



Wetlands are Ready to Perform

As part of the Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. Superfund project we constructed a wetland in 1998 to treat and reduce nitrate concentrations in the shallow aquifer.

It has taken several years to establish healthy cattails and optimize the treatment process but we are now in full operation and ready to begin discharging into the wash near the intersection of Old Apache Powder Road and Apache Powder Road.

You may recall that we conducted a pilot test a couple of years ago to evaluate various things like infiltration rate and distance of flow downstream. As part of the treatment process in the wetland, Apache adds molasses to promote the removal of nitrates. The breakdown of the molasses in the wetland system can result in a rotten egg smell. During the pilot test some neighbors expressed concern about the odors.

We have focused our efforts on managing the addition of molasses and believe that the odor problem is under control. We have been discharging near the wetland for several months and currently have no detectable odor. The water in the wash has created a lush green habitat that is visited by a variety of wildlife.

We will begin discharging on Monday, April 25, and are asking you to help us monitor the situation. If you notice any odors or other unusual conditions, please notify me immediately at 720-2114. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks for your help.

Pamela J Beilke
Pamela Beilke, Director
Technical Services

