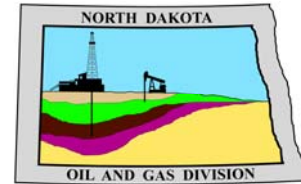




NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Sept. 1, 2010

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North Dakota Agencies Respond to Oil Well Leak in Dunn County

BISMARCK, N.D. – This morning, Denbury Onshore, LLC, reported that a wellbore failed in the course of a hydraulic fracturing operation at a drilling rig about 2 ½ miles southwest of Killdeer, N.D. Personnel from the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources and the North Dakota Department of Health responded onsite. No injuries or offsite impacts have been reported. Mineral Resource officials are investigating the cause of the wellbore failure.

As a result of the incident, a mixture of primarily water and some oil began flowing from the ground in the area immediately around the wellhead. This was fully contained by a protective dike surrounding the site, preventing release into a nearby creek. All leaking fluid within the containment dike is being vacuumed into trucks and removed. About 500 barrels have leaked thus far and all have been recovered. Coil tubing will be used to seal the wellbore below ground. Crews expect to have it fully cemented by later today or tomorrow.

The nearest city that accesses area ground water is Killdeer. The wellbore failure occurred more than a mile outside the city's wellhead protection area, meaning that it will not affect Killdeer's drinking water supplies. Based on preliminary information, the Department of Health has no evidence of adverse impact on private wells; however, the department will continue to assess any potential impact.

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

Beginning tomorrow, a number of monitoring wells will be drilled under the supervision of the North Dakota Department of Health around the wellhead area to determine if there was any underground seepage. If any seepage is detected, the Department of Health will oversee its removal.

For more information, contact Lynn Helms, Department of Mineral Resources, at 701.328.8020, or Dave Glatt, Department of Health, at 701.328.5150.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

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