



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2009

COGCC

Ref: 8P-W

JAN 23 2009

Lisa Bracken
P.O. Box 30
Silt, Colorado 81652

Re: West Divide Creek Interim Response

Dear Ms. Bracken:

This is an interim response to your letter dated July 31, 2008, which included a copy of your July 29, 2008 letter to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), regarding concerns about natural gas development's impact to your property. In your July 31, 2008 letter you requested that the Region 8 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- 1) institute measures to determine whether the ground water under West Divide Creek (at your property) may be contaminated; and
- 2) ensure that the groundwater does not pose a risk to public water supplies.

I understand that subsequent to your July 31, 2008 letter, you have spoken with Greg Oberley and Aaron Urdiales of the Ecosystem Protection Remediation and Water Enforcement Programs (EPR-EP). During those discussions you expressed concern that your property was impacted as a result of a 2004 event that occurred up-gradient from your property, during which natural gas may have entered West Divide Creek via the groundwater. I understand that the COGCC found this event to be related to construction of a nearby natural gas well drilled by EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. EPA staff members have met with representatives from both the COGCC and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and we are in the process of reviewing available information related to this event. Additionally, new data collected by the COGCC is now available, and we plan to obtain and review that data as well. Following the review, we anticipate further conversations with CDPHE and COGCC regarding conclusions based on the data. At that time, we will provide a more complete response to your letter.


You may be interested to know that EPA has also been pursuing the establishment of a collaborative network among the EPA, COGCC and CDPHE, for the purpose of tracking activity related to environmental complaints concerning oil and gas production.

The establishment of such a network is meant to ensure that all agencies' resources are combined to respond to these complaints, and maximize the protection of human health and the environment.

Your EPA contact is Greg Oberley (EPR-EP). Please direct future inquiries to Mr. Oberley at the above address, including the Mail Code 8EPR-EP. He can be reached by telephone at (303) 312-7043.

Thank you for your interest in environmental and public health protection.

Sincerely,


for Sadie Hoskie
Director, Water Program.

cc: Greg Naugle
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

Debbie Baldwin, Environmental Manager
Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
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