



## CDPHE Spills Tracking System Data Entry Form 2019-0021

**Felt - DNR, Benjamin** <benjamin.felt@state.co.us>

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To: "Nedrow - CDPHE, Ann" <ann.nedrow@state.co.us>

Cc: "Arauz - DNR, Steven" <steven.arauza@state.co.us>, Michelle Thiebaud <michelle.thiebaud@state.co.us>, David Kurz <david.kurz@state.co.us>, Casey Kay <casey.kay@state.co.us>, Heather Drissel <heather.drissel@state.co.us>, Carol Keever <carol.keever@state.co.us>, Nathan Moore <nathan.moore@state.co.us>, Caren Johannes - CDPHE <caren.johannes@state.co.us>, David Foster <david.w.foster@state.co.us>, Edward Smith - CDPHE <edwardh.smith@state.co.us>, Kathryn Stewart - CDPHE <kathryn.stewart@state.co.us>, Richard Mruz - CDPHE <richard.mruz@state.co.us>, Rob Beierle - CDPHE <robert.beierle@state.co.us>, Susan Newton - CDPHE <susan.newton@state.co.us>, Ginny Brannon - DNR <ginny.brannon@state.co.us>, "russ.means" <russ.means@state.co.us>, Wally Erickson - DNR <wally.erickson@state.co.us>, Jeff Graves - DNR <jeff.graves@state.co.us>, Tara Tafi - DNR <tara.tafi@state.co.us>, Melynda May - DNR <melynda.may@state.co.us>, Matt Nicholl - DNR <matt.nicholl@state.co.us>, Lori Martin - DNR <lori.martin@state.co.us>, Kendall Bakich - DNR <kendall.bakich@state.co.us>, Perry Will - DNR <perry.will@state.co.us>, Kirk Oldham - DNR <kirk.oldham@state.co.us>, Stan Spencer - DNR <stan.spencer@state.co.us>, Alex Fischer <alex.fischer@state.co.us>, Greg Deranleau - DNR <greg.deranleau@state.co.us>, Sean Hackett - CDPHE <sean.hackett@state.co.us>, Anna Triebel <atriebel@garfield-county.com>, Chris Bornholdt <cbornhold@garco.com>, Joshua Williams <jwilliams@garfield-county.com>, Kirby Wynn <kwynn@garfield-county.com>, Morgan Hill <mhill@garfield-county.com>, "Stasinos, Greg" <greg.stasinos@state.co.us>, Dan Miller <dan.miller@coag.gov>, David Banas <David.Banas@coag.gov>, Jennifer Robbins <Jennifer.Robbins@coag.gov>, Juliann Bertone - CDPHE <juliann.bertone@state.co.us>, Troy Arnold <troy.arnold@coag.gov>, Christe Coleman <christe.coleman@state.co.us>, Cory Stark - CDPS <cory.stark@state.co.us>, "david.osborn" <david.osborn@state.co.us>, "drew. petersen" <drew.petersen@state.co.us>, James Clare <jclare@slvlandfill.com>, Kevin Kuretich <kevin.kuretich@state.co.us>, Mark Boley - CDPS <mark.bolely@state.co.us>, Riley Frazee - CDPS <riley.frazee@state.co.us>, Trevor Denney - CDPS <trevor.denney@state.co.us>, "Vale Chuck Mr." <Chuck.Vale@state.co.us>, R8 RRC <R8\_RRC@epa.gov>

Hi all,

Scott Hoyer (CPW District Wildlife Manager) and I (CPW Aquatic Biologist) conducted a limited investigation at the site of the spill on 1/15/2019 and 1/16/2019. Our ability to determine the effects of the spill on fish in the gravel pits was severely limited due to ice formation. Below is a summary of our visits to the site.

Scott and I went to the site of the spill the night of 1/15/2019 and also the morning of 1/16/2019 to check things out. The pits were locked up the night of 1/15/2019 so we walked the river and did not notice any strong smells, sheens on the water, or any other signs of a spill. On the morning of 1/16/2019, we first met with Dionne Moores who is the operations manager at the Una gravel pits with Elam construction. It is our understanding that an effort was made by Caerus to contact the owners of the Una gravel pits following the spill; however, Dionne was unaware of any spill near the pits when we arrived. Dionne showed us around the pits and also showed us where she was pumping water from the pits into the Colorado River (pump with 6" hose was running for last 3 weeks or so). While we were there she turned the pump off until we could find out where the spill was and if it affected those gravel pits. Dionne left a voicemail with her supervisor regarding a potential spill and Scott left a voicemail with Caerus to determine if we could figure out more details. Scott and I then decided to go to Caerus headquarters to see if we could talk to someone who had more details about the spill.

As we were leaving the pits for the Caerus office, Scott and I stopped and talked with a gentleman from Knowles Enterprise at the next driveway down the road. He was familiar with the spill and drove us back to the site of the spill. At the site, it was obvious that there had been a substantial spill as the liquid that had been released formed a channel from the site of the spill down towards Una pits. We both noted a strong odor which was presumably from the liquid that had been released. We followed the trench that had been formed by the spilled liquid for approximately a quarter mile down to a culvert where it entered the northeast portion of the Una Pits; some liquid remained in this trench and the odor was very strong. We broke through the ice where water entered this pit and the odor was still present. We could not tell if

there were any impacts to fish (or if fish are even present in the pit) because of the ice. During a second conversation with Dionne, she said that all of those pits were connected so it is possible that the liquid released had reached the site of where water was pumped into the river. However, we did not smell anything or notice any sheen on the water near the pump. The pump is going to remain off through the weekend but I think the plan was to fire it back up on Monday, if possible. It sounded like Dionne was fine with holding off on starting the pump back up until the water sampling results came in.

Clean-up crews were arriving by the time we were heading out on 1/16. We had a conversation with a gentleman from LT Environmental and he explained that he was going to be taking soil and water samples throughout the area. There was also a pump truck on site which was removing liquid from the area near the inlet to the pit. I had a phone conversation with Dionne after our visit on 1/16 and she said that Caerus environmental crews were also on site and were testing the water in the pits and in the river. She said will pass along the results of those water tests when they become available.

Thanks,

Ben

**Benjamin Felt**  
Grand Junction Area Aquatic Biologist  
Northwest Region Aquatics



**COLORADO**

**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

P 970.255.6126 | F 970.255.6111 | C 970.778.2481  
[711 Independent Avenue Grand Junction, CO 81505](mailto:benjamin.felt@state.co.us)  
[benjamin.felt@state.co.us](mailto:benjamin.felt@state.co.us) | [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us)

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