



News Release
Prevention, Protection, Promotion
Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah Counties

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TriCounty Health Department Responds to Complaint
Production Water Used for De-Icing Culverts

Vernal, UT January 20, 2011-

On January 10th, 2011, TriCounty Health Department responded to a report, alleging the dumping of production water into a ditch located at approximately 500 W and 1500 N, Vernal, to assess the situation and determine if the health of nearby residents was in jeopardy. The dumping had been witnessed and reported by an area landowner. The estimated 1,000 gallons of production water deposited into the ditch had a foul odor which was detectable for nearly a half mile radius. The water ran for approximately 100 yards before it froze.

TriCounty Health Department and a Department of Environmental Quality official met with Uintah County Commissioners and a Deputy County Attorney. After an assessment of the situation coupled with a review of the existing permits, it was determined that the county's actions may be in violation of the Division of Water Quality's discharge rules. At that time, Uintah County's Road Department agreed to desist from further dumping of this type, seek alternative methods for de-icing, and begin remediation.

Water samples have been procured to determine contaminant levels and are awaiting results at this time. TriCounty Health Department has determined that sufficient cleanup of the affected area has occurred.

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