



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

Linda S. Adams

Secretary for
Environmental Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

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Mr. Steven Redeker
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

CERTIFIED MAIL
7008 1140 0002 8805 7616

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA): WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5019 SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT, RANCHO SECO NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

On 6 June 2008, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (hereafter "Discharger") submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for an existing domestic wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) at Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station. Additional information was received on 24 September, 16 October, and 29 October 2008.

Based on the information provided in the RWD and amendments thereto, the proposed discharge of treated domestic wastewater satisfies the general and specific conditions of State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ (General Order). Therefore, this letter serves as formal notice that Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ is applicable to the site and discharge described below. You are hereby assigned General Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5019 for this facility.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed. You can also find the General Order on the State Water Board's website at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/wqo97.shtml

You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire General Order. The facility must be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order and with the information submitted in the RWD.

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

WDRs Order No. R5-2007-0016 (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0004758), adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 15 March 2007, prescribes requirements for the discharge of treated radioactive cooling waste and effluent from the domestic WWTF to an unnamed tributary of Clay Creek.

The power plant has been decommissioned, there is no longer any discharge of treated radioactive cooling water, and there are few employees on site to generate domestic wastewater. Domestic WWTF flows have been significantly reduced over the last two years, and the Discharger is converting the WWTF to a land discharge system. It is expected that WDRs Order No. R5-2007-0016 will be rescinded by the Central Valley Water Board upon

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verification that all surface water discharges have ceased. Only Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ will apply to the discharge described herein.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station is at 14440 Twin Cities Road in Herald, in Section 29, T6N, R8E, MDB&M (Assessor's Parcel Numbers APNs 140-05-08 and 140-06-12). The WWTF location is shown on Attachment A, which forms part of this NOA by reference.

Domestic wastewater generated at the power plant averages approximately 3,000 gallons per day (gpd). The wastewater receives secondary treatment in an activated sludge package treatment plant that includes a small lift station, aeration tanks, settling tanks, and an effluent sump. The package plant is designed to treat up to 9,000 gpd.

Currently, secondary effluent from the package plant is pumped to a small aeration pond and then to a series of overland flow terraces. During the rainy season, the combination of effluent and direct precipitation exceeds the hydraulic capacity of the terraces and excess wastewater flows from the terraces to a chlorine disinfection system prior to discharge to surface waters under WDRs Order No. R5-2007-0016.

The Discharger will eliminate the aeration pond, overland flow terraces, and disinfection system, and has constructed a land disposal system designed to accommodate all flows from the package plant.

The new effluent disposal system consists of an artificial wetlands pond, a spray disposal area, and an overflow effluent storage pond, as shown on Attachment B, which forms part of this Notice by reference. The wetlands system was constructed in a former cooling water pond. It is a 165-foot by 330-foot concrete structure, and is divided into three cells: two vegetative cells and an open storage cell. The vegetative cells contain soil and a variety of wetlands vegetation. The secondary effluent is pumped to the first cell, from which it can flow to the bottom of the second cell via a siphon pipe. The second cell is designed to overflow into the storage cell. Treated effluent will be pumped from the storage cell as needed and applied to a one-acre spray disposal area on the east side of the wetlands pond at a typical rate of one-half inch per week. The system is designed so that all runoff from the spray field is returned to the wetlands pond. A second concrete-lined cooling water pond is available for additional effluent storage when needed. The WWTF will be operated, maintained, and monitored by a certified wastewater treatment plant operator.

First groundwater is at least 150 feet below ground level at the wastewater treatment facility. Based on the low flows, advanced treatment system, and concrete treatment structures, the discharge poses little threat to groundwater quality. Therefore groundwater monitoring is not required at this time.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The Discharger shall comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements prescribed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2009-0825, which replaces Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ for this facility.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger shall comply with the Prohibitions, Requirements, Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations, Provisions, and Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements of Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ. Specifically, Requirement B.3 applies to the package treatment plant; Requirement B.6 applies to the artificial wetlands system and the overflow storage pond, but Requirements B.2, B.4, and B.5 are not applicable. Likewise, Provision D.3 applies, but Provisions D.2 and D.4 do not.

Please review this Notice of Applicability carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the proposed project and dewatering discharge. If the discharge violates the terms or conditions above, the Central Valley Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in the RWD, you must submit a new RWD.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District will generate the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge. As such, Sacramento Municipal Utility District is primarily responsible for compliance with Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ.

Failure to comply with the requirements in the Order could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in the RWD is prohibited.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing if the discharge regulated by this Order ceases so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

All monitoring reports, submittals, discharge notifications, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement should be directed to Guy Childs at (916) 464-4648 or gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permit should be directed to Anne Olson at (916) 464-4740 or aolson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosures – Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ
Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2009-0825