



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*John W. Hickenlooper, Governor*

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** David Neslin

**From:** Bob Chesson, EPS II NE Colorado

**Date:** June 13, 2011

**Subject:** Inquiry From Senate President Brandon Shaffer Regarding Mr. Gene Fatton/ Ranchers Exploration Partners LLC Retta J #1 (05-069-06431) and Una # 1 (05-069-06432) Well locations, COGCC Location No. 41639, Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 68 West, Larimer County

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On January 29, 2011 the COGCC Field Inspection/Enforcement Supervisor Ed Binkley inspected the Ranchers Exploration location (COGCC inspection No. 200293884) in response to an adjacent landowner (Fatton) concerning possible excavation of a former landfill. The inspection did not identify any landfill trash present. The COGCC approved the APDs in late September early October 2010.

On February 10, 2011 I received a call from Rich Grossman of Larimer County Health regarding the same location. Mr. Fatton had contacted the Larimer County Health Dept with concerns that the new O&G location was located on a former landfill and dirt work at the location had exposed the former landfill trash. Larimer County contacted the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Solid Waste Division (Darrell Dearborn) regarding the concerns. The COGCC had no information on the possible presence of an old landfill on the property during the 2A and APD review process and no concerns were raised by the County Local Government Designee during the review period. Presence of the former landfill was brought to Larimer County's attention by the adjacent landowner.

On February 25, 2001, Steve Lindblom of the COGCC met with Darrell Dearborn (CDPHE), Charles Johnson (CDPHE) and Mr. Fatton (adjacent landowner) at the CDPHE offices in Denver to review documentation submitted by Mr. Fatton and to discuss an appropriate path forward. Photos at the time showed some scattered debris and Charles Johnson suggested that the appearance was more of scattered illegal dumping as opposed to landfill debris.

Although I don't have the date, Mr. Dearborn inspected the location (early February?) and was unable to determine if the former landfill was encroached upon by the well site. Because of this, he required Ranchers Exploration to do subsurface boring around the proposed well locations to determine if their proposed well locations were within the landfill footprint. That work was done on March 16, 2011. I witnessed the work and have attached photos of the work. The original well locations were found to be located along the southern edge of the landfill evidenced by trash uncovered by the borings. Ranchers subsequently moved approximately 200 feet to the east as the new location of the wells. The resulting borings had no evidence of any landfill material and satisfied the CDPHE that drilling in that area of the location would not impact the former landfill.

Ranchers Exploration has not yet submitted a sundry for the new surface locations for their wells nor has Ranchers drilled the wells.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Mike King, Executive Director

COGCC COMMISSION: Richard Alward – Thomas L. Compton – DeAnn Craig – Mark Cutright – Michael Dowling – Joshua B. Epel – Mike King – Chris Urbina  
COGCC STAFF: David Neslin, Director – Margaret Ash, Field Inspection Manager – Debbie Baldwin, Environmental Manager – Stuart Ellsworth, Engineering Manager



Location  
Looking SW



*Access road*

Location  
Looking WNW

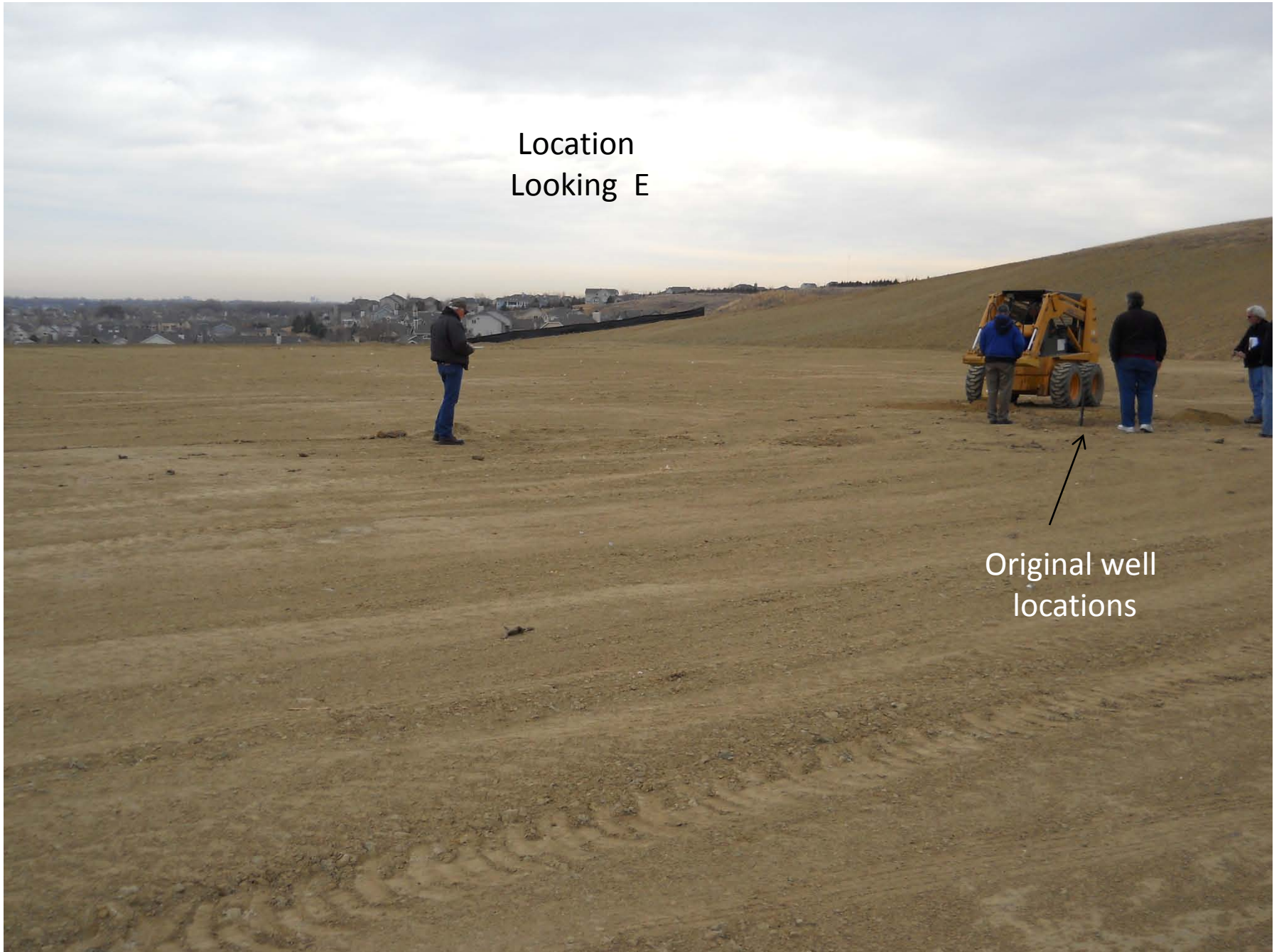


Location  
Looking NE



Location  
Looking E

Original well  
locations





Location  
Looking S

Original well  
locations



Proposed location





## Borings at original location





# Landfill trash



# Landfill trash





From new location looking back on original well locations



# Borings at new well location

