
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Status of Actions April 2024 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Fourth Quarter 2023 groundwater data indicates that plume migration is not occurring but does reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Third Quarter 2023 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Fourth Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=mghgx) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=mghgx>) and are Figures 5-1 through 5-7 of this report.

Chromium plume maps representing previous quarters are posted on the Water Board's Hinkley website at [Water Board's Hinkley website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml), at the bottom of the page under the section titled "Other Documents and Information." The First Quarter 2024 plume map is due on May 10, 2024, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order R6V-2015-0068 Amendment for a Revised Proposed Area of Allowable Expansion

During the Second and Third Quarters 2022, increased In-situ Remediation Zone (IRZ) injections resulted in plume expansion along Summerset Road between Community Boulevard and Frontier Road. The 2015 CAO Requirement V.H allows for temporary plume expansion in this area during implementation of remedial action. It was observed that the plume expansion was reaching the fringes of the 2008 Area of Allowable Expansion. Similar plume expansion occurred previously in 2020 when injections were occurring, so plume expansion in this area was anticipated. PG&E decreased IRZ injections into this target treatment area in spring 2022 to stop further expansion. PG&E stopped IRZ injections altogether in August 2022, and resumed minimal operations in December 2022. PG&E is requesting a revised Area of Allowable Expansion to allow for temporary expansion to the east in order to perform IRZ injections at the rate required for remediation. The significant reduction in IRZ injections is limiting progress toward remedial timeframe targets. The Water Board requested public review and written comments on the Draft Amended Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6V-2015-0068-A1. The Water Board received comments from the IRP Manager and from one community member. Water Board staff are working on providing responses to comments and are making edits to the Draft Amended CAO based on the comments received.

Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6V-2015-0068 Revision

Water Board staff will begin working with PG&E, the IRP, and the technical work group (TWG) this summer to determine cleanup goals for this project. On February 20, 2024, the Water Board requested PG&E submit a proposal evaluating the application of the background hexavalent chromium values, as determined in the United States Geological Survey Background Study as a cleanup level(s) for groundwater. This proposal is due to the Water Board on May 15, 2024.

Water Board staff plan to begin outreach efforts after preparing some initial proposals of changes to the CAO to present to the community for input. Revisions to the CAO may include establishing a cleanup level(s), revising remedial timeframes, reviewing the monitoring network, and updating monitoring and reporting requirements. Community outreach is tentatively expected to begin between late 2024 and early 2025. These outreach efforts will include listening sessions, workshops, technical work group meetings, and community meetings. All are invited to participate. Comments will also be accepted via mail, e-mail, and phone. Water Board staff contact is Amanda Lopez, (amanda.lopez@waterboards.ca.gov), 760-241-7373.

Routine Monitoring Reports

PG&E submitted the following reports in accordance with the respective monitoring and reporting requirements. Water Board staff are reviewing these routine monitoring reports.

- 2023 Annual Agronomic Rate Performance Report
- 2023 Annual MMRP Compliance Report for Groundwater Remediation

Non-routine Reports

PG&E has submitted the following reports for review and consideration for changes regarding their remediation strategies. These requests are part of the adaptive management of the project to optimize PG&E's remedial systems. Water Board staff are responding to these reports.

- 2022 Groundwater Monitoring Optimization Proposal
- Request to Discontinue Western Finger Area Monitoring and Reporting

Water Board PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Webpage

Water Board staff have updated our [PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/). The project webpage hosts certain documents and announcements related to PG&E's corrective actions, as well as copies of past and current plume maps to access or download and print from the webpage. Please contact Water Board staff with any questions or for assistance.

Your Water Board Staff Contacts

Water Board oversight of the PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup project is provided by staff in the Water Board's Victorville office located at 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394. Your Water Board staff contacts are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of the those listed should you need assistance.

Amanda Lopez, Engineering Geologist
(760) 241-7373, amanda.lopez@waterboards.ca.gov

Christina Guerra, Senior Engineering Geologist
(760) 241-7333, christina.guerra@waterboards.ca.gov

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
(760) 241-6583, general number
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>