution prevention is demonstrated by the discharged water often being of higher quality than that in the receiving stream. Sound financial management has provided a rate that allows some of the revenue to be invested for future needs.

EPA's operations and maintenance award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment plants.

According to Charla Colson, EPA Operations & Maintenance Award Coordinator, "The Kimball Plant and the management of it is a model of America's best. The federal government has contributed approximately 77 billion dollars to the construction of wastewater treatment plants since 1968. Plants such as the one located in Kimball are proof that the money this country has expended to keep its waters clean has been well worth the effort.

Jack Rychecky, EPA Municipal Systems Section Chief, and Ms. Colson presented the award to the City of Kimball at the August 3 City Council Meeting.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Sioux Falls, South Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 12, 1998

Charla Colson (303) 312-6280
Jack Rychecky (303) 312-6812
Sioux Falls Plant (605) 367-7088

SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA - The Sioux Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility has earned a second place excellence award in a six-state region from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Sioux Falls Plant won a second place award in the large advanced treatment category. Advanced plants operate at the most sophisticated level of wastewater treatment available today.

The Sioux Falls facility won its award in competition with plants from South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The award application was submitted by Greg Stack, Operations Supervisor.

The plant treats an average of 13.41 million gallons of wastewater per day. It serves a population of 120,000 which covers a 70 square mile area. The collection system includes 470 miles of pipe.

The plant and staff were rated as excellent in the areas of process control, equipment maintenance management, laboratory management, automation and safety education.

The staff strives to provide quality wastewater treatment in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

By using automation and sound management this goal is achieved.

EPA's operations and maintenance award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment plants.

Charla Colson, EPA Operations & Maintenance Award Coordinator, said "The Sioux Falls Plant is one of America's best. The federal government has contributed approximately 77 billion dollars to the construction of wastewater plants since 1968. Plants such as the one located in Sioux Falls make this investment worth the dollars expended."

Jack Rychecky, EPA Municipal Systems Section Chief, and Ms. Colson presented the award to the Sioux Falls staff at the plant on August 4.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Florence, CO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 21, 1998

Charla Colson (303) 312-6280
Jack Rychecky (303) 312-6812
Treatment Plant (719) 784-6335

FLORENCE, COLORADO - The Fremont Sanitation District has earned a first place excellence award in a six-state region from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The district took top honors in Region 8 competition which includes the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Their application has been forwarded to Washington D.C. for national competition.

The Fremont Sanitation District treats an average of 4.4 million gallons of wastewater each day using advanced techniques. It covers a 47 square mile area. This area includes 2 cities, 1 town, 3 unincorporated settlements, 9 state prisons and 4 federal prisons. The collection system has 130 miles of pipe.

The Fremont District stood out in categories including process control, clarifier modifications, best management practices, automation, staff and training, biosolids control, and collections control.

The mission statement of the staff according to George Medaris, District Manager, is "We care about the quality of water discharged into the environment and work hard to meet permit

requirements at all times." Receiving waters from the wastewater plant include the Arkansas River and Lake Pueblo Reservoir both of which are popular recreation areas.

The most significant impact of best management practices and automation has been the reduction in manpower demands. The district has a staff of 24 to serve a population of 32,000.

EPA's operations and maintenance award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment plants.

According to Charla Colson, EPA Operations & Maintenance Award Coordinator, "The Fremont Sanitation District is a shining example of America's finest. The federal government has contributed approximately 77 billion dollars to the construction of wastewater plants since 1968. Plants, such as the one located in Florence, make this investment worth the dollars expended.

Jack Rychecky, EPA Municipal Facilities Chief, and Ms. Colson will present the award to Medaris and the plant staff at a ceremony on August 18.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Greeley, CO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 21, 1998

Charla Colson (303) 312-6280
Steve Tuber (303) 312-6260
Greeley Plant (970) 350-9812

GREELEY, COLORADO - The Greeley Water Pollution Control facility has earned a first place excellence award in a six-state region from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Greeley facility competed with plants from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. It won in the large/advanced category. Advanced plants operate at the most sophisticated level of wastewater treatment available today.

The plant treats an average of almost 9 million gallons of wastewater per day. Its 1997 peak flow reached 14 million gallons each day. It serves a population of 70,000 which covers a 29.2 square mile area. The collection system includes 270 miles of pipe.

The staff was rated number one in the areas of collection system maintenance management, toxic waste control, laboratory management, process control and field monitoring, equipment maintenance management, public education and plant staffing and training.

The excellent management of this facility is apparent by its many awards since 1988. It has received 2 regional and national EPA Excellence Awards, 6 Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association excellence & safety awards, and several regional and national Operations Challenge

awards.

The operating philosophy of the plant is shown through the following sentence from the award application. "In summary, excellence at the Greeley facility has been largely attributed to the desire of the plant's management team to place strong emphasis on teamwork and cooperation, employee involvement and feedback, and continuously striving to recognize employees as the organization's most important asset."

EPA's operations and maintenance award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment plants.

According to Charla Colson, EPA Operations & Maintenance Award Coordinator, "The Greeley Plant is a shining example of America's finest. The federal government has contributed approximately 77 billion dollars to the construction of wastewater plants since 1968 to keep America's waters clean. Plants, such as the one located in Greeley, make this investment worth the dollars expended."

Steve Tuber, EPA Water Program Director, will present the award to Thomas Dingeman, Plant Superintendent, and the plant staff at a ceremony on August 19 at the treatment plant.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Salt Lake City, UT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 21, 1998

Charla Colson (303) 312-6280
Steve Tuber (303) 312-6260
Treatment Plant (801) 799-4000

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - The Salt Lake Water Reclamation Plant has earned a first place excellence award in a six-state region from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Salt Lake City plant took top honors in Region 8 competition which includes the states of Utah, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The application was forwarded to Washington D.C. to compete nationally.

The Salt Lake City facility treats 36.5 million gallons of wastewater each day using advanced techniques. Advanced plants operate at the most sophisticated level of wastewater treatment available today.

A plant such as this preserves the quality of water over a wide area. The Salt Lake plant serves 350,000 people and covers a 110 square mile area. It has a collection system that is made up of 604 miles of pipe.

Salt Lake City stood out in categories including equipment maintenance, collection system, process control, best management practices, pollution, prevention.

Environmental stewardship is a guiding value for the Salt Lake plant. Water leaving the facility is substantially below required permit limits. A wetlands and has been created and maintained on-site for the nesting of water fowl. A number of studies have been conducted in the wetlands by several agencies and universities.

Even though the plant is 33 years old, it has been upgraded and maintained in excellent condition. The plant's condition is a result of the Salt Lake City Water reclamation Plant mission statement. It pledges to "continuously improve wastewater services which meet or exceed public health and environmental standards while ensuring efficiency and public trust."

EPA's operations and maintenance award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment plants.

Steve Tuber, EPA Water Program Director, will present the award to Jon Adams, Water Reclamation Manager, LeRoy Hooton, Director of Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the plant staff at a ceremony on August 27.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Yellowtail Guest Opinion on Colorado "self-audit" law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 20, 1998

Letters to the Editor
The Denver Post
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202

Editor: Guest Opinion

Recent news stories and editorials in Front Range papers refocused attention on the continuing disagreement between EPA and Colorado over the State's "self-audit" law and environmental enforcement cases. Specific examples included the Denver Water Board, the City of Fort Collins and Colorado State University.

Unfortunately, many of the articles rested on "facts" that were incorrect. Because these cases are still not final, EPA is limited in its ability to provide the whole story. But, here are some things EPA is *not* doing:

- We are *not* "going after" the Denver Water Board for discharging tap water into the South Platte. The discharges EPA is concerned about include heavy metals, organic contaminants, solvents and paint wastes and occurred over more than five years. EPA found some violations through its own investigation and those were not disclosed or corrected as a result of DWB's audit.
- EPA is *not* "overfiling" on a State action against Ft. Collins. The City performed a self-audit and reported-- to EPA and the State--200 potential violations under seven separate statutes. EPA has decided to waive penalties on 192 of those and has entered negotiations

with the city on eight violations that don't qualify under EPA's self-audit policy. Under the State's audit law, State pollution control officials can't even *consider* penalties for violations that are self-disclosed regardless of how severe they are.

- EPA is *not* currently pursuing any enforcement action against CSU. The University had requested immunity from *State* penalties under Colorado's law, for radioactive and hazardous waste violations. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) denied the request and has been seeking a settlement with CSU that includes penalties. EPA has supported that position.
- EPA does *not* oppose self-auditing or compliance incentives for companies. We want companies and municipalities to find, disclose, fix and prevent environmental problems and since 1995 nearly 300 companies have disclosed violations to EPA at more than 1,000 facilities nationally. We have *reduced* or *waived* penalties for more than 450 of those so far.

Self-audits can be good for the environment. What we oppose in State self-audit laws are "blanket" immunity and privilege. Blanket immunity keeps State law enforcers from *considering* penalties for wrongdoing, while blanket privilege prevents the State and the public from learning details of wrongdoing. That, incidentally, seems a curious measure for newspapers to support.

Our critics note that 24 States have self-audit laws. But several of those have already removed either blanket immunity or privilege or both and EPA is working with the remainder to make these necessary changes.

What gives EPA the right to call for changes in State laws?

Since the 1970's, Congress has designed most environmental laws to be implemented by states, assigning EPA an oversight role to assure that every State's programs meet minimum requirements. And for enforcement programs, that includes the *ability* to assess penalties and public access to information.

Supporters of Colorado's law say that only *compliance* is important if a company fixes what it finds wrong-- no penalties should ensue and the public doesn't need to know about it. In our own audit program, we can waive the punitive penalties for most violations when companies come forward voluntarily.

But, where companies profited from non-compliance, we assess a penalty to recover that profit, to keep the economic playing field level for competitors. And, federal enforcement actions and their underlying facts *are* available to the public.

If you report your violations and qualify under the Colorado law, you get away clean, *even* for some criminal violations, those involving serious environmental harm and violations that pose an imminent danger. EPA *cannot* approve a state program that lacks enforcement authority and public interest groups know that. They are already taking steps to force EPA to take back state programs that don't meet minimum requirements, including in Colorado.

EPA is not at war with its State partners. Despite differences, we have taken successful joint actions in many recent high-profile cases: the Hayden power plant, Louisiana-Pacific, Power Engineering, Conoco and Colorado Refining Company to name just a few. We work with the State daily trying to solve these enforcement and audit issues.

We are talking with industry, environmentalists and key State officials to find a solution that meets Colorado's needs *and* minimum federal requirements. We share the same goals: a clean and healthy environment for Colorado *and* incentives and flexibility for industries and municipalities working to comply with complicated environmental laws. We think people of goodwill should be able to find ways to meet those goals.

William P. Yellowtail
Regional Administrator

For verification:
News officer at (303) 312-6780

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

PCB Rules to Change; Meeting Set

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 19, 1998

Dan W. Bench (303) 312-6027
Vaughn Whatley (303) 312-6603
Toll Free 800-227-8917

Denver - Companies and communities that handle toxic PCBs will find that job easier when new Federal rules go into effect at the end of this month.

EPA will describe the new rules at an August 24 meeting at the Holiday Inn Denver Southeast, at I-225 and Parker Rd. from 1 to 8 p.m.

The changes will affect a wide array of businesses and facilities, including utilities, city and county governments, cleanup firms and researchers, said PCB coordinator Dan Bench in Denver. "We want people to know how the new rules will affect their handling of PCBs and how they can meet the new requirements," Bench said.

Insiders have been waiting for this "PCB Amendments" or "PCB Megarule" since December of 1994 when 300 parties sent EPA nearly 5,000 comments on ways to improve management of PCBs.

Changes include:

- more flexibility in cleanup options for "large volume" wastes, tying cleanup to actual risk of the material rather than its original PCB content.
- allowing decontamination of some PCB-contaminated materials without special approval.

- letting facilities involved in disposal research to make or import small amounts of PCBs.
- allows EPA to recognize other Federal or State PCB handling activities as being equivalent to EPA's.
- clarifying 1989 rules dealing with marking and sampling of PCBs for storage and shipment.

Space is limited and participants must register in advance. For more details, or to register, call Dan Bench at (303) 312 6027.

The changes were designed to make PCB handling less costly and burdensome while still protecting public health and the environment. They are expected to cut costs to industry by \$2 billion to \$6 billion per year.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a class of chemicals, clear to yellow oily liquids or solids. They are used as insulating material in electrical transformers and capacitors, in hydraulic and heat transfer fluids, as plasticizers and in many heat and fire sensitive applications. Their major benefit durability is also a problem: They do not break down in the environment. They have caused cancer in laboratory animals and are suspected human carcinogens.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication
and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming**

EPA, Denver-area Refineries Settle Waste Violations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 14, 1998

David Janik EPA (303) 312-6917
Carol Rushin EPA (303) 312-6051
Rich Lathrop EPA (303) 312-6780

DENVER - Conoco, Inc., and Colorado Refining Company (CRC) will fund environmental projects valued at over \$900,000, and pay penalties of more than \$250,000 to settle cases against the oil companies' Commerce City facilities under Federal and State hazardous waste laws.

This action cooperatively settles violations detailed in a 1989 compliance order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) to halt the offsite migration of various hazardous constituents from the refineries. In addition, Conoco has settled a 1996 case with EPA related to alleged hazardous waste generator violations from 1992 to 1995.

As part of the joint settlement, each company has agreed to complete a "supplemental environmental project" (SEP) valued at \$300,000 and pay a \$72,500 cash penalty. Conoco will fund a project that will reduce sulfur air emissions at their facility by about 200 tons per year. Meanwhile, CRC will replace over 2400 feet of underground oil product pipeline with above ground pipeline. In addition, each company is required to evaluate, design, and implement systems to prevent the escape of oil product from facility boundaries and recapture oil product that is presently beneath their property. To settle the 1996 case, Conoco will spend another

\$300,000 on its project and pay an additional penalty of \$112,500.

Carol Rushin, EPA's Assistant Regional Administrator, said "This settlement is an example of the type of environmental benefits that can be obtained when the regulated community and the state and federal agencies work together. We look to these settlements to signal a new era in our relationship with refineries."

Howard Roitman, Director of the CDPHE Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, added, "We believe it is important that the refineries and agencies have committed to a significant cleanup effort that will benefit citizens and the environment in the North Denver community ."

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE In COLORADO - August 12, 1998

BOB BENSON, Region 8 303-312-7070
SONYA PENNOCK, Region 8 303-312-6600
PAULA BRUIN, Region 9 415-744-1587

Denver -- Two public forums to discuss potential perchlorate contamination in the environment will be held later this month in Phoenix, Arizona and Salt Lake City, Utah. The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) which is sponsoring the hearings plans to distribute scientific information on perchlorate, identify additional issues and hear public concerns about the chemical.

Perchlorate is a man-made salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in fireworks. Perchlorate manufacturers estimate that about 90% of the substance is used for solid rocket fuel.

Perchlorate is as soluble as table salt and can last for decades in the environment. It easily dissolves in water and moves through both ground water and surface water. Perchlorate has been detected in 110 public water supply wells in California. It has been found in the Colorado River in Arizona and in surface or ground water in Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland and Arkansas.

In Colorado, large quantities of perchlorate have been sold to companies in Colorado Springs, Englewood, Penrose, and Whitewater. No studies have been conducted in Colorado to determine whether perchlorate can be found in ground or surface water.

The first stakeholder forum will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuesday, August 25, 1998, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. An evening session from 7-9 p.m. will be held in Magna at the Magna Senior Citizens' Center. The Arizona forum will take place August 27, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Arizona State University West.

Forum sessions will cover a broad range of topics including background and occurrence, health effects and toxicology, analytical techniques, ecological impacts, regulatory and policy issues and future stakeholder involvement.

The Steering Committee seeks input from State and Tribal drinking water programs, public water suppliers, public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms and other members of the public. It encourages participation from all stakeholders.

To register for one of the forums, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time or send an E-mail message to: hotline-sdwa@epa.gov. **There is no registration fee for the stakeholder forum; however participants should pre-register.** Those registered by August 17, 1998, will receive a draft agenda, logistics information and discussion papers prior to the forum. For additional information on forum logistics, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee is a working partnership of governmental agencies chartered to coordinate issues related to perchlorate. The members of the committee are: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the California Department of Health Services, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Department of Health Laboratories, the Cocopah Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, and the Quechan Indian Tribe.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE In North Dakota - August 12, 1998

BOB BENSON, Region 8 303-312-7070
SONYA PENNOCK, Region 8 303-312-6600
PAULA BRUIN, Region 9 415-744-1587

Denver -- Two public forums to discuss potential perchlorate contamination in the environment will be held later this month in Phoenix, Arizona and Salt Lake City, Utah. The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) which is sponsoring the hearings plans to distribute scientific information on perchlorate, identify additional issues and hear public concerns about the chemical.

Perchlorate is a man-made salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in fireworks. Perchlorate manufacturers estimate that about 90% of the substance is used for solid rocket fuel.

Perchlorate is as soluble as table salt and can last for decades in the environment. It easily dissolves in water and moves through both ground water and surface water. Perchlorate has been detected in 110 public water supply wells in California. It has been found in the Colorado River in Arizona and in surface or ground water in Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland and Arkansas.

In North Dakota, large quantities of perchlorate have been sold to companies in Fargo, Harwood and Kindred. No studies have been conducted in North Dakota to determine whether perchlorate can be found in ground or surface water.

The first stakeholder forum will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuesday, August 25, 1998, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. An evening session from 7-9 p.m. will be held in Magna, Utah, at the Magna Senior Citizens' Center. The Arizona forum will take place August 27, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Arizona State University West.

Forum sessions will cover a broad range of topics including background and occurrence, health effects and toxicology, analytical techniques, ecological impacts, regulatory and policy issues and future stakeholder involvement.

The Steering Committee seeks input from State and Tribal drinking water programs, public water suppliers, public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms and other members of the public. It encourages participation from all stakeholders.

To register for one of the forums, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time or send an E-mail message to: hotline-sdwa@epa.gov. **There is no registration fee for the stakeholder forum; however participants should pre-register.** Those registered by August 17, 1998, will receive a draft agenda, logistics information and discussion papers prior to the forum. For additional information on forum logistics, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee is a working partnership of governmental agencies chartered to coordinate issues related to perchlorate. The members of the committee are: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the California Department of Health Services, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Department of Health Laboratories, the Cocopah Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, and the Quechan Indian Tribe.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

A Perchlorate Forum Will be Held in Salt Lake City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE In UTAH - August 12, 1998

CAROL SISCO, UDEQ 801-536-4484
SONYA PENNOCK, Region 8 303-312-6600
PAULA BRUIN, Region 9 415-744-1587

Denver -- One of two national public forums to discuss potential environmental perchlorate contamination will be held later this month in Salt Lake City. Perchlorate has been detected in public water supply wells in California, Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland and Arkansas.

Perchlorate contamination became an issue in Utah last year when rocket motor builder Alliant Techsystems, formerly Hercules, discovered elevated levels of the chemical in 400-foot-deep wells on its property in West Valley City, west of Salt Lake City. Lower levels were found at Kennecott Utah Copper's property where officials provided employees with bottled water. Low perchlorate levels also were found in nearby drinking water wells in the Magna area.

Utah will use data gathered by a national perchlorate working group to decide if a perchlorate health standard is needed there.

The Utah forum will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuesday, August 25, 1998, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 168 N. 1950 West, Room 101. An evening session from 7-9 p.m. will be held in Magna, Utah, at the Magna Senior Citizens' Center, 8952 W. 2700 South. A second forum will take place August 27, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Arizona State University West.

Perchlorate is a man-made salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in fireworks. It is as soluble as table salt and can last for decades in the environment.

The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) which is sponsoring the forum plans sessions covering a broad range of topics including background and occurrence, health effects and risks, analytical techniques, environmental impacts, regulatory issues and future stakeholder involvement.

The committee seeks input from State and Tribal drinking water programs, public water suppliers, public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms and other members of the public.

To register for one of the forums, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time or send an E-mail message to: hotline-sdwa@epa.gov. **Registration is free; however, participants should pre-register.**

The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee is a working partnership of governmental agencies chartered to coordinate issues related to perchlorate. The members of the committee are: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the California Department of Health Services, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Department of Health Laboratories, the Cocopah Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, and the Quechan Indian Tribe.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE In WYOMING - August 12, 1998

BOB BENSON, Region 8 303-312-7070
SONYA PENNOCK, Region 8 303-312-6600
PAULA BRUIN, Region 9 415-744-1587

Denver -- Two public forums to discuss potential perchlorate contamination in the environment will be held later this month in Phoenix, Arizona and Salt Lake City, Utah. The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) which is sponsoring the hearings plans to distribute scientific information on perchlorate, identify additional issues and hear public concerns about the chemical.

Perchlorate is a man-made salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in fireworks. Perchlorate manufacturers estimate that about 90% of the substance is used for solid rocket fuel.

Perchlorate is as soluble as table salt and can last for decades in the environment. It easily dissolves in water and moves through both ground water and surface water. Perchlorate has been detected in 110 public water supply wells in California. It has been found in the Colorado River in Arizona and in surface or ground water in Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland and Arkansas.

In Wyoming, large quantities of perchlorate have been sold to a company for use in Mills. No studies have been conducted in Wyoming to determine whether perchlorate can be found in ground or surface water.

The first stakeholder forum will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuesday, August 25, 1998, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. An evening session from 7-9 p.m. will be held in Magna, Utah, at the Magna Senior Citizens' Center. The Arizona forum will take place August 27, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Arizona State University West.

Forum sessions will cover a broad range of topics including background and occurrence, health effects and toxicology, analytical techniques, ecological impacts, regulatory and policy issues and future stakeholder involvement.

The Steering Committee seeks input from State and Tribal drinking water programs, public water suppliers, public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms and other members of the public. It encourages participation from all stakeholders.

To register for one of the forums, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time or send an E-mail message to: hotline-sdwa@epa.gov. **There is no registration fee for the stakeholder forum; however participants should pre-register.** Those registered by August 17, 1998, will receive a draft agenda, logistics information and discussion papers prior to the forum. For additional information on forum logistics, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee is a working partnership of governmental agencies chartered to coordinate issues related to perchlorate. The members of the committee are: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the California Department of Health Services, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Department of Health Laboratories, the Cocopah Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, and the Quechan Indian Tribe.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Colorado Citizens and Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 23, 1998

LARRY WAPENSKY 303 312 6043
RICH LATHROP 303 312 6780
TOLL FREE 1 (800) 227 8917

DENVER--Thirty-one individuals from Colorado and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe received environmental achievement awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver ceremonies on July 23.

Thirteen awardees worked on a project aimed at protecting alpine water sources in San Miguel County. That work led to changes in land use codes in the Telluride area. Awardees included:

San Miguel County Commissioners JIM CRAFT, ART GOODTIMES and ANNA ZIVIAN, and Planning Commissioners CHARLIE KNOX, STEVEN ZWICK, DAVID SCHNECK, APRIL MONTGOMERY and KAREN HENDERSON; MARK WILLIAMS and BARBARA INYAN from the University of Colorado's Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research; WILLIAM FERGUSON, MARC HITCHCOX and KAREN HOLT from the Southwestern Data Center at Ridgeway.

Preventing pollution and cutting or eliminating hazardous wastes in National Parks led to awards for MICHAEL SCHENE of Denver, RICK SHIREMAN of Mesa Verde and AL WILLIAMS of Rocky Mountain National Park.

From Ignacio, Colorado, FRAN KING BROWN was recognized for developing an outstanding

water quality program on the Southern Ute Reservation; LEE BRIGGS and ANN PECK for environmental education programs on the Reservation and CARLOS SENA and MARJORIE BORST of KSUT Public Radio for supporting Tribal recycling programs. Ignacio High School teacher JULIA SOMERS was awarded for an innovative hands-on environmental learning program.

From the metro area, KEN MORIN of the Bureau of Land Management was tapped for greatly improving environmental compliance at scores of BLM holdings in 11 states. JANICE P. MCKEE and DENNIS BUECHLER of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service increased protection for endangered wetlands including peat areas.

MARK TILDEN and DON WHARTON from the Boulder-based Native American Rights Fund were nominated by the Oglala Sioux Indian Tribe for helping them develop natural resource and environmental protection programs.

On the Western Slope, EPA recognized TOM DUNLOP of the Aspen-Pitkin County Health Department for "extraordinary leadership" over the 14-year history of the controversial Smuggler Mountain Superfund cleanup in Aspen. MIKE CLAFFEY from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Grand Junction office was tapped for his role in settling a long running and contentious enforcement action on the Roaring Fork River. U.S. Justice Department attorney DAVID KAPLAN of Washington, DC shared in that award.

MIKE FROST, who directed Southern Ute environmental programs for seven years, received the A. Wade Vitalis Award posthumously. Frost died in January. The Vitalis award recognizes outstanding contributions to environmental protection in Indian Country and nominations must come from members of the 27 tribes in EPA's Region 8. Vitalis directed water quality programs for the Oglala Sioux in Pine Ridge, South Dakota and was one of the early architects of tribal environmental programs in the Region.

EPA Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail said

"While big environmental conflicts make more news, the real work of environmental protection goes on more quietly, day in and day out. For every newsy confrontation, there are hundreds of quiet successes. That's what we celebrate with our awards, those successes and the people responsible for them."

The Colorado and Ute awardees are among 18 groups and 117 individuals from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Indian Nations to receive awards this year. Some 735 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

EDITORS:For details on any awardee, please contact his or her nominator:

- San Miguel -- Nat Miullo -- 303 312 6233
- National Parks -- Marie Zanowick -- 303 312 6403
- Southern Utes -- Cheryl Wisecamp -- 970 563 0135
- Somers -- Fran King Brown -- 970 563 0135
- Morin -- Dianne Thiel -- 303 312 6389
- McKee/Buechler -- Sarah Fowler -- 303 312 6192
- Tilden/Wharton -- John Yellow Bird Steele -- 605 867 5821
- Dunlop -- Barry Levene -- 303 312 6807
- Claffey/Kaplan -- John Brink -- 303 312 6214
- Frost -- Cheryl Wisecamp -- 970 563 0135

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Montana Citizens and Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 23, 1998

LARRY WAPENSKY 303-312-6043
RICH LATHROP 303-312-6780
TOLL FREE 800-227-8917

DENVER-- Three Montanans and a representative of the Fort Peck Tribes received environmental achievement awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in ceremonies in Denver on July 23.

Ten-year-old ISAAC OPPER of Lewistown will be recognized for his persistence in focusing attention on PCB contamination in Big Spring Creek. His work initiated a wave of community concern and activity toward finding the source of the PCBs and solutions for the problem. Grant applications now before Federal agencies could lead to detailed assessments of the area in coming months.

The development of "biocriteria" for assessing water quality in streams on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation earned an award for DEBI MADISON, environmental director of the Ft. Peck Tribes. Traditional methods of measuring levels of chemicals at specific points on a stream are difficult in large rural areas where most pollution comes from "non-point" sources such as runoff. (Ft. Peck covers two million acres). Examining streams for the numbers, kinds and health of stream organisms (biocriteria) can tell much about the water quality.

CAROLYN A. FOX, a 15-year veteran of the Montana Department of Environmental Health and Sciences, now Department of Environmental Quality, is recognized for developing and managing

Montana's "Superfund" program which has cleaned up scores of hazardous waste sites in the state. Ms. Fox also did extensive work developing a system for allocating cleanup costs to those responsible for contamination under the state's new Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act.

A "Friend of EPA" award goes to SUZETTE MUL'E, a high-school science teacher in Brockton, on the Fort Peck Reservation. "We need more teachers like her," said her nominator, Vina Smith, environmental educator for the Fort Peck Tribes.

EPA Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail said,

"While big environmental conflicts make more news, the real work of environmental protection goes on more quietly, day in and day out. For every newsy confrontation, there are hundreds of quiet successes. That's what we celebrate with our awards, those successes and the people responsible for them."

The Montana and Fort Peck awardees are among 18 groups and 117 individuals from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Colorado and Indian Nations to receive awards this year. Some 735 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

EDITORS:For details on any awardee, please contact his or her nominator:

- o Opper -- Ayn Schmit -- 303 312 6220
- o Madison -- David Moon -- 303 312 6833
- o Fox -- Mark Simonich -- 406 444 2544
- o Mul'e -- Vina Smith -- 406 768 5155

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Presents Environmental Awards To North Dakota Citizens and Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 23, 1998

LARRY WAPENSKY 303-312-6043
RICH LATHROP 303-312-6780
TOLL FREE 800-227-8917

DENVER-- Eleven North Dakotans received environmental achievement awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in ceremonies in Denver on July 23. The Agency will honor:

GLEND A FAUSKE, an employee of the North Dakota Forest Service in Bottineau, for creating the State's environmental education plan and helping to build a statewide coalition of some sixty organizations working together on a balanced approach to conservation and environmental education.

CHRISTINE ROOB of Bismarck, for exceptional work for the North Dakota Department of Health dealing with hazardous waste management and cleanups around the State. Her work with Williston's Flying J Refinery and Amoco's Mandan Refinery "translates into an improvement of the environment at both facilities and the State," according to Neil Knatterud, waste management director for the Department.

The Health Department's Municipal Facilities Division for outstanding emergency response to the April 18, 1997 Grand Forks flood: Director JACK LONG, environmental engineers CHARLES ABEL, DARIN BILLING, DAVID BRUSCHWEIN, JOHN HOMELVIG, WAYNE KERN and GARY REED and environmental scientists RALPH RIEDINGER and LARRY THELE. Working day and night and on-call around the clock, these employees worked with other emergency

responders to restore drinking water to the flood- stricken area within three weeks, much quicker than experts' predictions.

EPA Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail said,

"While big environmental conflicts make more news, the real work of environmental protection goes on more quietly, day in and day out. For every newsy confrontation, there are hundreds of quiet successes. That's what we celebrate with our awards, those successes and the people responsible for them."

The awardees are among 18 groups and 117 individuals from North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Indian Nations to receive awards this year. Some 735 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

EDITORS: For details on any awardee, please contact the nominator:

- o Fauske -- Robert Tubbs -- 701-328-5166
- o Roob -- Neil Knatterud -- 701-328-5166
- o Municipal Facilities -- Francis Schwindt -- 701-328-5150

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA Site](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Wyoming Citizens and Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 1998

Larry Wapensky EPA 303/312-6043
Rich Lathrop EPA 303/312-6780
Toll Free EPA 800/227-8917

WHO:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT:

Will present awards for Environmental Achievement to individuals, groups and organizations from Wyoming, as well as Utah, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. These external awards recognize significant accomplishments that protect the public health, well-being and/or the environment.

WHEN:

Thursday, July 23, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE:

Denver, Colorado at the U.S. West Auditorium, located at 17th and Curtis Streets.

WHY:

- Jason Marsden, of the Casper Star Tribune, is receiving an achievement award for outstanding print reporting on environmental issues related to the former Amoco refinery in Casper. His coverage increased community awareness, understanding and discourse about health and environmental issues associated with the refinery. For more information contact: Felix Flechas at 303/312-6014.
- Tony Malmberg, is being recognized by EPA for outstanding environmental stewardship at the Three Quarter Circle Ranch near Lander, Wyoming. Tony's management of the ranch demonstrates that a healthy, thriving environment and a prosperous, profitable ranching business need not be mutually exclusive, rather, they can be mutually beneficial. For more information contact: Roger Dean at 303/312-6947.
- Tim Hudson showed superior environmental stewardship with his work in the Headwaters Recycling Coalition at Yellowstone National Park. He is credited with establishing and implementing environmental protection practices and community partnerships at the Park. For more information contact: Marie Zanowick at 303/312-6403.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Utah Citizens and Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 1998

Larry Wapensky EPA 303/312-6043
Rich Lathrop EPA 303/312-6780
Toll Free EPA 800/227-8917

WHO:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT:

Will present awards for Environmental Achievement to individuals, groups and organizations from Utah, as well as Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. These external awards recognize significant accomplishments that protect the public's health, well-being and/or the environment.

WHEN:

Thursday, July 23, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE:

Denver, Colorado at the U.S. West Auditorium, located at 17th and Curtis Streets.

WHY:

- David Ovard, the Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District and the Salt Lake Valley Ground Water Protection Coalition constitute 39 of the Environmental Achievement awardees. The team, which included 26 individuals, 12 governments and one engineering firm, worked on a county-wide effort to develop a drinking-water protection ordinance. For more information contact: Bill Damery at 801/538- 6146.
- Eva Nieminski is receiving an achievement award for creating a nationally acknowledged workgroup called the Utah Water Quality Alliance, which included the five largest water utilities and the State health lab. She is also being recognized for her efforts on the Information Collection Rule and removal of *Cryptosporidium Parvum* in drinking water. For more information contact: Kevin Brown at 801/536- 4200.
- Russell J. Topham of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, while performing his normal daily work, also managed to sample ground-water sources for surface-water influence. As a result, 1,684 community and non-community water systems have been declared to be either surface-water influenced or purely ground-water sources. For more information contact: Kevin Brown at 801/536-4200.
- Michael Castagnetto showed leadership in eliminating hazardous waste at Bryce Canyon National Park. He also is involved in creating an innovative integrated solid waste management plan. For more information contact: Marie Zanowick at 303/312-6403.
- Don Durban reduced hazardous wastes generated at Dinosaur National Park and led the development of a communication program on hazardous wastes. For more information contact: Marie Zanowick at 303/312-6403.
- Tim Brown and the Utah Society for Environmental Education is receiving an award for outstanding community environmental leadership, outreach and environmental justice education. For more information contact: Sonja Wallace at 801/536-4477.
- Southwire Company of West Jordan, will receive an award for outstanding waste minimization and pollution prevention programs that have reduced and prevented waste and pollutants at the source. For more information contact: Sonja Wallace at 801/536-4477.
- Paul Zaln, the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program team and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality are being recognized by EPA for innovation in developing and

carrying out risk- based corrective actions in UST cleanups. Their actions helped to clean up sites faster, cheaper and more efficiently. For more information contact: Sandy Stavnes at 303/312-6117.

- Penny Jones, of the Southeast Utah Group, is being recognized for outstanding leadership on environmental issues ranging from cleanup of an abandoned landfill to coordinating a pilot project to assess chemical hazards for emergency-response planning. For more information contact: Marie Zanolick at 303/312-6403.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Presents Environmental Awards To South Dakota Citizens and Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 1998

Larry Wapensky EPA 303/312-6043
Rich Lathrop EPA 303/312-6780
Toll Free EPA 800/227-8917

WHO:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT:

EPA will present the Frank DeCouteau Award, Friend of EPA Award and Environmental Achievement Award, to individuals, groups and organizations from South Dakota. The Agency also will present awards in the last two categories to others from Utah, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming. The Frank DeCouteau Award recognizes outstanding contributions to environmental protection or advancement by a Tribal team, staff employee or Tribal member (given in memory of Frank DeCouteau of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians). The "Friend of EPA" Award honors those who support or assist EPA in performing its mission. The Environmental Achievement Award recognizes significant accomplishments that protect the public health, well-being and/or the environment.

WHEN:

Thursday, July 23, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE:

Denver, Colorado at the U.S. West Auditorium, located at 17th and Curtis Streets.

WHY:

- The Badlands Bombing Range Project Team will receive the Frank DeCouteau Award for innovative effort leading to the cleanup of the Badlands Bombing Range. Beginning in 1993, the Team's work has ranged from assessing the extent of the contamination on the range and its potential safety risk, to performing sampling and analysis work that helps guide and monitor the environmental restoration of the range, to developing an extensive environmental information database that will help steer residential and commercial development of the area. In addition, an extensive community education and involvement program was established to provide for open discussion of issues, ideas and cleanup approaches. For more information contact: Jim Lehr at 303/312-7046
- A "Friend of EPA" Award goes to Morris Forsting, an Environmental Analyst for the City of Sioux Falls Health Department's Sanitary Landfill, for his outstanding assistance to EPA's Emergency Response Coordinators in cleanup activities at the Fawick Park Sites. Morris worked to provide a city landfill to dispose of the contaminated soil and he was able to supply backfill materials used to restore the Park. These efforts saved EPA about \$1.75 million. In addition, he greatly enhanced the relationship among the State of South Dakota, City of Sioux Falls and EPA through his knowledge of state, local and federal rules and procedures and with his ability to explain EPA's actions and intentions to other agencies. For more information contact: Steve Hawthorn at 303/312-6061.
- EPA will present Awards for Environmental Achievement to 24 individuals from South Dakota's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (announced earlier by SDDENR). The awards include: work on shallow ground water monitoring and protection, efforts to clean up the Ellsworth Air Force Base Superfund Site, carrying out risk-based corrective actions in underground storage tank cleanups and creative development of a SDDENR website. For names of the awardees or more information contact: Vicki Murray at 605/773-5559 or Janet Lacomb at 303/312-6287.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

The last truck of radioactive and hazardous waste...

will leave the RAMP Industries site. Community residents are invited to celebrate.

WHEN: Friday, July 10 at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: 1127 W. 46th Ave. (Corner of 46th and Lipan)

WHAT ELSE:

The EPA began cleanup of the abandoned radioactive and hazardous waste site in August 1994. More than 4,000 barrels of waste have been moved out of the neighborhood. The site is located adjacent to a residential community.



Please call Erna Waterman at 303-312-6762 or Wendy Thomi at 303-312-6025 for more details on the RAMP site or the event.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS - June 9, 1998

Wendy Thomi 303-312-6025

WHO: Representatives from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the City and County of Denver.

WHAT: Open house to discuss metals contamination in North Denver soil with area residents

WHEN: 5 - 7 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 1998

WHERE:

Swansea Recreation Center
2650 E. 49th Ave.
Denver, CO

At the request of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, EPA sampled soil in Swansea, Elyria and nearby neighborhoods this Spring. The sampling was part of an investigation into the possible presence of high levels of metals, primarily arsenic and lead, in soil. Property owners whose yards were sampled have received the results for their properties. At this meeting EPA will describe what it learned about metals in soil and the next steps the Agency proposes to take to deal with the identified soil contamination problems.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Judge grants Injunction over "financial assurance" in Power Engineering Case

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 18, 1998

Mike Risner, EPA (303) 312-6890
Tom Sitz, EPA (303) 312-6918
Howard Roitman, CDPHE (303) 692-3397

DENVER -- A U.S. District Court judge has ordered Power Engineering Co. (PEC) of Denver to provide \$3.5 million in financial assurance to guarantee cleanup of hazardous wastes including chromium, lead and acids at its plant site at 2525 South Delaware St. in Denver.

In a June 10 order, Judge Lewis T. Babcock granted a preliminary injunction sought by the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency partly to assure that taxpayers not wind up with the bill for cleaning up the facility. The injunction orders PEC to comply with financial assurance regulations adopted by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE).

In its metal refinishing operations, PEC produces more than 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month. Its thirteen separate "waste streams" include arsenic, lead, mercury and hexavalent chromium, a known carcinogen. State health officials measured chromium concentrations in liquid leaking from air scrubbers on the site at 250,000 parts per million, 50,000 times the concentration allowed in soil. That leak was stopped but soil contamination remains.

A plume of chromium contamination in groundwater begins at the facility and extends 3,310 feet to the northwest, to the South Platte River. EPA tested that plume in 1997 and found levels nearly

800 times State toxicity levels.

The facility has never had a permit to treat, store or dispose of hazardous wastes and the defendants "have failed to comply in good faith with the requirements of federal and state law for approximately two decades" Judge Babcock wrote in his order.

The judge wrote "Colorado citizens have a right to expect contamination- free groundwater and soils, a clean river, and a concerted, honest cleanup effort from a company that benefitted from multiple years of violation of RCRA." That record, the defendants' "recent threats of bankruptcy and a recent pattern of asset divestiture cause me to suspect their motives and intentions," he wrote.

RCRA, is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the nation's basic hazardous waste law. It tracks and regulates hazardous waste from where it was created through storage, transport, treatment and disposal "from cradle-to- grave." Everyone in the chain from generator to disposer is regulated by EPA or an EPA-approved State agency.

The defendants argued that they had stopped their illegal treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes and therefore financial assurance requirements did not apply to them. The judge rejected that position and found that disposal of hazardous waste is continuing at the PEC facility.

Further, the judge stated that "even assuming that defendants do not currently dispose of waste, I hold that the United States may require defendants to provide financial assurances for (their) admitted prior acts of treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes."

Carol Rushin, EPA's enforcement director in Denver said the Agency was pleased with the decision. "The Court confirmed our position that the financial assurance requirements attach to the PEC facility until the environmental damage caused by the facility is finally remediated."

CDPHE's hazardous materials director Howard Roitman said, "This decision is important to insuring that the necessary resources are available to get this facility and the surrounding neighborhood cleaned up."

The injunction is only the most recent in a series of legal actions brought by Justice, EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment against PEC, Redoubt Ltd., which owns the land and buildings leased to PEC, and Richard J. Lilienthal, owner and president of PEC.

Last August, Colorado and the United States sued PEC in State and Federal courts respectively, seeking cash penalties and to force PEC to stop illegal hazardous waste practices and clean up the contamination. While the defendants have stopped some illegal practices and made some improvements, serious soil and groundwater contamination continues and a State fine of \$1.1 million remains unpaid.

CDPHE became aware of the chromium plume through the efforts of Denver's Department of Environmental Health. Denver monitors water entering the South Platte in the vicinity of the PEC site on an ongoing basis.

The defendants have 30 days to comply with the order or show cause why they have not complied.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Questions and Answers About EPA's Annual Toxics Release Inventory Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 18, 1998

Jack Salter, EPA (303) 312-6026
Joyel Dhieux, EPA (303) 312-6447
Cheryl Turcotte, EPA (303) 312-6210

Toxics Release Inventory Questions & Answers

■ **What is TRI?**

- The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is an annual report of toxic chemical pollution released into the environment by businesses throughout the country. It is available so EPA, other levels of government and the public can analyze industries' progress toward reducing pollution. It also allows individuals to monitor contamination coming from facilities located near residential communities.

■ **Why does EPA require companies to report their toxic releases?**

- The need for this report stems from an accidental toxic gas release from a Union Carbide chemical plant in Bhopal, India, in 1984. More than 2,500 people died.

As a result of these and other accidents, more than 30 states now have laws that provide workers and residents with access to information about hazardous substances in their workplaces and communities.

In 1986, Congress passed the Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know

Act (EPCRA) making previously voluntary reporting programs mandatory. Under EPCRA's Section 313, specific manufacturing facilities must annually report on their toxic releases into the air, land and water.

- **Are the releases dangerous to communities?**
 - The TRI information is not designed to show if chemical releases pose potential health or environmental hazards. Rather, the reports divulge how many pounds of chemicals companies release, dispose, treat, recycle, etc. EPA toxicologists, however, use TRI, and other data, to assess risks from some chemical releases.

- **Why should people care about the TRI?**
 - TRI helps communities with emergency planning. In addition, people have a right-to-know what substances companies produce and discharge into their environment. TRI acts as a tool communities can use to discover types and amounts of toxic chemicals released in or near their neighborhoods. If citizens object to chemical releases in their area, they can pressure facilities to use pollution prevention and source reduction techniques to decrease releases.

- **Who must report?**
 - Manufacturing facilities meeting all the following criteria must report:
 - facilities described within Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 20-39, and
 - have 10 full-time employees or more (equivalent to 20,000 work hours/year), and
 - manufacture, handle or process 25,000 pounds or otherwise use 10,000 pounds per year of a toxic chemical listed under Section 313 of EPCRA.

- **What happens to companies that do not report toxic releases or fail to report properly?**
 - EPA may assess civil penalties for reporting violations. Any company owner or operator who violates the law is liable for up to \$25,000 a day for each violation. In addition, private citizens may file lawsuits to force a company to obey the law.

- **Does EPA use the information contained in the TRI to penalize companies for pollution violations?**
 - No. But EPA can use the data to verify if releases comply with a company's permits for air, waste and water. Also, the Agency uses TRI data to track industries' progress toward cutting or eliminating toxic chemical releases and wastes.

- **How does the pollution prevention aspect of the report work and why does EPA require it?**
 - As part of the 1990 Pollution Prevention Act (PPA), facilities must (previously

optional) report pollution reduction and prevention activities. EPA added Section 8 to the standard TRI Form R report. This section requires facilities to report total releases; releases from catastrophic events; toxic materials recycled, converted into energy, or treated.

Section 8 also requires facilities to report any activities they engage in to reduce pollution sources. This information allows businesses and communities to assess progress made at reducing toxic chemical use and production.

- **Has EPA recently added any chemicals to the required reporting list?**
 - In December 1994, EPA added 286 chemicals to EPCRA's Section 313 list. These chemicals were subject to reporting in the 1995 reporting year. About one-half of these chemicals are pesticides. In addition, several chemicals were removed from the TRI list in the 1993 & 1994 reporting years. The chemicals taken off the list were acetone, ammonium salts and liquid forms of hydrochloric and sulfuric acid.

- **Has EPA recently added any new industrial sectors to the list of those that must report? If so, when must those newly added sectors begin reporting their toxic releases?**
 - On April 22, 1997, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expanded industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air water and land in communities across the country.

The new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities (including electric utilities), in seven industrial sectors, to report their annual toxic releases beginning with the 1998 reporting year. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions.

The seven new industrial sectors categories added under the right-to-know program are: metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities (those that use coal and oil as fuel), commercial hazardous waste treatment, petroleum bulk terminals, chemical distributors and solvent recovery services. These categories will join the 20 others already reporting on toxic releases. Companies within these industrial sectors must begin reporting in 1998; these figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999.

June 18, 1998 Press Release:

[EPA's Denver Office Releases Regional Toxic Chemical Pollution Figures](#)

[Region 8 EPCRA/TRI Homepage](#)

If unable to reach the technical [specialists listed at the top](#), contact:
Vaughn Whatley, EPA Press Office - (303) 312-6603

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA's Denver Office Releases Regional Toxic Chemical Pollution Figures

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 18, 1998

Jack Salter, EPA (303) 312-6026
Joyel Dhieux, EPA (303) 312-6447
Cheryl Turcotte, EPA (303) 312-6210

DENVER -- The Environmental Protection Agency today issued its annual report detailing toxic releases into air, water and land. Nationally, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) revealed total chemical releases of 2.4 billion pounds in 1996 (the most recent reporting year), compared to 2.5 billion pounds in 1995, for chemicals reported in both years.

The TRI program requires companies to publicly report the amounts of toxic chemicals their manufacturing facilities annually release into the air, water and land. Among the information contained in the TRI report is a listing of states, based on the amount of chemicals released into the environment (in descending order from the most releases to the least).

Officials from EPA's Denver regional office observed that individual state figures for its six-state region showed overall positive results. Several states within the region reduced or maintained their level of chemical releases into the environment and as a result moved down in rank or held their previous year's position in the report.

However, as a region, onsite releases of toxic chemicals showed a net increase of four percent from about 146 million pounds in 1995 to 152 million pounds in 1996. "Many businesses in the region are working to reduce, and even eliminate entirely, chemical pollution near residential

communities," said EPA's Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail. "Yet, as the 1996 TRI report shows, work still needs to be done to prevent any further erosion of past gains in cutting toxic pollution."

1996 TRI figures for states within Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) revealed:

- Colorado ranked 44th nationally, one slot lower than the position it held in the 1995 report (43rd). The 177 Colorado companies required to report, divulged that 4,589,824 pounds of toxic chemicals were released onsite during 1996. This represents a slight increase from the 4,575,426 pounds of onsite releases in 1995.
- Montana ranked 18th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released, retaining the same position it held in 1995. Montana held its position despite a 10 percent increase of onsite chemical releases. The 27 facilities in the state reportedly released 48,443,987 pounds of pollutants in 1996, compared to 43,891,840 pounds in 1995.
- North Dakota facilities overall reported a net decrease in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged into the environment during the 1996 calendar year. The state ranked 48th nationwide, maintaining the position it held in EPA's 1995 TRI report. The state's 35 facilities reportedly released 2,322,354 pounds of chemicals onsite in 1996; compared to 2,561,837 pounds the previous year.
- South Dakota ranked 43rd nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released in 1996. The state's ranking position in the previous year's report is no longer valid because facilities throughout South Dakota are currently updating inaccurate 1995 release data totals. Therefore, a comparison between the two years is not possible. The 68 companies that submitted reports for the 1996 report disclosed that 5,059,769 pounds of toxic chemicals were released into the environment that year.
- Utah ranked 7th for the amount of toxic chemicals released onsite in 1996; it ranked 10th in the previous year's report. In 1996 a total of 144 Utah facilities reportedly released 81,986,149 pounds of toxic chemicals into the environment, an increase from the 76,321,734 pounds of onsite releases in the 1995 calendar year.
- Wyoming ranked 36th nationwide in the amount of chemicals released in 1996; it ranked 35th in the previous report. 31 Wyoming facilities reported a net decrease in the total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged. The facilities reported that their onsite releases dropped to 9,634,592 pounds in 1996, from 11,002,562 pounds in 1995.

The TRI serves as a monitor of wastes generated and transferred, as well as, pollution prevention methods practiced by manufacturing facilities in the United States. The report, required under the

1986 Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act, allows EPA, the states, businesses and the public to gauge industry's progress toward reducing toxic chemical pollution.

"Companies are discovering that pollution prevention is a good idea and even profitable because waste disposal needs are diminished," added Yellowtail. "This shows how effective it is to stop pollution before it happens. Those employing pollution prevention technology should be applauded and encouraged to continue."

In April, 1997, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across the country.

"Community Right-to-Know protections provide a basic informational tool to encourage informed community-based environmental decision-making," said Yellowtail. "The report provides communities with the means to help curb pollution and reduce health risks, while acting as a strong incentive for businesses to find innovative ways of preventing pollution."

The new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin reporting their annual toxic releases in 1998. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions.

The TRI is available in several formats. Many public libraries have the data release. Individuals also can purchase it on CD-ROM, computer diskettes or access it on-line at either:

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro>

or <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri>

For data-use assistance, call (202) 260-1531 or fax a request to (202) 401-2347. EPA also maintains a national technical hotline at 1-800-535-0202 to help individuals and businesses understand TRI and the reporting requirements.

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the TRI, access the [Region 8 TRI FAQ web page](#).

[Region 8 EPCRA/TRI Homepage](#)

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Oil Pit Cleanups Ordered in Montana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 15, 1998

Eric Finke, EPA (406) 441-1130 ext. 239
Sheldon Muller, EPA (303) 312-6916

HELENA, MT -- Responding to the threat oily ponds pose to health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last week issued cleanup orders to the owners of two oil facilities in Montana: Murphy Exploration and Production Company, Inc. near Poplar and Blackford Energy Company near Roundup.

These actions are part of a larger, regional effort led by EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In the fall of 1996, EPA and the FWS partnered with state, tribal, local, other federal agencies and representatives of the oil industry to address the threats oil pits and ponds pose to migratory birds, other wildlife and to the environment. Initial work began in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, expanding into North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah.

Each year an estimated two million birds die nationwide when they mistake oily ponds for fresh water and land there. They become trapped and soon die from exposure or suffocation. Birds and other animals may die from oil they ingested while trying to clean their feathers or fur.

In addition to harming wildlife, improperly managed pits and ponds can also damage the environment and threaten human health. Oil can contaminate surrounding soil and seep into nearby surface water and ground water.

This week's action is the result of cooperation among EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation to correct

environmental problems at these types of facilities.

The orders require the facility operators immediately to:

- implement permanent measures to keep wildlife out of oil pits and ponds;
- maintain the effectiveness of these measures; and
- clean up and properly dispose of any oily soils outside the protected area.

EPA may be issuing similar orders at other facilities in the near future.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

MURRAY SMELTER CONSENT DECREE LODGED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 9, 1998

Eleanor Dwight: 303-312-6813
1-800-227-8917 x6813
Matt Cohn: 303-312-6853

DENVER - The Department of Justice, on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency, yesterday lodged a consent decree in the U. S. District Court in Salt Lake City settling the government's claims against Asarco, Incorporated and other parties for the Murray Smelter site in Murray, Utah.

Under the consent decree, Asarco will clean up contamination at the site and reimburse the government for money it has spent there. The other parties, who are landowners at the site, agreed to provide access for the cleanup and to comply with "institutional controls" designed to protect public health and the environment. Institutional controls include deed restrictions and restrictions on zoning changes.

The City of Murray, which helped shape this settlement, has agreed to implement and enforce many of the institutional controls. The consent decree also resolves potential claims that Asarco has against federal agencies for their involvement at the Murray Smelter.

The cleanup being performed by Asarco is described in a "Record of Decision", which EPA signed on April 1, 1998. The Record of Decision calls for excavation and removal of arsenic contaminated soils from specific areas where the smelter was located, natural attenuation of shallow ground water contaminated by that arsenic, and the excavation and removal of soils contaminated with lead in twelve residential yards. In addition restrictions will be placed on land

use and the use of groundwater.

The lodging of the consent decree begins a thirty-day period during which interested parties may comment. At the end of that time, if the government still believes this settlement is in the public interest, a motion will be filed with the court to formally approve the consent decree.

Copies of the consent decree are available at:

Murray Public Library
166 East 5300 South
Murray, UT 84107

EPA Superfund Records Center
999 18th St. Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202

Comments may be sent to:

Assistant Attorney General of the Environment
and Natural Resources Division
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Refer to: [U.S. v. Asarco, Incorporated...et al](#)

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA ISSUES COMPLAINT TO SPANISH FORK, UTAH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 21, 1998

Bob Harding (303) 312-6504
Mike Risner (303) 312-6890
EPA NEWS 1-800-227-8917 x 6780

DENVER- - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver filed a complaint Monday against the City of Spanish Fork, Utah for hundreds of water pollution violations over the last five years and proposed a penalty of \$99,000.

According to the Agency, the wastewater treatment plant at Spanish Fork has discharged chlorine and coliform bacteria, in some instances hundreds of times over its permitted limits, repeatedly since December 1993. The plant discharges to Dry Creek, a tributary of Utah Lake.

Utah's Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) issued a notice of violation and order to the city in April 1996, also for chlorine and bacteria, but closed out that action in May 1997 after the city had been in compliance with chlorine limits for three months. While Spanish Fork installed dechlorination equipment in December 1996, violations returned in the summer and fall of 1997 and in January of this year. There were no violations in February or March.

UDEQ has had authority to issue discharge permits and to enforce against violators in Utah since 1987, but EPA remains responsible for assuring that minimum federal standards are met.

An issue in the Spanish Fork case that contributes to the penalty amount is "economic benefit." When companies or cities save or make money as a result of being out of compliance, EPA often

seeks to recover those "savings" in the penalty. EPA's complaint notes that Spanish Fork realized such an economic benefit by not installing needed pollution control equipment for five years while violating its permit limits.

The city can contest the penalty and seek a hearing before an administrative law judge within 20 days. EPA also encourages settlements through informal conferences.

Monday's action also opens a 30-day period for public comment. The complaint and other documents are available for public review at EPA's Denver offices, 999 18th Street. Interested parties can receive a mail copy by calling (800) 227-8917, extension 6765.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA, COLORADO SETTLE WITH PLATTE CHEMICAL COMPANY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 8, 1998

Mike Risner (303) 312-6890
Rich Lathrop (303) 312-6780
or 1-800-227-8917 x6780

DENVER-- Platte Chemical Company of Greeley and its affiliate Balcom Chemical will pay more than \$1.2 million in special projects and penalties to settle complaints brought against the pesticide producers under Federal and State hazardous waste laws.

Last March, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency filed a complaint charging Platte with 752 counts of mishandling hazardous wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and 4 violations of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. In 1994, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) issued a compliance order to the firm, charging various violations of the State's Hazardous Waste Act. Today's action settles both those cases.

Platte will pay \$203,311 in cash penalties but the bulk of the settlement will fund "supplemental environmental projects." For example, sending used pesticide containers to landfills risks release of pesticide residues to the environment. Platte will instead recycle its used containers into reusable shipping pallets and other industrial products, receiving credit for an expenditure of about \$ 1,112,267.

The company also agreed to spend an estimated \$148,000 working with a multi-agency "Chemsweep" program to collect and properly dispose of unused farm pesticides in northeastern

Colorado or with the City of Greeley in a household hazardous waste collection program.

Platte will submit periodic progress reports on the environmental projects to EPA and CDPHE. All the projects must be finished by April 1, 2001. The company must also continue to comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and rules.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Brownfields Pilot Grant Announced for Missoula, MT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 6, 1998

Rosemary Rowe (406) 441-1150/224
Kathie Atencio (303) 312-6803
TOLL FREE - 800-227-8917 X6780

DENVER-- Redevelopment of two Missoula former wood products manufacturing sites received a \$200,000 boost today in the form of a "Brownfields Pilot Grant" from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Brownfields are abandoned facilities or pieces of land where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Uncertainties about liability and cleanup costs discourage investors and developers.

Key objectives for the Missoula project include the following:

- Inventory brownfields sites in the Missoula community.
- Work with all affected parties to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts of brownfields in the community.
- Develop community-wide cleanup and redevelopment priorities.
- Work with two targeted sites to identify costs, risks, and other barriers to cleanup and redevelopment.

In a December 1997 letter to EPA, Missoula Mayor Mike Kadas noted that the Missoula community "is no stranger to successfully confronting issues of growth, environmental cleanup,

affordable housing, and economic development." The brownfields redevelopment effort "fits well within the context of recent and ongoing urban area growth management and neighborhood comprehensive planning."

A Brownfields Stakeholder Working Group, made up of neighborhood representatives, environmental experts, local government officials, representatives of target properties, financial institutions, economic assessment and development professionals, developers, business owners, and land use planners will guide the project.

The Group chose the White Pine Sash site on the north side of town and the Champion Intermountain Mill site along the south bank of the Clark Fork River as models for redevelopment of brownfields in the area.

In Missoula, there is community-wide concern that development of these sites has been impeded primarily by both real and perceived environmental contamination. This threat has affected the adjacent neighborhoods by causing businesses in the area to shut down or relocate, property values to decline, and the overall community appearance to suffer. This has resulted in low property investment and rapid residential turn-over rates.

"It is well understood in Missoula," says Mayor Kadas, "that to revitalize our older neighborhoods, manage growth, and provide quality jobs in a sustainable economy while maintaining a healthy environment, we must continue to work together in developing creative solutions to individual problems."

"That's just what brownfields projects are designed to do," said EPA's Bob Fox who directs the Superfund program in Helena, "provide EPA, states, tribes, cities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment."

Sponsors hope the project will bring together community leaders, investors, lenders, developers, and citizens to develop plans to return economically abandoned areas to productive community use. The goal is to address assessment and planning for cleanup and land reuse at the same time, rather than waiting years for each piece to conclude before starting the next. The Pilot Project is expected to take two years.

The Brownfields Initiative is part of a Clinton Administration commitment to help cities clean up and redevelop abandoned property. Cleveland, Ohio received the first grant in 1993 and 120 more projects are now underway across the country. EPA plans to fund 100 new projects this year.

For more information on the Missoula project, contact Mayor Mike Kadas at (406) 523-4935.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Brownfields Pilot Grant Announced for Kemmerer, WY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 6, 1998

Kathie Atencio: (303) 312-6803
Rich Lathrop: (303) 312-6780
TOLL FREE 1-800-227-8917 X6780

DENVER--Redevelopment of Kemmerer's old electrical power plant site--part of the City Hall industrial area--received a \$105,000 boost today in the form of a "Brownfields Pilot Grant" from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Brownfields are abandoned facilities or pieces of land with real or perceived contamination from previous industrial use which may pose no serious public health risk. Still, uncertainties about liability and cleanup costs discourage investors and developers.

Mayor Jim Carroll's December 1997 Resolution supported the application for federal funds because "the City of Kemmerer owns a parcel of land ideally suited for redevelopment," and the parcel, having once been an electrical generating plant, "is perceived to be contaminated with PCBs [polychlorinated biphenyls] making the site unmarketable."

Max Dodson, who directs EPA's Superfund program in six western states including Wyoming, said the Kemmerer project is a perfect fit for a Brownfields grant. "It combines local ideas with federal dollars to build local solutions. It will restore tainted property to productive use where it can begin contributing to the tax base again."

Key objectives for the Kemmerer project include the following:

- Review existing site studies and environmental tests.
- Complete testing at the site if data gaps exist to determine whether there is contamination;
- Determine levels of contamination and associated health risks.
- Provide community education about the site and possible reuse.
- Complete a redevelopment plan for the area which addresses appropriate uses of any contaminated sites, mitigation measures, and public preference for reuse.

The site of the old power plant is along the Hams Fork Greenway which connects Diamondville via a pathway to the Hams Fork Park north of the area. Numerous public-private partnerships have focused on improvements along this corridor.

Despite all the open space in Wyoming--Lincoln County has a population density of fewer than 3.5 persons per square mile--there is minimal acreage available for development. This lack of land options for development of an industrial park was one reason the City purchased the parcel in 1990.

In 1990, a 16-acre parcel with 12 buildings was sold to the City of Kemmerer. The park-like setting appeared ideal for a campus-style industrial park. The inclusion of the old power plant in the 12 buildings did not cause concern at the time of purchase.

Later, an environmental assessment revealed that the old power plant was potentially contaminated. A previous property owner had performed a site cleanup to address PCB contamination in 1986. The stigma of contamination has hindered the City's attempts to market the property.

The Brownfields Initiative is part of a Clinton Administration commitment to help cities clean up and redevelop abandoned property. Cleveland, Ohio received the first grant in 1993 and 120 more projects are now underway across the country. EPA plans to fund 100 new projects this year.

For more information on the Kemmerer project, contact John Roberts, City Administrator at (307) 828-2360.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Statement about Northern Front Range Air Quality Study

RELEASE UPON REQUEST - May 4, 1998

Richard Long EPA 303/312-6005
Larry Svoboda EPA 303/312-6004
Mark Komp EPA 303/312-6022

Because so little has been known about the specific causes of the metro-area's brown cloud, EPA is looking forward to reviewing the results of the Northern Front Range Air Quality Study (NFRAQS). Past efforts to improve air quality in the metro area have been successful. However, rampant population growth and more cars on the roads will make it tougher to clear the brown haze that often engulfs cities along the Front Range.

We anticipate the data from the study will help all the air quality planning agencies decide which sources are the major contributors of pollutants that make up the brown cloud. The study's results should help determine what steps need to be taken to reduce the number of dirty air days in the future.

EPA's Denver regional office was pleased to contribute funding, technical assistance and equipment for the study. The Agency currently is working with the State of Colorado to deploy a monitoring network that will test for fine airborne particulates, continuing an aspect of the work done during the NFRAQS. The agencies will use the study results in deciding where to place the monitors.

We further plan to use information from the study to assist our efforts with the State and local

governments. Together we will develop approaches to reduce the amount of pollutants that contribute to the brown cloud and diminish the affects of the pollution on people's health and the quality of life in the metropolitan area.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**



EPA PROPOSES \$45,000 FINE FOR D.O.E.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - APRIL 30, 1998

Timothy Rehder 303-312-6293
William Fraser 303-312-6257
EPA NEWS OFFICE 303-312-6780

DENVER--Elevated levels of radioactive plutonium and americium in a creek at Rocky Flats have resulted in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency filing a complaint against the U.S. Department of Energy. EPA's complaint proposes a \$45,000 penalty for DOE: \$22,500 for each of two violations of the surface water standards, one for plutonium and one for americium. The violations occurred at a monitoring station on Walnut Creek at Indiana Street on the eastern boundary of the site during June and July in 1997.

The plutonium and americium levels exceeded the surface water standards for these radioactive metals at Rocky Flats when averaged over a 30-day period. The surface water standards are the same for plutonium and americium and are based on risk to human health.

The elevated plutonium levels occurred between June 13 and July 2, 1997. The elevated americium levels occurred between June 13 and June 24, 1997.

EPA's enforcement action is in a document called an "Administrative Complaint." The Administrative Complaint is available at the following locations:

Rocky Flats Public Reading Room
3705 West 112th Ave.
Westminster, Colorado

Standley Lake Library
8485 Kipling St.
Arvada, Colorado

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Records Center
999 18th St.
Denver, Colorado

This complaint and the proposed penalty are issued under the authority of the Superfund law.

The surface water standards were set in the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, which was made under the Superfund law. The cleanup agreement was signed on July 19, 1996 by EPA, DOE and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This agreement defines the cleanup process and the roles of the agencies in the Rocky Flats cleanup.

For more information on the surface water violations and the Administrative Complaint and proposed penalty, please contact Tim Rehder, EPA's Rocky Flats Program Manager, at 303-312-6293.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Responds to Environmental Education Critic M. Sanera

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 17, 1998

Letters to the Editor
Rocky Mountain News
P.O. Box 719
Denver, CO 80201

Editor:

If you wanted to do something "quietly, almost unnoticed," would you hold public meetings involving hundreds of citizens from cities, counties, schools, agriculture and some of Colorado's largest corporations? Would you issue news releases to dozens of news outlets?

That's how "quietly" EPA has been going about its job of supporting environmental education (EE) in Colorado and elsewhere. That and other charges by EPA critic Michael Sanera in his April 13 "Speakout" are equally weak.

Our encouraging people to understand how their personal values affect the environment and how they can make a difference in their own communities, Sanera sees as a Big Brother conspiracy.

He says teaching community action skills is "EPA-ese" for teaching political activism. He offers an example from a textbook used in Denver schools wherein a student became active over the use of Styrofoam. The problem: EPA has no connection with that textbook. Further, EPA specifically prohibits political or lobbying activities in its EE grants.

Mr. Sanera says EPA requires that materials produced with its EE grants must "reflect EPA policy on the topics explored." Not true. And readers can see our requirements for themselves on the

Internet at <http://eelink.umich.edu> (click on [EPA Bulletin-Fiscal Year '98 Grants Solicitation Notice](#)) or by reviewing the August 22, 1997 *Federal Register* at most sizable libraries.

EPA's grant requirements and Colorado's Environmental Education Master Plan emphasize over and over that good EE teaches individuals to weigh various sides of issues and to think critically. Both stress that EE does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action.

Mr. Sanera is right about one thing: Of the thousands of EE materials out there, some are poor. EPA is working nationally, using guidelines developed by professional educators, to help teachers and others select balanced, unbiased and scientifically sound materials that do not propose a particular viewpoint or singular solution.

We invite readers who are interested in what is really going on in education at EPA to visit our Kids' Page at <http://www.epa.gov/kids> or to write EPA's Office of Environmental Education in Washington, DC.

William P. Yellowtail,
Regional Administrator

For verification: 303-312-6308 or
News office: 303-312-6780

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA answers Post Columnist on Environmental Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 16, 1998

Letters to the Editor
The Denver Post
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202

Editor:

Al Knight doesn't want the Environmental Protection Agency funding environmental education (April 9). By that measure, we suppose the State Patrol has no business promoting highway safety.

Mr. Knight agrees teachers need better and more complete information but says it shouldn't come from EPA grants because the Agency "can't be completely impartial in discussing every environmental issue." Setting aside for a moment the question whether anyone with a point of view can be completely impartial, and the fact that Congress assigned us the job in 1990, Mr. Knight's objection is really code for, "Don't teach things about the environment that I don't agree with."

Mr. Knight cites the work of a researcher with the Center for the New West who evaluated hundreds of books and instruction materials used in schools across the country. The researcher reports finding "elements of indoctrination" therein, that is, elements that do not square with his view of such threats as population growth, rain-forest destruction and global warming. Presumably, environmental education delivered by industry and conservative organizations would meet Mr. Knight's "completely impartial" test.

Certainly, there are some poor materials out there. EPA is working with educators around the country to root those out and set standards for excellence in new materials. Everyone wants good decisions based on good information and EPA takes seriously its charge from Congress to improve environmental literacy. We can't do that with weak materials.

Does EPA use grants to create political activists? To receive a grant, you must agree in writing *not* to use any of the funds for lobbying or political activity.

How about indoctrination? From an EPA report to Congress: "Environmental education programs that include an "action" component should *not* advocate a particular solution...they should provide individuals with the information, critical-thinking and decision-making skills they need to make their *own* responsible decisions among a range of options." Strange way to go about indoctrination.

EPA is only one of thousands providing environmental education. And we know there is always room for improvement. But we certainly do believe we belong in the business.

William P. Yellowtail
Regional Administrator
For verification: (303) 312-6308 or
News officer at (303) 312-6780

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA Site](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

EPA Envirocare Review Finds "No Serious Non-compliance"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - APRIL 13, 1998

Carl Daly (303) 312-6427
Janice Pearson (303) 312-6354
Mike Gaydosh (303) 312-6773

EPA Region 8 News Office 1-800-227-8917 x 6780

DENVER--A nine-month evaluation of the Envirocare waste management facility in Tooele County, Utah found some problems but "no serious non-compliance with environmental regulations," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver. The facility can continue to receive low-level radioactive and hazardous waste, EPA said.

EPA project manager Carl Daly said his Agency and a National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) team had found 18 matters that need more attention but those are "consistent with regulatory findings at similar waste management facilities across the country."

Daly said Envirocare's operating records appeared complete and adequate. Permits issued to the facility by Utah's Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) also appeared adequate, Daly said.

Eight issues--mostly record-keeping and testing-- technically could be considered non-compliance. "Whether they are depends partly on what Envirocare has done since the conditions were noted and partly on any enforcement response from UDEQ or us," Daly said. Another ten "areas of concern" involve less serious matters that regulators singled out for further discussion.

The problems fell generally into the areas of

monitoring or inspection (5),
testing of wastes (5),
records management (3),
treatment of wastes (3) and
miscellaneous (2).

"These are things the facility would want to correct, but they pose no immediate threat to public health or the environment," Daly said. EPA will not release the list at this time because enforcement is still a possibility.

"We will provide our findings in writing to UDEQ for their consideration as to possible followup," Daly said. He said it is routine for UDEQ to issue notices of violation to Envirocare noting areas that need to be improved at the facility.

EPA ships large volumes of wastes from "Superfund" and other hazardous waste cleanup projects around the country to treatment and disposal firms such as Envirocare. Federal law requires the Agency to assure that it only ships to facilities that meet all appropriate standards. When controversy erupted over Envirocare's management in January 1997, EPA felt it needed to check the facility to assure its operational soundness.

Last June, EPA and its Denver-based National Enforcement Investigations Center began an evaluation including hundreds of hours of close examination of Envirocare records and practices.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

FREE EPCRA Training in Colorado for Petroleum Bulk Station Facilities Representatives

RELEASE AT WILL - April 8, 1998

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018
Jack Salter EPA 303/312-6026
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

DENVER--Industries in Colorado make news each year when their annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reports are made public. These reports, required under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, to identify chemical release permit violations and to gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities.

EPA recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. To help these businesses understand their reporting requirements, the Agency is offering a **FREE** workshop in Denver.

WHO: Representatives of Petroleum Bulk Station Facilities { Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code 5171 -- those with more than 10,000 gallon capacity } should attend this full-day workshop.

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and source reduction.
- about the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 14, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Downtown Denver at the U.S. EPA Conference Center. Located at 999-18th Street, second floor promenade. The conference center's phone number is 303/312-7078.

WHY: Last year, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Starting in 1998, the new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility.

For more details or to register, call:

Fred Reid at 303/312-6018

Jack Salter at 303/312-6026

or toll free at 800/227-8917 (ext. 6018 or 6028).

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Region 8 Training Information](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Cleanup Orders at Oily Waste Pits in Montana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 7, 1998

Susan Zazzali 406/441-1130 ext. 226
John Wardell 406/441-1123

Helena, MT - - Responding to the threat oily ponds pose to health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued cleanup orders to the owners of two different petroleum facilities in Montana. The two facilities are the Big West Refinery near Kevin and Larslan Water Disposal near Glasgow.

These actions are part of a larger, regional effort led by EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In the fall of 1996, EPA and the FWS partnered with state, tribal, local, other federal agencies and representatives of the oil industry to address the threats oil pits and ponds pose to migratory birds, other wildlife and to the environment. Initial work began in Montana, Colorado and Wyoming.

Each year an estimated two million birds die nationwide when they mistake oily ponds for fresh water and land there. They become trapped and soon die from exposure or suffocation. Birds and other animals may die from oil they ingested while trying to clean their feathers or fur.

In addition to harming wildlife, improperly managed pits and ponds can also damage the environment or threaten human health. Oil can contaminate surrounding soil and seep into nearby surface water and ground water.

This action is the result of cooperation among EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Commission to correct

environmental problems at these types of facilities.

The orders require the facility operators immediately to:

- implement permanent measures to keep wildlife out of oil pits and ponds
- reduce excess liquids in oil pits and ponds.

EPA will be issuing similar Orders at other facilities in the near future.

[\[EPA R8 Homepage\]](#) [\[News 1998\]](#) [\[News and Info\]](#) [\[Comment\]](#) [\[Search EPA\]](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Questions & Answers: PCB Spill At Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota

RELEASE AT WILL - April 1, 1998

Kim Le, EPA Tribal Program 303/312-6973
Randy Brown, EPA Tribal Program 303/312-6048
Vaughn Whatley, EPA Press Office 303/312-6603

Q - What is EPA's role and what activities is the agency performing?

A - EPA's role is to provide technical and compliance assistance to the Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding the PCB cleanup spills. An EPA inspector has taken test samples of possible contaminated areas and sent those items in for testing. Also, the Agency is overseeing the cleanup being performed by BIA. EPA's Tribal Assistance Program (TAP) will assist the Tribe with public awareness and information about the situation.

Q - When and how did EPA find out about the PCB problem in Standing Rock?

A - EPA received notification of the PCB spill from BIA on February 5, 1998. Apparently BIA employees were unaware that PCBs are toxic chemicals. The health dangers were realized once one of the agency's employees became sick after cleaning up PCBs that had leaked from a light fixture.

Q - How serious were the PCB leaks?

A - Very serious. Even small amounts of PCBs, say ½ teaspoon, that might leak from a capacitor inside a ballast box from a fluorescent light fixture, may have a concentration level of 600,000 parts per million (ppm) or more. PCB levels of 50 ppm or greater are

regulated by law.

Q - Is the contamination restricted to the BIA facilities and the elementary and high school or is the threat of exposure to PCBs from the ballasts of fluorescent light fixtures widespread throughout the reservation?

A - The potential for PCB contamination from certain light ballasts does not appear to be restricted to BIA facilities. EPA inspected seven Tribal buildings during the week of March 23rd and took five samples to determine the presence of PCBs. Those sample results should be available within 3 weeks.

Q - Why should people care about PCB contamination? Are people at risk of contracting diseases and should individuals contact their physicians?

A - Separate informational fact sheets explaining what PCBs are, how people are exposed, the affect of PCBs on one's health, etc. are attached to this fact sheet. Health experts from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provided health consultation to the Tribe and collected blood samples from 15 individuals most likely to have been exposed to PCB's. Results of the tests are expected in 2-3 weeks.

Q - Do the PCBs pose any current danger and what is being done to prevent additional exposure to the chemicals?

A - The PCBs doesn't pose any current danger at this time. Some of the buildings are free of PCBs and those facilities with confirmed unsafe levels have been restricted. Signs alerting people to the dangers posed by the presence of PCBs are posted around the restricted buildings and EPA strongly urges people to stay away from those sites until we know whether they are safe or not.

Q - When will the schools be able to completely reopen and will children and staff be safe?

A - Not until EPA can review the final reports, together with all support documents such as lab results, etc. EPA also will ensure that BIA correctly completes its cleanup according to our national PCB cleanup policy. Based on the recommendations of all assisting government agencies and the test results, BIA will decide when it is safe to reopen all areas at the schools. But, be assured, when the schools do open all their facilities, the children and staff will not be placed in any dangerous settings.

Q - What types of sampling analysis are being done and are the testing methods the same as would be done at a non-Federal facility?

A - Air tests and wall/floor wipe sampling for PCB contamination have been completed and showed safe levels. We are awaiting the results from some carpet samples taken from the high school library. Testing methods are standard and accepted practices throughout the environmental remediation industry for properly identifying PCB contamination.

Q - Who is responsible for the leaking PCBs and how could this situation have been prevented?

The property owner is responsible for the leaking PCBs, their clean up and proper disposal.

Future leaks can be prevented by routine maintenance and inspection of electrical equipment by in-house or outside environmental experts. All questionable equipment should not be used and should be removed and disposed of safely.

Q - Is the PCB cleanup finished and is there concern about any other hazardous chemicals?

A - The PCB clean up at the BIA and school facilities is 95% completed. In addition, testing for Dioxin has been done out of concern that people might have been exposed to that hazardous byproduct of PCBs. The result of those tests should be available by April 6th.

Q - Where will the PCB contaminated ballasts and light fixtures be sent to for disposal and will the wastes continue to pose a local threat?

A - PCB contaminated material and debris has and continues to be safely disposed of at a permitted landfill or incineration facility. Once properly disposed of the threat of further contamination is removed.

Q - What happens next?

A - EPA will provide the Tribe technical assistance and training so it can perform a reservation-wide assessment of its light ballasts. The Agency also will facilitate weekly conference calls among key parties to monitor the progress of the clean up effort, as well as, to provide ongoing technical assistance. Furthermore, EPA will continue to oversee BIA's remaining cleanup activities.

[\[EPA R8 Homepage\]](#) [\[News 1998\]](#) [\[News and Info\]](#) [\[Comment\]](#) [\[Search EPA\]](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)**
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

FREE EPCRA Training in Wyoming for Coal Mining Facilities Representatives

RELEASE AT WILL - April 1, 1998

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018
Bruce Cooper EPA 303/312-6028
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

DENVER--Industries in Wyoming make news each year when their annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reports are made public. These reports, required under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, to identify chemical release permit violations and to gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities.

EPA recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. To help these businesses understand their reporting requirements, the Agency is offering a **FREE** workshop in Cheyenne.

WHO: Representatives of Coal Mining Facilities {All 12 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes except for code 1241} should attend this full-day workshop.

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.

- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and source reduction.
- about the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 7, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: In Cheyenne at the Wyoming Department of Emergency Management Rapier Armory. Located at 5500 Bishop Boulevard. The facility's phone number is: 307-777-4900.

WHY: Last year, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Starting in 1998, the new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility.

For more details or to register, call:

Fred Reid at 303/312-6018

Bruce Cooper at 303/312-6028

or toll free at 800/227-8917 (ext. 6018 or 6028).

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Region 8 Training Information](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming

EPA Responds to Columnist on Colorado Self-Audit Law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 18, 1998

News Officer Rich Lathrop, EPA (303) 312-6780
EPA Region 8 News Office 1-800-227-8917 x6780

Letters to the Editor
The Denver Post
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202

March 18, 1998

Editor:

In his March 8 column, "EPA plays both cops," Al Knight painted a picture of the Agency that doesn't square with the facts. Here are three examples. Knight said EPA:

- doesn't like environmental self-audit laws. True, but only half the story.
 - shouldn't be using its audit "policy" to change Colorado's law. We aren't.
 - didn't object when the Colorado Legislature was passing its law in 1994. We did.
- **Fact:** EPA strongly supports self-auditing. The environment does benefit when companies disclose and fix their own violations. EPA even has its own self-audit program and hundreds of companies across the country have taken advantage of that. EPA does object, however, to state

audit laws that provide blanket immunity from penalties and that shield information about environmental wrong-doing from the public and prosecutors. EPA routinely waives *punitive* penalties and seeks to recover only the profits companies made as a *result* of breaking the law.

- **Fact:** We are not using our audit policy to force states to change their laws. The nation's environmental laws themselves require states to meet acceptable minimums if they want to run their own programs. For example, States must be *able* to assess civil and criminal penalties and the public must have access to compliance-related information. In our reading of the Colorado law, those needs are not met and we cannot approve a program with those deficiencies.
- **Fact:** EPA *did* object when the legislature was considering Colorado's self-audit law, writing Governor Romer on April 29, 1994 about serious policy and legal concerns with the proposed law. Additionally, in 1995 we raised the issues when Colorado sought approval for several water pollution control programs and in 1996 over air issues. We met with the state in April, June and August 1996 to discuss the effect of the audit law on the water permit program.

Knight concluded that Colorado shouldn't change its law just because EPA doesn't like it. That's right. It should change it because audit programs and environmental programs can be effective *without* blanket immunity and secrecy.

While Mr. Knight prefers to view us as running rough-shod over states everywhere, the fact is we have found ways--in Utah and Wyoming so far in this Region--to accommodate state interests while meeting minimum federal requirements in their audit laws. Of course, that doesn't make as good a story. It's just the truth.

William P. Yellowtail,

Regional Administrator

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



**Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466**

**Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

FREE EPCRA Training in Utah for Metal Mining Facilities Representative

RELEASE AT WILL - March 11, 1998

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018
Bruce Cooper EPA 303/312-6028
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

DENVER--Industries in Utah make news each year when their annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reports are made public. These reports, required under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, to identify chemical release permit violations and to gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities.

EPA recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. To help these businesses understand their reporting requirements, the Agency is offering a **FREE** workshop in Salt Lake City.

WHO: Representatives of Metal Mining Facilities {Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code 10 except for codes 1011, 1081 and 1094} should attend this full-day workshop.

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.

- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and source reduction.
- about the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 31, 1998, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: In Salt Lake City at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ). Located at 168 North 1950 West, Room 101. UDEQ phone number: 801/536-4100.

WHY: Last year, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Starting in 1998, the new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility.

For more details or to register, call:

Fred Reid at 303/312-6018

Bruce Cooper at 303/312-6028

or toll free at 800/227-8917 (ext. 6018 or 6028).

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Region 8 Training Information](#) | [Comment](#)
| [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA's Position On Billings/Laurel SO₂ State Implementation Plan

RELEASE ON REQUEST- March 9, 1998

Richard Long EPA 303/312-6005
Larry Svoboda EPA 303/312-6004
Laurie Ostrand EPA 303/312-6437

EPA sent a letter to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on March 6, 1998, announcing it is unlikely we will approve all of the State's air quality plan, known as a State Implementation Plan (SIP). The plan is designed to control sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from seven industrial facilities in the Billings/Laurel area.

MDEQ is expected to address most of the concerns EPA has with the SIP. However, the two Agencies have been unable to resolve issues relating to stack-height credit and emissions limitations for Montana Sulphur and Chemical Company's (MSCC) 100-meter stack. As a result, EPA intends to propose partial approval the State's SIP, but plans to proceed with its own air pollution control plan, or Federal Implementation Plan, to cover the areas still in dispute. EPA will publish its formal action in the Federal Register.

The Agency does not allow industries to solve their air pollution problems by building taller stacks that disperse emissions, sending them downwind. This simply causes or adds to health and environmental problems elsewhere. In addition, similar facilities across the U.S. must abide by the same stack-height rules and emission limits; therefore, fairness dictates that MSCC follows the same rules.

EPA's letter indicates other options are available that would assure MSCC meets the Clean Air Act rules in question. The Agency has provided the MDEQ and the company with a number of

alternatives on several occasions. If either agrees to accept one of these options, EPA may reconsider its anticipated action.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming

FREE EPCRA TRAINING FOR METAL MINING FACILITIES REPRESENTATIVES

March 3, 1998

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018
Bruce Cooper EPA 303/312-6028
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

DENVER--Industries in Colorado make news each year when their annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reports are made public. These reports, required under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, to identify chemical release permit violations and to gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities.

The Agency recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. To help these businesses understand their reporting requirements, EPA is offering a FREE workshop in Denver.

WHO: Representatives of Metal Mining Facilities {Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code 10 except for codes 1011, 1081 and 1094} should attend this full-day workshop.

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.

- about pollution prevention and source reduction.
- about the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN: Thursday, March 5, 1998, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Located at 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Building A in the Sabin Cleere Room. The phone number at CDPHE is: 303/692-2000.

WHY: Last year, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Starting in 1998, the new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility. For more details or to register, call:

Fred Reid at 303/312-6018,
Bruce Cooper at 303/312-6028
or toll free at 800/227-8917 (ext. 6018 or 6028).

| [EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) |
| [Region 8 Training Information](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#) |



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming

EPA counters Rocky Mtn. News editorial on Colorado self-audit law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 26, 1998

Letters to the Editor
Rocky Mountain News
P.O. Box 719
Denver, CO 80201

Editor:

In its February 8 editions, the *News* editorially supported a Colorado law that contains "incentives for potential polluters to better monitor their own behavior." Sounds sensible. What could be wrong with that?

The problem is, the law doesn't stop at incentives. It offers *immunity* from penalties for wrongdoing and *privilege*, or secrecy, for the information companies report. Audit privilege laws impede the public right to know and discourage public reporting of violations. Laws that immunize serious violations, including criminal violations, discourage needed investments in pollution control and endanger the public.

Since the 1970's, Congress has designed most environmental laws to be implemented by states but with the assurance that national standards are met. It is EPA's job to provide that assurance. EPA cannot approve state environmental programs that do not provide for civil and criminal penalties for pollution violations or that hide audit information from the public and prosecutors.

EPA wholeheartedly supports self-auditing. We want companies to find, disclose, fix and prevent environmental problems. That is why we have our own national audit policy. And some 247 firms such as GTE, General Electric, ARCO and Sunbeam-Oster have disclosed violations at 760

facilities nationally. EPA has settled with 88 of those companies at 432 facilities, waiving all "punitive" penalties in most cases. Where firms profited by being out of compliance, however, EPA sets a penalty to recover that economic benefit; that's only fair to competitors.

EPA's policy enjoys broad support because it effectively encourages self-policing while maintaining safeguards to protect the public and the environment from the most serious civil violations and criminal conduct. EPA's policy does not hide information from the public.

But an incentives policy cannot replace enforcement. Industry surveys show that a balanced approach that includes enforcement and incentives works better to boost compliance with environmental law than either does alone.

Our experience shows audit programs can be effective *without* blanket immunity or secrecy and we are working with states to revise or remove those aspects from their laws. Are we bullying the states into making these changes out of fear of "federal retribution" as charged by the *News*? Let's hear from the states:

- Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Chairman Barry McBee told the U.S. Senate that the changes his state made after negotiating with EPA improved their law. In a letter to EPA he said, "I believe we have reached an acceptable middle ground preserving the intent and spirit of our...law while assuring EPA of our ability to enforce federally delegated programs."
- Russell J. Harding, Director of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality wrote, "I am pleased we have been able to reach an understanding that these improvements address...EPA's concerns. EPA and (Michigan) have the same end in mind: improved compliance with environmental laws. Let's work together to accomplish that."
- Utah lawmakers passed their needed changes by a vote of 66-0 with 9 abstentions.

Working together in good faith, EPA and the states can find common ground in environmental enforcement and we are committed to that end here in Colorado.

William P. Yellowtail
Regional Administrator
(303) 312-6308

Alternate confirmation:
News Officer Rich Lathrop
work (303) 312-6780

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming

CLEANUP OF PALLAS YARD RAIL SITE FINALIZED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 23, 1998

Gwen Hooten, EPA (303) 312-6571
EPA Region 8 News Office,
Eleanor Dwight 1-800-227-8917 x6813

DENVER -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized its plans for cleaning up the Pallas Yard rail site located between 5300 and 5900 South on 300 West in Murray City, Utah. At this site, lead and arsenic contamination has been detected in the soil and arsenic contamination in groundwater. The action memorandum that documents this removal action in detail is available at the Murray City Library, 166 East 5300 South Street.

The Utah Transit Authority, (UTA) has volunteered to conduct this cleanup as part of its TRAX light rail project. The plans for cleanup include: excavation of soils from areas with high levels of arsenic; placement of these soils in a six to eight-foot high berm built adjacent to the residential area along the east side of the tracks to muffle sound; capping the berm with an impermeable liner and clean soil; and placement of six to twelve inches of gravel over remaining areas with high concentrations of lead to eliminate exposure to lead. A six-foot high chain-link fence will be placed along the east side of 300 West Street to limit access to the site. Extensive groundwater monitoring will be conducted and restrictions will be placed on the use of this water for a public water supply.

In addition, UTA will take the following actions as a part of its reconstruction in the Pallas Yard area for TRAX Light Rail: place a liner covered with eight inches of gravel under the tracks; regrade the area to manage water runoff; place the Cahoon Maxfield irrigation ditch in a closed culvert; and implement measures to prevent exposure to residents and workers from blowing soils

during construction. EPA and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality will provide oversight of the removal action which is expected to take place this spring.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming

Oily Pond Cleanup Ordered in NW Colorado

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 23, 1998

CORBIN DARLING, EPA 303 312-6426
EDUARDO QUINTANA, EPA 303 312-6924
DIANA HAMMER, EPA News Officer 1-800-227-8917 x6601

DENVER, Colorado -- Responding to the threat oily ponds pose to health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today issued a cleanup order to the operator of a commercial oil field waste disposal facility. The facility is near the Williams Fork River south of Hayden in Routt County, Colorado.

Today's action is part of a larger, regional effort led by EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In the fall of 1996, EPA and the FWS partnered with state, tribal, local, other federal agencies and representatives of the oil industry to address the threats oil pits and ponds pose to migratory birds, other wildlife and to the environment. Initial work began in Colorado, Montana and Wyoming.

Each year an estimated two million birds die nationwide when they mistake oily ponds for fresh water and land there. They become trapped and soon die from exposure or suffocation. Birds and other animals may die from oil they ingest while trying to clean their feathers or fur.

In addition to harming wildlife, improperly managed pits and ponds can also damage the environment or threaten human health. Oil can contaminate surrounding soil and seep into nearby surface water and ground water.

"Often, when the owners and operators of these oil pits are notified of the environmental problems, they cooperate and no formal enforcement action is needed," according to Corbin Darling, an Environmental Engineer with EPA. *"State and local regulators and*

industry are generally doing a good job managing oil operations in Colorado."

However, not all owners and operators comply voluntarily. Today's action is the result of cooperation among EPA, FWS, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Routt County Environmental Officials to correct environmental problems at the Williams Fork Waste Systems facility.

The order requires the facility operator immediately to:

- control access to the site
- post warning signs
- implement permanent measures to keep wildlife out of oil pits and ponds
- reduce excess liquids in oil pits and ponds.

"We prefer to work cooperatively with the owners and operators but in cases where there are threats to the environment, it's important to take action," said EPA's Enforcement Director, Carol Rushin.

###

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]

United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELYANA SUTIN EPA (303) 312-6899
MONICA HEIMDAL EPA (303) 312-6359
EPA NEWS OFFICE 1 800 227-8917 x6610

FEBRUARY 17, 1998

DENVER, Colo.--John Morrell and Company has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$250,000 and conduct an environmental management audit at its Sioux Falls meat processing and packing facility in settlement of alleged violations of the nation's Clean Water Act, according to a consent decree filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This resolves all allegations against Morrell.

The first consent decree, addressing injunctive relief, was entered in U.S. District Court in April 1996. Criminal allegations were also resolved against the company in May 1996. Today's second consent decree includes a monetary penalty and requires that Morrell perform an environmental management audit.

Violations at the Morrell facility included:

- falsification of discharge monitoring reports,
- exceedances of effluent limitations,
- inadequate reporting and record-keeping practices.

Such actions are violations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) which regulates the discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States. The Clean Water Act specifies

monitoring provisions and establishes limits on the pollutants released by industrial and municipal dischargers of wastewater.

"The goal of the first decree was to see the Morrell facility get into permanent and consistent compliance with the Clean Water Act," said Carol Rushin, EPA's enforcement chief in Denver. "The second decree seeks to ensure that there is informed, effective environmental oversight at the corporate level, capable of identifying and correcting plant operations, in order to protect public health and the environment."

The consent decree requires Morrell to pay the penalty within 30 days of the decree being entered by the U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls. Morrell must also submit a draft work plan for the environmental management audit within 60 days of the effective date of the decree.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

Editor
The Denver Post
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202

Editor:

The *idea* supported by the *Post* editorial (Feb. 2) is a good one: If industries find their own pollution problems, report them and correct them, state or federal enforcement response should be gentler. So why is there a continuing struggle between EPA and states such as Colorado that have passed such "self-audit" laws?

Since the 1970's, Congress has designed most environmental laws to be implemented by states but with the assurance that minimum national standards are met. It is EPA's job to provide that assurance.

EPA cannot approve state environmental programs that do not provide for civil and criminal penalties for pollution violations (immunity) or that hide audit information (privilege) from the public and prosecutors.

EPA wholeheartedly supports the concept of self-auditing. We want companies to find, disclose, fix and prevent environmental problems. That is why we have our own national policy that provides positive incentives for auditing, but not secrecy and blanket immunity. Under that policy, 244 firms such as GTE, General Electric, ARCO and Sunbeam-Oster have disclosed violations at 750 facilities nationally. EPA has settled with 83 of those companies at 427 facilities, waiving all "punitive" penalties in most cases. Where firms *profited* by being out of compliance, EPA sets a penalty to recover that economic benefit; that's only fair to competitors.

So, the difference in the federal program is that the audit and the government response remain open to the public and violators are not allowed to profit from noncompliance.

Contrary to the *Post's* contention that EPA is waging a campaign to rewrite or repeal all state self-audit

laws, we are working with those states to find ways to retain the benefits of their self-audit laws without gutting enforcement authority or closing the process to the public.

And hundreds of companies are taking advantage of EPA's self-audit policy *without* receiving blanket immunity or secrecy. That certainly suggests those features could be removed without undermining the State's law.

William P. Yellowtail
Regional Administrator
(303) 312 6308

Alternate confirmation:
News Officer Rich Lathrop
work (303) 312 6780

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

News Advisory

RELEASE AT WILL

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018
Bruce Cooper EPA 303/312-6028
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

February 6, 1998

DENVER--Industries in Colorado make news each year when their annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reports are made public. These reports, required under the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, to identify chemical release permit violations and to gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities. The Agency recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. To help these businesses understand their reporting requirements, EPA is offering a **FREE** workshop in Denver.

WHO:

Representatives of facilities {Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 4911, 4931 and 4939} that burn coal and/or oil to generate electrical power that is later sold to other businesses and/or to other consumers should attend this full-day workshop.

WHAT:

Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and source reduction.
- about the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN:

Tuesday, February 17, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE:

Downtown Denver at the EPA Conference Center. Located at 999 18th Street, second floor promenade. The conference center's phone number: 303/312-7078.

WHY:

Last year, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Starting in 1998, the new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE:

Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility. For more details or to register, call Fred Reid at 303/312-6018, Bruce Cooper at 303/312-6028 or toll free at 800/227-8917 (ext. 6018 or 6028).

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOM SITZ 303-312-6918
MIKE RISNER 303-312-6890
RICH LATHROP 800-227-8917

FEBRUARY 4, 1998

DENVER--Serck Services, Inc., a British company doing business here as Denver Radiator and Shutter Service, 5501 Pearl Street, and Serck Radiator

Manufacturing, 5530 Pennsylvania Street, will pay \$180,000 to settle a complaint brought by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last January for hazardous waste violations.

The Agency had charged the firm with 257 counts of illegal storage, disposal and handling of hazardous wastes over a five-year period and issued a "compliance order" for the company to correct problems at the sites.

Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment settled a separate action with Denver Radiator last January for a combination of penalties and "supplemental environmental projects (SEPs)" totaling \$115,000. SEPs are environmental improvements that companies pay for that go beyond what is required of them.

EPA felt the state settlement was inappropriate and proceeded with a federal action. In its own negotiated settlement that included an "alternative dispute resolution" process aimed at avoiding litigation, EPA agreed to lower its own penalty and withdraw its compliance order. EPA attorney Tom Sitz said the Agency will instead oversee the company's performance under an earlier State order. Sitz noted the

company has already cleaned up many of its problems and deficiencies.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

Environmental News Advisory

RELEASE AT WILL

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018
Bruce Cooper EPA 303/312-6028
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

January 28, 1998

DENVER--Industries in Utah make news each year when their annual Toxic Release Inventory reports are made public. These reports, required under the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act](#), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, identify chemical release permit violations and gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities. The Agency recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. To help these businesses understand their reporting requirements, EPA is offering a **FREE** workshop in Salt Lake City.

WHO:

Representatives of facilities that burn coal and/or oil to generate electrical power that is later sold to other businesses and/or other consumers should attend this full-day workshop.

WHAT:

Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and source reduction.
- about the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN:

Tuesday, February 3, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE:

In Salt Lake City at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ). Located at 168 North 1950 West. UDEQ phone number: 801/536-4100.

WHY:

Last year, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Starting in 1998, the new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE:

Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility. For more details or to register, call Fred Reid at 303/312-6018, Bruce Cooper at 303/312-6028 or toll free at 800/227-8917 (ext. 6018 or 6028).

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

Environmental Note to Correspondents

URGENT

MARK KOMP EPA 303/312-6022
LARRY SVOBODA EPA 303/312-6604
VAUGHN WHATLEY EPA 303/312-6603

January 22, 1998

DENVER--The EPA's Denver Regional Office today reported that metro Denver's air quality showed improvement in 1996, with the area posting no violations of the national air pollution standards, a first since 1972, the year the federal Clean Air Act took effect.

The Agency's 1996 National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report showed Denver's carbon monoxide (CO) levels reverted to previous years' downward trends after surpassing national health standards twice last year. The standard for CO is 9 parts per million during an 8-hour period. Federal rules permit one day over the threshold per year; the second time the limit is eclipsed constitutes a violation.

As recently as the early 1970s, the area routinely eclipsed air quality limits with as many as 120 violations in a single year. In 1996, Denver did not experience a single violation, which represents significant progress, considering the area's expansive population growth and considerable increases in the number of cars on the road and miles they travel.

Recent trends show metro Denver pollution control efforts have been effective. Those strategies include the use of oxygenated fuels in the winter, a more through automobile emissions inspection system, reduced use of sand during winter storms and improved removal of that sand afterward, restricted wood-burning during high-pollution days, and increased mass transit capabilities, i.e. bus, light-rail and car pool lanes.

Meanwhile, Cripple Creek reportedly exceeded the national health-based standard for airborne particulates on four separate occasions, and Steamboat Springs surpassed the standard once in 1996. The national standard is 150 micrograms per cubic meter over a 24-hour period. The top reading recorded in Cripple Creek was 235 micrograms per cubic meter, while Steamboat Springs had a high-level of 158 micrograms per cubic meter.

These inhalable particulates (ten microns in size and smaller) consist of solid or semi-solid materials small enough to stay suspended in the atmosphere. One thousand particles of this size could fit into the period at the end of this sentence. Breathing these tiny particles poses health risks, including premature death and respiratory illness.

Many strategies exist to lower fine-particle pollution levels. Some methods include: decreasing road-sanding, reducing driving, controlling wood-burning, switching utilities from coal- fire powered to cleaner alternatives, and paving roads. Many of these approaches are being used throughout the state in areas with particle pollution problems.

EPA's annual Trends Report summarizes the results of the previous year's air pollution data collected by monitoring devices and submitted to the Agency by the states. The report examines national air quality trends and lists the cities with the highest measured levels of the six primary pollutants regulated by the federal standards. These pollutants include: carbon monoxide, particulate matter, ozone, lead, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

Environmental Note to Correspondents

RELEASE AT WILL

MARK KOMP EPA 303/312-6022
LARRY SVOBODA EPA 303/312-6604
VAUGHN WHATLEY EPA 303/312-6603

January 22, 1998

DENVER--An EPA report released today concluded that in 1996, sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentrations in Billings increased, but still met the national air quality standards; however, Kalispell recorded a violation of the carbon monoxide (CO) pollution limit.

The Agency's 1996 National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report cited no exceedences of the health-based sulfur dioxide standards anywhere in the state. This marked the third consecutive year that SO₂ levels remained below the 24- hour standard of .14 parts per million (ppm).

Monitoring stations in the Billings area measure SO₂ levels. The monitor located at the top of Sacrifice Cliff, considered most representative of the area, showed a maximum SO₂ concentration of .06 ppm. This is an increase from the highest reading of .05 ppm posted by the monitor in 1995. The highest SO₂ value reported was .10 ppm at the monitor located in the community of Laurel. SO₂ levels have not surpassed the standard in Billings since 1994.

Meanwhile, in 1996, Kalispell violated the federal air standard for carbon monoxide pollution when it

twice surpassed the limit. An air monitoring station reported a maximum CO level in the area of 11.4 ppm, while the next highest monitored concentration measured 11.1 ppm. The standard for CO is 9 parts per million (ppm) during an 8-hour period. The two times the limit was exceeded happened during the winter months when inversions often trap pollutants near the ground.

Federal rules permit one day over the threshold per year; the next time the standard is eclipsed constitutes a violation. When this happens, EPA requires the state to take stronger steps to control the pollutant and clean the air.

EPA's annual Trends Report summarizes the results of the previous year's air pollution data collected by monitoring devices and submitted to the Agency by the states. The report examines national air quality trends and lists the cities with the highest measured levels of the six primary pollutants regulated by federal standards. These pollutants include: carbon monoxide, particulate matter, ozone, lead, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

Environmental Note to Correspondents

RELEASE AT WILL

MARK KOMP EPA 303/312-6022
LARRY SVOBODA EPA 303/312-6604
VAUGHN WHATLEY EPA 303/312-6603

January 22, 1998

DENVER--Utah's air quality, overall, showed continued improvement in 1996; however, Provo's efforts to reduce carbon monoxide pollution (CO) suffered a slight setback, according to data collected by area air quality monitors and reported today by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Agency's 1996 National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report showed Provo's CO levels reversed recent downward trends by surpassing national health standards once last year. The standard for CO is 9 parts per million (ppm) averaged over an 8-hour period. Federal rules permit one day over the threshold per year; the next time the limit is eclipsed constitutes a violation.

The air monitoring station at 242 North University Avenue recorded the pollution levels that surpassed the national health standard. This monitor traditionally shows the highest CO values in the area. The maximum CO level measured by the monitor was 10.2 ppm, while the second highest level was 9.1 ppm.

While the 9.1 ppm measurement in Provo was just over the threshold, it did not constitute an exceedence because EPA rounds the figures downward. Although the area surpassed the limit twice, it technically

did not violate the standard. No other areas in Utah experienced any violations.

Transportation sources are the biggest producers of CO, an invisible and odorless gas. Generally, CO exceedances occur in the winter when stagnant air tends to trap motor vehicle tailpipe emissions. Carbon monoxide comes from the incomplete burning of fuel. It can disrupt the delivery of oxygen to the body's organs and tissues and is especially dangerous to people who suffer from heart problems.

Another pollutant that Salt Lake City contends with is airborne particulates. In 1996, the area reportedly surpassed the national health-based standard twice, which EPA considers a violation. Salt Lake City posted readings of 162 and 157 micrograms per cubic meter in February of that year. The national limit is 150 micrograms per cubic meter over a 24-hour period.

These inhalable particulates (ten microns in size and smaller) consist of solid or semi-solid materials small enough to stay suspended in the atmosphere. One thousand particles of this size could fit into the period at the end of this sentence. Breathing these tiny particles poses health risks, including premature death and respiratory illness.

Many strategies exist to lower fine-particle pollution levels. Some methods include: decreasing road-sanding, reducing driving, controlling wood-burning, switching utilities from coal-fire powered to cleaner alternatives, and paving roads. Many of these approaches are being used throughout the state in areas with particle pollution problems.

EPA's annual Trends Report summarizes the results of the previous year's air pollution data collected by monitoring devices and submitted to the Agency by the states. The report examines national air quality trends and lists the cities with the highest measured levels of the six primary pollutants regulated by the federal standards. These pollutants include: carbon monoxide, particulate matter, ozone, lead, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KATHARINE TETER EPA (303) 312-6553
BARBARA CONKLIN EPA (303) 312-6407
EPA NEWS OFFICE 1 (800) 227-8917 x6610

JANUARY 21, 1998

DENVER, Colo.-- Bruce Liudahl, a North Dakota resident and owner of Balco, Inc., near Fairview, Montana, has agreed to pay \$20,000 in settlement of a civil penalty for violating federal law that protects against contamination of underground sources of drinking water.

A 1992 court order directed Liudahl to stop injecting salt water into the underground injection well he owns and operates in connection with the oil and gas production business in Richland County. Financial problems at the now defunct Balco, Inc. prevented the U.S. Attorney's office from collecting a penalty until now.

Violations for the well include:

- unauthorized injection;
- injection of fluids in exceedance of the allowable pressure;
- failure to submit a permit application in a timely manner.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorizes the use of injection wells under the nation's Safe Drinking Water Act, including specific requirements for well operation, maintenance, well testing and reporting.

"Balco's activities threatened precious ground water resources," said EPA Enforcement

Chief Carol Rushin in Denver. "Every well operator needs to know that they have a responsibility in the protection of these resources."

EPA managed the underground injection control program in the State of Montana at the time of the order because the State had not been delegated primary enforcement responsibility. The State now has the lead enforcement role for the underground injection control program for oil- and gas-related injection wells on "non-Indian" lands. The settlement was obtained by the U.S. Attorney on behalf of EPA.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

Environmental News Advisory

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CeCe Forget EPA 303/312-6605
Fran Wiscamb EPA 303/312-6613
News Office EPA 800/227-8917

January 15, 1998

Outdoor Classroom Teaches Students About Environment

WHO

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8.

WHAT

EPA's Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail will recognize Oberon Middle School students for developing an outdoor environmental classroom. The outdoor classroom placed first runner-up for outstanding regional project in the President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) program. The PEYA program offers kids a chance to learn about their environment and how to make their community a cleaner and safer place to live. Projects compete regionally and nationally and are judged by EPA on impacts, benefits, how environmental needs were met and other criteria.

WHEN

Friday, January 16, at 10:00 a.m. (MST).

WHERE

Oberon Middle School in Arvada at 7300 Quail Street. For directions to the school or additional information, call 982-2077 or 982-2020.

WHY

The Jefferson County School District had cleaned up a school-bus parking and maintenance area next to the school, removing underground storage tanks. Students at the Arvada school worked to restore the site to productive use. For two years, seventh graders collected data on soils, plants and animals. Students also studied the soil, learning about permeability and water retention. Later, the children and others planted trees and shrubs and built a wetland on the site.

The new wetland and pond will reduce nitrates and other pollution in water that drains off the school's 15 acres of irrigated property, as well as urban water runoff from the nearby parking lot. Storm water is used to water the foliage, while excess water is retained before entering the city's storm- drain system. Within three growing seasons, the Oberon wetland will achieve its full potential for filtering out pollutants from runoff water.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDWIN HOGLE (303) 312-6137
FRANK CHIANELLI (303) 312-6242
EPA NEWS OFFICE 1 (800) 227-8917 x6610

JANUARY 14, 1998

DENVER, Colo.--EPA's regional office in Denver has concurred on the nation's first, generic tribal management plan (TMP) for pesticide-specific ground water protection on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

The precedent-setting action makes the Pine Ridge TMP the first to be accepted nationally by EPA and can be used as a model for additional tribal programs in a partnership with states for the administration of environmental protection programs. EPA approved the plan to help prevent ground water contamination from agricultural pesticides (atrazine, simazine, cyanazine, metolachlor and alachlor), while allowing the continued use of them within reservation boundaries.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Oglala Sioux Tribe is authorized to develop and administer the plan as part of its delegated program for pesticides regulation, with multi-agency involvement and awareness. The Tribe has taken the lead responsibility for this pollution prevention plan and has the funding to carry out the necessary actions.

"Ground water is the major source of drinking water for the area," said EPA Denver's Ground Water Program Director D. Edwin Hogle. "This has been a positive process between the Agency and the Tribe that gives the Tribe an opportunity to manage the use of pesticides and protect those ground water resources."

Note to Editors: You may also contact Mr. Irv Provost of the Pine Ridge Reservation for more

information at (605) 867-5624.

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [News 1998](#) | [News and Info](#) | [Comment](#) | [Search EPA](#)]



Region 8 - Mountains & Plains

Serving Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 27 Tribal Nations

[Contact Us](#) | [A-Z Index](#) | [Print Version](#) Search:

[EPA Home](#) > Region 8

News Releases
Browse EPA Topics
Information
Resources
FOIA - Freedom of Information Act
About EPA Region 8
Laws & Enforcement
Community Resources
Industry & Agriculture
State, Local & Tribal
Grants & Funding
A to Z Index



Regional Activities and Information

EPA announces \$73.1 million in national brownfields grants in 37 states and seven tribal communities

Please see <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/news/pr062003.htm> for more information. A total of \$3 million was awarded to states and tribes within Region 8. Visit the [list of brownfields grants awarded by EPA Region](#).

National Consumer Awareness Campaign Launched on Vermiculite Insulation Used in Some Home Attics

The EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have launched a national consumer awareness campaign to provide homeowners with important information on vermiculite attic insulation, which may contain asbestos. [View the entire article](#).

Watershed group to receive \$600,000 to restore and protect land damaged by the Hayman fire

Assistant Regional Administrator Max Dodson presented a plaque to the Coalition for the Upper South Platte Sunday June 8th in Lake George, CO as the first anniversary of the Hayman fire was observed. The group was selected for an [EPA National Watershed Initiative](#)



grant through a competitive national process. The money will be used to rehabilitate fire-damaged areas that are impacting water quality, and to protect and restore streams that are still relatively pristine.

Whitman, proud of accomplishments as she prepares to return home to New Jersey, resigns as

Key Topics -

[Air](#), [Brownfields](#), [Conservation](#), [Pesticides](#), [Superfund](#), [Toxics](#), [Waste](#), [Water](#)

News Releases

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Colorado toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and North Dakota toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Utah toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and South Dakota toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Wyoming toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Montana toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/26/2003 - EPA offers share of \\$5 million grant for clean school bus programs - Application deadline August 1](#)

[06/12/2003 - Great Plains Restoration Council earns 2003 Friend of the EPA Award](#)

Administrator of EPA, effective June 27, 2003

Washington, D.C. (May 21, 2003) — Yesterday afternoon, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman met with President Bush at the White House and tendered her resignation as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, effective June 27, 2003. [Read the text of Administrator Whitman's resignation letter](#)

Notice of request for initial proposals to be funded from the indoor air quality (IAQ) allocation

The EPA is soliciting Initial Proposals for the following IAQ areas: to implement EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Program, to support environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) education and to implement asthma education and awareness projects. Proposals must be **postmarked by June 27, 2003**. [View the Notice of Request in its entirety](#).

Air Quality Standards - State Implementation Plans (SIPs)

[EPA-approved SIP regulations for Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming are now available](#). State SIPs assure that the [National Ambient Air Quality Standards \(NAAQS\)](#) are protected. EPA-approved standards for Utah will be available in the future.

[06/11/2003 - Oglala Sioux Tribe environmental director earns EPA 2003 Frank DeCouteau Award](#)

[06/09/2003 - Conservation District director earns EPA Environmental Achievement Award](#)

[06/09/2003 - Littleton Public School District to receive EPA Environmental Achievement Award](#)

[06/05/2003 - EPA cites five Colorado growers for failing to comply with agricultural worker protection regulation](#)

[06/05/2003 - EPA orders Rico mining company to pay for pollution cleanup](#)

[06/04/2003 - EPA's role in Double Cabin water shutdown](#)

[06/03/2003 - EPA applauds companies for voluntary cleanup in Commerce City](#)

[05/29/2003 - EPA applauds 147 companies for voluntary cleanup of abandoned Commerce City facility](#)

[05/29/2003 - EPA holds public meetings on the new proposed cleanup plan for the Vasquez Blvd. and I-70 Superfund site](#)

[- All Releases -](#)

[EPA Home](#) | [Privacy and Security Notice](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search EPA](#)

Last updated on undefined, undefined NaNth, NaN

Please Wait.....

[Click here](#) if you are not automatically redirected.



1997 Region 8 Press Releases

December

- [12/23/97 School Saves Money and Cut Pollution](#)
- [12/23/97 Denver Businesses Cut Electrical Costs](#)
- [12/22/97 Comment Needed for Pallas Yard Site](#)
- [12/22/97 Tank Deadline: One Year Away](#)
- [12/12/97 EPA/BIA Agreement Aim: Fix Underground Tanks](#)

November

- [11/25/97 EPA Charges Phillips Petroleum Refinery With Pollution Violations](#)

October

- [10/31/97 Bull Oil Cleanup on the 1st Week of November](#)
- [10/27/97 Lowry Landfill in Colorado](#)
- [10/15/97 EJ Pollution Prevention 1997 Award Summaries](#)
- [10/15/97 EJ Small Grants 1997 Award Summaries](#)
- [10/09/97 Stop Work Order on F.E. Warren Air Force Base](#)
- [10/02/97 Letter-to-editor on Colorado School of Mines](#)
- [10/01/97 White House Conference on Climate Change via Satellite at University of Colorado in Boulder](#)
- [10/01/97 White House Conference on Climate Change via Satellite at University of Utah](#)

September 1997

- [Environmental Justice: A Community Discussion](#)
- [Fort Lupton Award](#)
- [Plum Creek Manufacturing Pays Penalties](#)
- [EPCRA Training in Denver](#)
- [Colorado EE Grants](#)
- [Montana EE Grants](#)
- [Utah EE Grants](#)
- [Wyoming EE Grants](#)
- [Central Davis County Sewer District Award](#)
- [Freeman Wastewater Treatment Plant Award](#)

August 1997

- [Metro Wastewater Reclamation District Award](#)
- [Devils Lake Basin Grant](#)

[Bismarck Award](#)

[EPA Grant to Fund Colorado "Recycling Incubator"](#)

[Event to Mark Recycling Grant](#)

[Brownfields Grants Awarded](#)

[Region 8 Environmental Awards -Colorado](#)

[Region 8 Environmental Awards -Montana](#)

[Region 8 Environmental Awards -North Dakota](#)

[Region 8 Environmental Awards -South Dakota](#)

[Region 8 Environmental Awards -Utah](#)

[Region 8 Environmental Awards -Wyoming](#)

[Yellowtail Reappointed Regional Administrator in Denver](#)

[Colorado, U.S. sue Denver's Power Engineering Company](#)

July 1997

[Industrial Chrome Plating Building Removal](#)

[EPA Files RCRA Complaint v. Envirocare over alleged 1995 violations](#)

[Automotive Wastes in Grantsville, Utah](#)

June 1997

[No Evidence of Radioactive Waste From Rocky Flats Was Taken to Lowry Landfill](#)

[Pick Up of Flood-Damaged Household Hazardous Wastes Ends Sunday June 15](#)

[Envirocare Inspection Begins Today](#)

May 1997

[Town Meeting in Casper](#)

[Canon City High School Gets Environmental Award](#)

[Public Service Announcement - Fuel Oil Removal and Cleanup](#)

[EPA Will Provide Oil Removal Materials To Flood Victims](#)

[Englewood, CO Receives Brownfields Grants](#)

[Ogden, UT Receives Brownfields Grants](#)

[Toxic Releases for Colorado](#)

[Toxic Releases for Montana](#)

[Toxic Releases for North Dakota](#)

[Toxic Releases for South Dakota](#)

[Toxic Releases for Utah](#)

[Toxic Releases for Wyoming](#)

[Q/As About TRI](#)

[Utah Toxic Chemical Reporting Workshop](#)

[Colorado Toxic Chemical Reporting Workshop](#)

April 1997

[EPA Celebrates Successful Cleanup](#)

[Collection For Flood-Damaged Household Hazardous Wastes Opens in Wahpeton](#)

[Public Service Announcement - Flood-Damaged Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off and Collections Scheduled](#)

[Disposal of Flood-Damaged Household, Retail and Wholesale Hazardous Materials](#)

[Pick Up of Flood-Damaged Household Hazardous Wastes Begins Today in Grand Forks](#)

[Public Service Announcement - Flood-Damaged Household Hazardous Waste Pick Up Available](#)

[Public Service Announcement - Cleaning Up Flood-Damaged Household Hazardous Waste](#)

[Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation \(SITE\)](#)

[Remedial Designs For Lowry Landfill](#)

March 1997

[Conoco Faces Hazardous Waste Charges](#)

[EPA Cites Platte Chemical Waste Violations](#)

[Proposed Cleanup Plans for Lowry Landfill Superfund Site](#)

[Creating Partners in Revitalization](#)

[Environmental Institute for Teachers](#)

[EPA Approves State's Plan For Particle Air Pollution](#)

[EPA to Phillips Petroleum: Cut Refinery Air Emissions](#)

February 1997

[EPA Approves State's Air Pollution Plan](#)

January 1997

[Environmental Justice Grant Funds Available](#)

[Public Hearing Set for Proposed New Air Standards](#)

[Companies Save By Self-Auditing](#)

[Public Health Effects of Ozone and Fine Particle Pollution](#)

[Scientific Review Process for Proposed Air Quality Standards](#)

[EPA Proposes New Air Standards For Particulate Matter and Ozone Pollution Emissions](#)

[Enforcement Action Against Denver Radiator Co.](#)

[Top of Page](#)

[[EPA R8 Homepage](#) | [Region 8 News & Information](#) | [1996 Region 8 Press Releases](#) | [EPA Headquarters News & Events](#) | [Comments](#) | [Search EPA](#)]

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region08/news/news97.html>

Last Update: December 1997



Region 8 - Mountains & Plains

Serving Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 27 Tribal Nations

[Contact Us](#) | [A-Z Index](#) | [Print Version](#) Search:

[EPA Home](#) > Region 8

Contact Us

- Get help finding information
- Report an error
- Submit a comment on how we can improve the web site

By Phone:

303-312-6312

800-227-8917 (Region 8 states only)

or Use the **FEEDBACK FORM** below:

Your Name:

E-Mail Address:

Organization:

Comments:

Please note that we try to respond to all comments. However, students, please do not ask us to do your homework or rely on a rapid response to a specific question for use in a school project. We cannot guarantee we will respond within a certain amount of time.

- News Releases
- Browse EPA Topics
- Information Resources
- FOIA - Freedom of Information Act
- About EPA Region 8
- Laws & Enforcement
- Community Resources
- Industry & Agriculture
- State, Local & Tribal Grants & Funding
- A to Z Index



[EPA Home](#) | [Privacy and Security Notice](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search EPA](#)

Last updated on undefined, undefined NaNth, NaN