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Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE
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Red Butte Creek Chevron Oil Spill – Final Closure

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) announced today that the Final Closure Document, along with an associated Compliance Agreement, has been signed by Director Walt Baker. The signing of these two documents brings closure to the requirements outlined in the Notice of Violation issued to Chevron Pipe Line Company on July 13, 2010, in response to crude oil released into Red Butte Creek in June of 2010.

The Decision Document concludes that no further cleanup is needed since the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments found that traces of contamination remaining in the creek are not a threat to human health or the environment. Continued monitoring of the creek water, sediment, and insects to confirm these conclusions is required to continue through 2015.

"Chevron has ongoing responsibilities under the terms of this agreement," said John Whitehead, Assistant Director of DWQ. "The risk assessments show that the water quality and sediments of Red Butte Creek are similar to that of other urban Salt Lake Valley creeks unaffected by the oil spill. Along with ongoing monitoring, if additional contamination from the spilled oil is found in the future, Chevron can be required to perform additional cleanup."

A 30-day comment period ran from Nov. 9 to Dec. 10, 2012. An Open House was held on Nov. 28 at the Pingree School. Representatives from DWQ, Salt Lake City, Utah Department of Health and Salt Lake Valley Health Department were present to discuss issues related to the two documents and to answer questions. Approximately 30 local residents were in attendance at the meeting.

Four individuals provided written comments on the draft decision document. DWQ analyzed all comments and provided individual responses to the commenters. The comments and responses can be viewed on the Division's web page at: http://www.deq.utah.gov/locations/redbutte/index.htm.

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