April 10, 2013

Journalists – Here is a brief update on the situation at the Parachute Creek gas facility.

This afternoon, Williams issued its own update on its investigation at the site. I would refer you to that material rather than recreating it here.

The COGCC received this information today as well. The area of an above-ground valve set has long been the focus of the source investigation, and the scenario outlined by Williams provides a possible explanation of a release in this area. However, the investigation of the cause or causes of the impacts to soil and groundwater will continue until we can determine whether the release described by Williams accounts for the situation on the ground.

Groundwater samples from three new monitoring wells about 50 feet south of Parachute Creek showed benzene concentrations between 51 and 450 parts per million. Those wells were thought to have been unaffected based on preliminary field information reported yesterday.

New monitoring wells both to the south and to the east of the creek are planned.

Surface water samples taken today at the point about 2½ miles downstream where the town of Parachute diverts water for an irrigation reservoir showed no evidence of impact. Those samples were analyzed using a field gas chromatograph, which allows for real-time, on-site analysis of water samples.

The COGCC remains in close communication with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about this situation.

A reminder that many documents associated with this event continue to be posted on the COGCC's website. Visit the home page – www.cogcc.state.co.us – and then click on IMAGES on the left-hand side. On the next page, select "Projects" from the drop-down menu, and in the Unique Identified tab enter the number 2120. Then click "Search." That will bring up all the documents posted to date.