



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Marvin Pinnecoose, Vice Chairman – 970.563.2402

Summer Begay, Communication Specialist– 970.563.2313

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2026

Texaco Hill Tanker Truck Incident: Response, Accountability, and Remediation Efforts

Southern Ute Indian Reservation – At approximately 4:30 a.m. on March 22, 2026, a tanker truck and trailer overturned on Texaco Hill, resulting in a release of oil-based drilling fluids. The operator of the vehicle was transported to an area medical facility and is reported to be in stable condition. The operator of the vehicle was not affiliated with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund (Growth Fund) and was engaged as an independent subcontractor by a non-Tribal operator.

Mitigation and containment efforts began at approximately 6:00 a.m. Initial estimates indicate that approximately 80–120 barrels of oil-based drilling fluids may have been released as a result of the incident. An immediate response was initiated, involving approximately 75 personnel from the respective operators and its sub-contractors. Their prompt actions focused on securing the site, protecting surrounding areas, and beginning cleanup and mitigation measures. *Based on current assessments, the location of the spill is not expected to impact surface water, groundwater, agricultural areas, wildlife, or identified cultural resources.*

We extend our sincere appreciation to Tribal departments and first responders for their coordination and support, including the Executive Office, Environmental Programs Department, Cultural Preservation Department, Lands Division, Southern Ute Police Department, Tribal Rangers, Colorado State Patrol, Los Pinos Fire Protection District, and the leadership of the Growth Fund Department of Energy. Their rapid response and collaboration were critical in addressing the situation effectively.

While incidents of this nature may occur during energy development, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe remains firmly committed to accountability and environmental stewardship, with plans in place to hold the responsible party accountable for a timely, thorough, and effective remediation. Monitoring and mitigation efforts remain ongoing, and additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

###