

EPA Transfers Oversight of Oil Spill

By Laura Lombardi

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it has transferred oversight of remaining oil recovery and cleanup operations related to the crude oil discharge that impacted the Chikaskia River in south-central Kansas to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

According to the EPA, the agency responded to the discharge, which was reported on February 15, 2026, and was previously detailed in the Wellington Daily News' March 5, 2026 issue. While the Chikaskia River flows through Sumner County, officials said the spill was contained upstream and did not reach the area.

"I am very proud of the work our team performed in Kingman County alongside our state partners," said EPA Region 7 Administrator Jim Macy. "Working together in line with EPA's commitment to cooperative federalism, our agencies prevented the flow of oil downstream and updated the public about the potential risks to livestock that drink from the Chikaskia River."

The EPA said KDHE and KCC will continue to work with Atlas Operating LLC to ensure the recovery of remaining oil and oil-impacted debris is completed and that all waste is disposed of in accordance with state, federal, and Tribal regulations.

To date, the EPA reported that more than 240,000 gallons of a water and crude oil mixture have been recovered. More than 740 tons of oil-impacted waste, including vegetation and soil, have been collected and transported off-site to an approved disposal facility.

KCC will also work with Atlas Operating LLC to inspect the integrity of its pipeline, make any necessary repairs, and ensure compliance with the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule. The SPCC rule is designed to prevent oil discharges into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines and requires facilities to develop, maintain, and implement spill prevention plans.

How Development Projects Find a Home

By Stacy Davis, Sumner County Economic Development

One of the questions I get most often is, "How do development projects actually start?"

Sometimes it can feel like a business simply shows up one day. There's a sign out front, fencing goes up, and construction begins. But the truth is, there's a long and thoughtful process that happens well before any dirt is moved.

Every development project begins with a need or an idea. A company may be growing and running out of space. An entrepreneur may be ready to launch something new. Sometimes it's about expanding, sometimes it's about operating more efficiently, and sometimes it's about opportunity.

This is the point where questions start getting asked: Where should we go? What do we need? What community is the right fit?

That's often when economic development organizations become part of the conversation.

Before a location is considered, the project must be clearly defined. This means identifying how many employees will be needed, the size and type of building required, and what utilities and infrastructure must be in place. That often includes power, water, internet, and transportation access. Workforce availability and proximity to highways, suppliers, or customers also play a key role. These

details ensure the project is matched with communities that can support it.

Many projects move forward through a Request for Proposal, or "RFP." An RFP explains what a company needs and outlines the type of community that can meet those needs. In Kansas, RFPs often come through the Kansas Department of Commerce, which helps companies confidentially explore options across the state.

Once an RFP is received, it is shared with local and regional economic development organizations whose communities may be a good fit. Details such as the project overview, site and building requirements, workforce and infrastructure needs, a general timeline, and how responses are included. Local economic development teams then gather information from utility providers, workforce and education partners, and property owners to show how their community meets the project's needs.

Communities respond individually. This step is both competitive and collaborative, with everyone working toward the shared goal of keeping projects and jobs in Kansas.

After reviewing responses, the company usually creates a short list of possible locations. At this stage, it's not just about numbers on a spreadsheet. It's about fit.

Can the community support the project long-term? Are the right partners involved? Do the company's goals align with the community's priorities? If a community makes



the short list, the company often schedules a site visit next. These visits often include touring possible sites or buildings, sitting down with local leaders and utility providers, and talking through things like workforce, housing, and schools.

It's just as important for the company to get a sense of the community itself. A good meal, a walk through downtown, or a drive through local neighborhoods can say a lot. In many cases, site visits are less about measurements and maps and more about relationships, first impressions, and whether the community feels like the right place to call home.

After site visits, the company weighs everything it has learned; costs, logistics, community support, and long-term potential. Once a location is selected, there may still be quiet negotiations before anything is

announced publicly.

For Sumner County, this process matters because it ensures growth that fits who we are and where we're going. Every project that comes our way is carefully evaluated based on our workforce, infrastructure, available sites, and long-term community goals. Sometimes that means competing for a project and sometimes it means recognizing when a project isn't the right fit. Both outcomes are important.

When a business chooses Sumner County it's because local partners showed up, answered tough questions, and demonstrated why this community works. That approach helps us attract investment that supports jobs, strengthens our tax base, and contributes to a future that benefits residents across the county.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in Wellington Daily News
March 12, 19, 26, 2026

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRADFORD K. HERMAN, Deceased. Case No. SU-2026-PR-000017

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF K.S.A.

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are notified that on February 26, 2026, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, was filed in this Court by Leland W. Cox, requesting petitioner be appointed as Executor, and petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary. You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before April 7, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the District Court, in Wellington, Sumner County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

LELAND W. COX, Petitioner

SUBMITTED BY:
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in Wellington Daily News
March 19, 26, April 2, 2026

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: CHARLES JOHN SEIWERT, also known as C. JOHN SEIWERT, Deceased Pursuant to Chapter 59, Kansas Statutes Annotated Case No. SU-2026-PR-000020
Title to Real Estate Involved
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that on March 10, 2026, a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in this Court by Katie Casner, an heir of the Estate of Charles John Seiwert a/k/a C. John Seiwert, deceased. All creditors of decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of this notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice is given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Katie Casner, Petitioner
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in Wellington Daily News
March 26, April 2, 9, 2026

IN THE 30th JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OF SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF David Keith Melton To Change His/Her Name to: David Keith McDonnell PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60 Case No S42026CV137

NOTICE OF HEARING - PUBLICATION THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that David Keith Melton, filed a Petition in the above court on the 13th day of March, 2026 requesting a judgment and order changing his/her name from David Keith Melton to David Keith McDonnell

The Petition will be heard in Sumner County District Court, 501 N. Washington, Wellington, KS, on the 21st day of April, 2026, at 9:00a.m. If you have any objection to the requested name change, you are required to file a responsive pleading on or before April 14th, 2026 in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. If you fail to act, judgment and order will be entered upon the Petition as requested by Petitioner.
Petitioner, Pro Se
/s/ David Keith McDonnell
4400340

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