

SANTA FE PACIFIC PIPELINE SPILL

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PUBLIC MEETING ON SANTA FE PACIFIC PIPELINE SPILL SCHEDULED

SUMMIT CREEK—Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline L.P. (SFPP), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and Nevada County Environmental Health (NCEH) will hold a community meeting to discuss water quality and public health issues on the Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline spill, March 7, 1997, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium of the Tahoe Truckee High School off of Donner Pass Road in Truckee.

NCEH reports that preliminary water sampling information indicates there is no imminent health threat from the spill. However, NCEH continues to monitor and analyze all water samples. Toxicologists from the Department of Toxic Substance Control have been called in to provide additional analysis support. Findings are expected by Friday, and will be presented at the public meeting. The NCEH continues to discourage any use of untreated surface water as a drinking water resource.

Efforts are continuing to locate the possible leak. SFPP has isolated an area between the location of the original spill and a point further up the mountain that it is excavating. The line is buried under three feet underground and is also covered by nearly 12 feet of snow. Six boom have been placed across Summit Creek from the original product location down the creek. A temporary underflow dam has been placed across Summit Creek an eighth of a mile from Donner Lake. The boom and dam are precautionary measures to collect any gross product.

The spill was reported on March 1, 1997 by skiers in the area. DFG, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and NCEH located a pool of water six feet by 12 feet with sheen, approximately three miles west of Donner Lake. Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline shut the line down.

The Incident Command Post is located at a double-wide trailer, Truckee Forest Hospital, east of Highway 89 and Donner Pass Road, off of Levone.

No documented wildlife impacts have occurred, but the DFG will be monitoring the effects of the incident on the local wildlife. In the event wildlife does come into contact with the petroleum product, the DFG's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response is prepared to care for wildlife.

The Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline that travels through Donner Summit provides diesel, gasoline and jet fuel from San Francisco Bay Area refineries to Reno. Companies that use the pipeline have been notified of its closure and are making arrangements to ship product to Reno through other means.

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DFG

SFPP

NCEH