



**Wyoming Department
of Environmental Quality**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2009

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DEQ to conduct environmental assessments of contaminated orphan sites in Cheyenne, Casper, and Jackson

Cheyenne, Casper, and Jackson, Wyo. – This fall, the Solid and Hazardous Waste Division (SHWD) of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will begin environmental assessments of four contaminated orphan sites selected as the highest priority for cleanup in the state.

The Orphan Site Remediation law (Article 17) was enacted in 2000 which required DEQ to inventory all known orphan sites within the state, estimate costs for remediation, and propose a funding source. This work was completed by SHWD, and during the 2009 legislature session the department received funding to begin assessment work on some of the sites.

The law defines orphan sites to include sites where: a) it is determined there is no viable party responsible for the contamination, b) a no further action letter has been issued by SHWD and there is a subsequent discovery of contamination, and c) spill sites where the responsible party cannot be identified or where prompt action must be taken to prevent hazards to human health or the environment.

DEQ has selected the contractors and will begin assessment work for two orphan sites in Casper and one each in Cheyenne and Jackson, Wyoming. Initial public notice will be provided for all sites in local newspapers this fall, and more public outreach will be conducted for each site as assessment results become available and before any mitigation or environmental cleanup begins.

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