



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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## **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment orders Suncor to perform additional monitoring, preventive measures**

DENVER – The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on May 9 issued a new Notice of Additional Work to Suncor Energy (USA) Inc. as the company works to clean up a release of petroleum products from its Commerce City refinery.

This notice requires Suncor to perform additional monitoring and implement preventive measures to ensure a Denver Metro Wastewater Reclamation District construction project does not complicate ongoing efforts to remediate a plume of contaminated groundwater migrating off refinery property.

“We are concerned that dewatering operations related to Metro’s construction project may cause contamination to move in new directions that could interfere with the cleanup,” said Walter Avramenko, leader of the Hazardous Waste Corrective Action Unit at the department. “We also want to prevent construction workers from being exposed to contaminated water.”

The department ordered Suncor to perform the following measures by the specified deadlines:

### **Groundwater Monitoring**

- Within 30 days, Suncor must submit a monitoring plan for the South Secondary Treatment Area on Denver Metro’s property to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for review and approval. Suncor may install new wells on the Denver Metro facility if it determines that existing wells are inadequate for monitoring groundwater quality.

### **Plume Configuration and Compliance Monitoring Points**

Within 30 days, Suncor must submit

- A map showing the current configuration of the contaminant plume on the Denver Metro facility where contaminant concentrations exceed state standards; and

- A list of groundwater monitoring locations immediately outside the contaminant plume boundary that do not contain contaminant concentrations exceeding state standards.

### **Plume Stabilization and Remediation**

Within 60 days, Suncor must submit a groundwater remediation work plan for the South Secondary Treatment Area. The work plan objective will be to reduce refinery-related contamination currently in and moving toward the South Secondary Treatment Area on Denver Metro property. The plan will include

- Treatment options to remediate contaminated groundwater currently in the South Secondary Treatment Area;
- Treatment options to remediate contaminated groundwater moving toward the area; and
- A contingency plan to be used if monitoring data show the contaminant plume is unstable and migrating into areas where groundwater quality does not exceed state standards.

### **Construction/Infrastructure Maintenance Dewatering**

Within 60 days, Suncor must submit a dewatering plan for the South Secondary Treatment Area to document how Suncor will manage any contaminated groundwater that may be pumped out of the ground in the construction area. The department's Notice of Additional Work requires Suncor to find ways for Metro to continue operating unimpeded as long as contamination remains on Metro's property.

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division is coordinating with the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, the Environmental Protection Agency, Tri-County Health Department, Denver Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, Denver Water and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The department's previous orders for Suncor remain in effect, including water sampling in Sand Creek and South Platte River. Suncor is responsible for cleaning up the effects of releases from its refinery regardless of how far downstream they extend.

Access a copy of the [May 9 order](#).