



MEDIA ADVISORY

December 2, 2010

Contact: Lisa Harrison Smith

c. 801-913-9748

Update on December 2nd Chevron Pipeline Oil Spill

SALT LAKE CITY – In response to a request from Mayor Ralph Becker and the Salt Lake City Council to curtail Chevron’s pipeline operations until all safety concerns are addressed, investigators from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) have arrived. The appeal outlines the Mayor’s concerns regarding approximately 100 barrels of crude oil that were released from a 10-inch pipeline owned by Chevron Pipe Line Company – marking the second oil spill incident from the pipeline this year.

Established in 2004, PHMSA is tasked with protecting people and the environment from the risks inherent in transportation of hazardous materials by pipeline and other transport modes. Earlier, the agency levied over \$400,000 in civil penalties against Chevron Pipe Line Company following an investigation of the June release of approximately 800 barrels from the same pipeline at a site about 500 feet from the latest occurrence.

Latest reports indicate that oil has not reached Red Butte Creek, however the creek was boomed as a precautionary measure and water testing is being conducted. Cleanup efforts at the scene continue with vacuum trucks, Hazmat teams, and crude oil removal from earthen berms constructed at the scene to contain the material.

Based on initial air quality monitoring at the spill site from Industrial Hygiene Inc (IHI) Environmental, the independent consultants contracted by Salt Lake City since the first spill, low vapor levels have been detected. Sensitive individuals who are experiencing discomfort or symptoms should seek medical help or call the Salt Lake Valley Health Department with questions or concerns at 801-534-4600. The Utah Division of Water Quality – a division of Department of Environmental Quality – is currently taking water

samples for further evaluation. Test results will be posted at www.slcgov.com/oilspill as soon as they are made available.

The city Ombuds for the oil spill, Robin Carbaugh, has been in contact with some residents affected by the previous spill and is available to hear concerns from the general public at 801-870-1428 or ombudslc@gmail.com.

###

Lisa Harrison Smith
Deputy Director of Communications
Mayor Ralph Becker's Office
c. 801-913-9748