



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*John W. Hickenlooper, Governor*

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[www.colorado.gov/cogcc](http://www.colorado.gov/cogcc)

June 9, 2011

Mr. Rob Alexander  
Agricultural Resource Specialist  
Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department  
5201 St. Vrain Rd.  
Longmont, CO 80503

RE: COGCC Complaint #200277565  
Notice of Alleged Violation #200264506  
Deason #11-36, 05-013-06503  
COGCC Project File: #2101

Dear Mr. Alexander:

On July 30, 2010 the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) issued Notice of Alleged Violation #200264506 to EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (EnCana) after receiving a complaint (#200277656) from Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) about soil and crop conditions near the EnCana Deason #11-36 well located in the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 69 West. In the complaint a representative from BCPOS indicated that EnCana's operations may have damaged field drain tiles and that reclamation of the drilling pit resulted in compaction of soils that impeded the natural drainage of the area. A COGCC inspection (#20026416) was conducted to investigate the complaint and an NOAV was issued. However, upon further investigation the COGCC has been unable to substantiate BCPOS claims and the NOAV has been closed. No further enforcement actions will be taken in regards to this matter.

In April 2011 the COGCC retained a consulting firm to investigate the issues at the Deason #11-36 and also the Caldwell #14-25 well site (05-013-06512) located in the SW/4 SW/4 of Section 25. The investigation was conducted by AgriTech Consulting (AC) in April 2011 and final report submitted May 2011. The investigation was conducted by Ron Miller agronomist/Certified Crop Advisor and Gerald Knudsen a Colorado Registered Professional Engineer. AgriTech found evidence of historic crop damage or weak crops existing in similar patterns as those mentioned in your complaint. The investigation also noted that the White Rock Irrigation Canal is likely a major contributor to high groundwater in the area. The Panama Reservoir is also a potential contributor to groundwater. The issues included in the BCPOS' complaint do not appear to be oil and gas related. A copy of the report which provides more information about possible causes and contributing factors to the problems in the Caldwell and Deason fields is attached. The report also provides a list of recommended solutions. Additional data referenced in the report such as the NRCS soils database and the NRCS salinity mapping data can be found on the COGCC website.

If Boulder County Parks and Open Space objects to the COGCC's decision to resolve this NOAV with no further action you have the right to file with the Commission an application for Order Finding Violation

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Mike King, Executive Director

COGCC COMMISSION: Richard Alward – Thomas L. Compton – DeAnn Craig – Mark Cutright – Michael Dowling – Joshua B. Epel – Mike King – Martha Rudolph  
COGCC STAFF: David Neslin, Director – Margaret Ash, Field Inspection Manager – Debbie Baldwin, Environmental Manager – Stuart Ellsworth, Engineering Manager

(OFV). The application is to be filed pursuant to COGCC Rule 503 within 45 days of the decision date which for this purpose will be June 9, 2011. Please contact Rob Willis the Acting Hearings Manager for additional information on this process.

If you have questions or comments please contact me at (303) 894-2100 ext. 5110.

Sincerely,



Margaret Ash  
Manager, Field Inspection Unit  
Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

Attachment: Investigation of Deason #11-36 Well Site, Notice of Alleged Violation, May, 2011

cc: Cindy Allen, EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. w/o attachment  
Conrad Lattes, Attorney, Boulder County Parks and Open Space w/o attachment  
Rob Willis, Acting Hearings Manager, COGCC, w/o attachment  
Gary Helgeland, Reclamation Specialist, COGCC, w/o attachment  
COGCC File: #2101, #200277565, #200264506