



For Immediate Release

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Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker Meets With Federal Officials on Chevron Spill
Agency Officials Say They'll Back City Plan, but Can't Guarantee Long-Term Closure

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker met with the head of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in Washington, D.C. Monday morning to discuss concerns over the recent Chevron oil spill and advocate for continued shutdown of the problem-plagued line.

PHMSA officials said the agency is ready to offer support as the City authors a plan for the future of the pipeline.

Mayor Becker said that plan will require an exhaustive review of the line, including thorough evaluation of the condition of the 60-year-old pipe and whether its current route through sensitive watershed areas is appropriate moving forward.

"We want to communicate and arrive at an approach that will give our community the safety assurances we need," Mayor Becker said. "To that end, we will be seeking expert, independent consultation to combine with the recommendations of our local prevention work group."

Becker said PHMSA agreed to act in an advisory capacity as the City develops a prevention plan. Development of a long-term plan for the line will enlist the efforts of the prevention work group — formed after the June spill of some 33,000 gallons of crude oil into Red Butte Creek — and a city-contracted pipeline safety expert.

Agency officials would not confirm Monday whether a continued pipeline shutdown was a possibility following completion of PHMSA's investigation of the Dec. 1 release of approximately 21,000 gallons of crude oil that occurred 500 feet from the site of the June spill.