

Contamination seeping toward Colorado River

By Marija B. Vader The Daily Sentinel
Tuesday, August 09, 2005

Contamination of groundwater from current and past gasoline stations on First Street in Grand Junction is slowly making its way to the Colorado River.

One business is required to drill test wells on land where the Mesa County Justice Center and jail are built.

Mesa County commissioners Monday approved granting an easement to Gay Johnson's for water quality monitoring wells on county-owned land.

As a condition for the easements, the company must keep its drilling materials off-site, a requirement suggested by Commissioner Craig Meis.

Meis also wants the county to require proper closure methods.

"It's not unusual for underground storage tanks to have leaked," Meis said. "We want to ensure our surface activities don't cause a groundwater issue as well."

"And we want to ensure they store the materials off-site," Meis said. "Typically they store those materials on site."

The final determination has not yet been made on the extent of the contamination, said Stacy Mascarenas, real estate specialist with Mesa County.

"It's all headed to the river, and we're right in the middle of it," Mascarenas said.

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