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SPECIAL NEWS

SANTA FE PACIFIC PIPELINE INCIDENT

CONTACT: Alexia Retallack
Incident Command Post
(916) 216-1301

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EFFORT TO PINPOINT POSSIBLE LEAK CONTINUES

SUMMIT CREEK—Crews from Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline L.P. (SFPP) and Erikson Environmental Company continue efforts to pinpoint the location of the possible leak. Crews began excavating at a location along the pipeline above the original pool of product. The pipeline is inspected along the way as the excavation approaches the product pool.

The line is buried under three feet of ground and is also covered by nearly 12 feet of snow. Several booms 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 and another is being constructed above the confluence with Billy Mack Creek. The boom and dam are precautionary measures to collect any gross floating product.

Nevada County Environmental Health (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 a community meeting scheduled for March 7, 1997, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium of the Tahoe Truckee High School. The NCEH continues to discourage any use of untreated surface water as a drinking water resource.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) continues to monitor wildlife in the area though no documented impacts have been reported. 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 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 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