Message

From: Williams, Mike [Mike.Williams@meritenergy.com]
Sent: 6/22/2021 8:18:46 PM
To: Zhang, Qian [Zhang.Qian@epa.gov]
CC: Bob Georgius [bob.georgius@meritenergy.com]; Wagner, Cody [Cody.Wagner@meritenergy.com]; Valliquette, Arlene [Arlene.Valliquette@meritenergy.com]
Subject: WY00000779 & WY00000922 'Concerned Citizen' reports and NPDES Response Actions

Good Afternoon Qian,

As we discussed yesterday afternoon, on the night of June 20, 2021 at around 2100, Merit Energy Company, LLC ("Merit") received a call from our emergency response contractor that a "concerned citizen" reported a release of oil from Merit's NPDES produced water discharge facility at the Maverick Springs field (WY0000779) into a creek. Merit immediately went into full-response procedure and deployed personnel, equipment, as well as third party contractors to the alleged release location. All necessary and appropriate response actions were taken, including but not limited to installing booms for containment. However, no oil or unusual sheen was observed by Merit or its response team. Field screening samples of the discharge were collected from the outfall, those results confirmed all levels were within the normal range. As a precautionary measure, additional samples were collected and sent to a third party laboratory for expedited analyses using Method 1664A. Merit is awaiting those results.

Roughly an hour later, on the night of June 20th, Merit received another call that a possible release had been reported by a "concerned citizen" at the Chatterton field (WY0000922). Merit again immediately responded and went through the same response procedures it had just taken at the Maverick Springs field. Again, no oil or unusual sheen was observed by Merit or its response team. Field screening samples were taken and confirmed all levels were within the normal range. And again, Merit collected and sent additional samples to a third-party for further analyses.

Merit maintained continuous surveillance of both facilities and the discharge flowpaths until dawn the following day. At dawn, Merit walked the discharge flowpath at each facility and again found no evidence of crude oil, stained vegetation, sheen, or battery malfunction.

Upon receipt of the laboratory results, Merit will provide an update to the EPA. Based on Merit's investigation and lack of evidence of any release, we expect that the third party analyses will confirm that the effluent was compliant with our permit and that there were no hydrocarbon releases at either location. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,
Mike

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