

DEQ updates status of groundwater cleanup from Clark gas well blowout

By Buzzy Hassrick, Cody Enterprise

Clark residents soon will learn the status of work to clean up groundwater contaminated by the blowout of a natural gas well on Line Creek.

"The site investigation is basically complete," said Kathy Brown of Lander, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality project manager. "We're at the stage of evaluating data to determine the best clean-up option to implement."

The incident occurred Aug. 11, 2006, and caused the evacuation of 25 homes.

Subsequently, Windsor Energy Group of Oklahoma City, owner of the Crosby well, hired Terracon Consultants and Energy Labs, both of Billings, to investigate the situation.

"We still don't know the extent of the contamination," said Deb Thomas of the Clark Resource Council. "We feel a groundwater flow map and a geologic cross-section are definitely needed to establish plumes of contamination throughout the watershed."

She added that the contamination occurred in both shallow and deep aquifers.

"We know there's groundwater contamination there," Brown said, though she couldn't specify its extent.

Data and information, available at the meeting, will cover three areas, she said.

Terracon officials will discuss the results of its investigations, based on hydro-tests and numerous monitoring wells.

Remediation efforts on a contaminated private well will be explained, Brown said. A carbon filtration system has been installed as an "interim measure" to mitigate the problem, she said.

The system is eliminating 100 percent of the hydrocarbons and producing potable water, Brown added.

Finally, Energy Lab officials will present data from water well tests.