

Kinder Morgan Pipeline Release Update

February 18, 2004

Background

On July 30, 2003, Kinder Morgan's 8-inch pipeline from Tucson to Phoenix ruptured, releasing more than 19,000 gallons of fuel in the Tucson area. The release point was located west of Interstate 10, north of Grant Road and east of Silvercroft Wash. The fuel was released into and around the Silvercroft Wash, and the pressure in the pipe when it ruptured led to five adjacent home sites getting sprayed by fuel.

ADEQ issued two Notices of Violation to Kinder Morgan (on Sept. 11, 2003 and Nov. 13, 2003) for violations of environmental laws. Although groundwater in the area is contaminated, no drinking water supply wells have been impacted.

ADEQ continues to monitor cleanup activities at the site and will ensure that all steps are taken to ensure that public health is protected.

Cleanup Activities (as of February 12, 2004)

1. Homes sprayed with gasoline were condemned and were torn down.
2. More than 4,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the affected subdivision and from Silvercroft Wash.
3. Kinder Morgan has discovered gasoline in three groundwater wells on the west side of Silvercroft Wash. They currently have 24 groundwater monitoring wells installed and will be installing additional wells to the west of Silvercroft Wash. Eleven of these wells are being used to pump fuel out of the groundwater.
4. As of February 12, 2004, approximately 11,818 gallons of fuel have been removed from the aquifer.
5. Kinder Morgan is working with the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) to get the necessary air quality permit to install and operate a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system which will pull additional fuels out of soils further below the surface. PDEQ approved a methodology for KMEP to gather data used in the permit evaluation process, and KMEP conducted the tests to gather the data on December 18.

For more information:

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