



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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23 June 2010

Ms. Diane Thurman  
Director of Environmental Operations  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
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## **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, HYDROSTATIC TEST OF GAS LINE 406 PROJECT; YOLO COUNTY**

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 17 May 2010 from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Discharger) for the Hydrostatic Test of Gas Line 406 Project. Based on the information in the NOI, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0081-070 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-070 in all future correspondence and documents.

The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf). You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger.

### **CALIFORNIA TOXIC RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING**

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxic Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California, 2005*, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP).

Screening levels for CTR constituents are found in Attachment B of the Low Threat General Order. Review of your water quality data in comparison to the CTR screening values showed no reasonable potential to impact the Hungry Hollow Canal.

**California Environmental Protection Agency**



## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Discharger proposes to discharge hydrostatic test water associated with the construction of Line 406, a 30-inch natural gas transmission pipeline that is approximately 15 miles long, and runs from County Highway E4 on the west side of the Community of Esparto to County Road 16A in the Town of Yolo. The source of the hydrostatic water is groundwater from nearby private wells.

The Discharger proposes three discharges. The first discharge will be from a pre-hydrostatic test at the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) site under I-505, which is estimated to be 41,000 gallons; the second discharge will be at another HDD site under I-5, which is estimated to be 50,000 gallons; and the third discharge will be from the entire pipeline which is estimated at 2.6 million gallons. The project is to be completed by 15 October 2010.

The HDD hydrostatic test waters will enter into nearby agricultural ditches, and the final hydrostatic test water will directly enter into Hungary Hollow Canal near County Highway E4. The agricultural ditches and Hungary Hollow Canal are tributaries of Cache Creek.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

All Dischargers must notify Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and when the discharge ceases. The Discharger is required to comply with all the monitoring and reporting requirements contained in Attachment E of the Low Threat General Order.

Effluent and receiving water analytical monitoring shall be conducted and the results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis unless specified otherwise. The Discharger must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X, even if there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the reporting quarter, until the Discharger formally requests that coverage under this Order be terminated.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the discharge is terminated. The Discharger must notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing if the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order is no longer necessary, so we may terminate applicability of this Low Threat General Order and avoid additional and unnecessary billing.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. Late reports are subject to an MMP of \$3,000 per each period of 30 days late. If you have no discharge during a quarterly monitoring period, you must still submit a report indicating that no discharge occurred, or you may be subject to MMPs.

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Spencer Joplin at (916) 464-4660 or [sjoplin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sjoplin@waterboards.ca.gov). Questions regarding the permitting aspects of

this Low Threat General Order, and requests for termination of coverage under this Order, may be directed to Mike Negrete at (916) 464-4662 or mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov.

*T. Negrete*

*PC*  
Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: General Order No. R5-2008-0081 (Discharger only)

cc: Mr. Dave Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco  
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento