



**COLORADO**

**Oil & Gas Conservation  
Commission**

Department of Natural Resources

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801  
Denver, CO 80203

March 9, 2018

Elaine

25575 CR 89

Orchard, CO 80649

Via email: [woodmanswife69@gmail.com](mailto:woodmanswife69@gmail.com)

Dear Elaine,

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) received your complaint regarding odor, spills, dust, ponding, and non-compliance with a COGCC permit at the Sandy Hill Land Application location, operated by Bill Barrett Corporation, in the vicinity of your residence. Your complaint is recorded in document number 200445363 and can be reviewed via the "Complaints" link, on our website (<http://cogcc.state.co.us/>).

The actions taken to address your complaint are summarized below.

- On January 25, 2018 COGCC Staff conducted an inspection of the location, (documented in Field Inspection Report [FIR] #679700799);
- The inspector observed:
  - Drilling fluids had migrated from the Sandy Hill Land Application area. Drilling fluid had dried and developed mud cracks prior to being covered by snow. Most recent snow event was 01/21/2018 so spill occurred prior to this date. The failure to report and clean up the spill constitutes a violation of Rule 906;
  - A pond of approximately 200' x 75' of drilling fluid was present and contained at least 1000 barrels of drilling fluid. Five frac tanks were staged on the location. At least one frac tank contained liquid; the remaining four tank hatches were closed and not opened by COGCC. Storage of drilling fluid in a pond is a violation of Rule 907.d. Standing fluid was generating odors;
  - Piles of drill cuttings totaling thousands of cubic yards were stockpiled on the location. Some areas showed evidence of land application, but the volumes of material stored indicated material were unable to be incorporated within 10 days. No evidence of dust suppression was present. Material was not being applied in strips in accordance with the Waste Management Plan approved under Rule 907.a;

P 303.894.2100 F 303.894.2109 [www.colorado.gov/cogcc](http://www.colorado.gov/cogcc)

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John W. Hickenlooper, Governor | Robert W. Randall, Executive Director, DNR | Julie Murphy, Director



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- COGCC ordered the operator to immediately discontinue use of the Sandy Hill Land Application Site until all compliance issues are resolved, including spill cleanup;
- COGCC environmental and enforcement staff determined that the conditions resulted in violations of Rules 907.a, 907.d, 906.a, 906.b, 906.d, and 34-60-121(1) CRS-b; and
- On 03/05/2018 COGCC enforcement staff issued Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV) #401562363.

COGCC FIRs are available on the COGCC website by via the “Data” link, then selecting “Inspection/ Incident” search link, and entering the above referenced FIR number into the “document number” search field. COGCC NOAVs are available via the same process by selecting the “NOAV” radio button at the top of the “Inspection/ Incident” search page and entering the NOAV number.

Further action relating to the issues described in your complaint will be addressed through NOAV # 401562363. Accordingly, the COGCC has closed the complaint.

As a complainant on a written complaint which directly resulted in the issuance of a NOAV, you have the right to comment on a draft proposed settlement of the NOAV. Your rights as a complainant are outlined in COGCC Rule 522. If you have any questions or comments regarding the NOAV, you may contact COGCC NOAV Specialist Kira Gillette. Ms. Gillette can be reached by phone at 303-894-2100, extension 5165 or via email at [kira.gillette@state.co.us](mailto:kira.gillette@state.co.us).

If you have questions regarding this complaint, you may contact me.

Sincerely,



Megan Adamczyk, Complaint Specialist  
Email: [dnr\\_cogcc.complaints@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cogcc.complaints@state.co.us)  
Phone: 888-235-1101