

ITEM: 22
SUBJECT: Pactiv Corporation, Molded Pulp Mill, Tehama County
BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Adoption of Time Schedule Order*

BACKGROUND: The Discharger owns and operates a molded pulp processing plant, wastewater treatment system, and disposal conveyance lines. The current treatment train utilizes primary clarification, aeration, coagulation, and final clarification. Three settling ponds (i.e., Ponds 1 through 3) provide primary clarification, only one of which is utilized at any given time on a rotating basis. Process wastewater is fed to a settling pond until it reaches its solids holding capacity, at which time it is then rotated out of service. A fourth pond (Pond 4) is held in reserve for emergency backup. Wastewater from the settling ponds flows by gravity to an aeration stabilization pond. Coagulant is added to effluent from the aeration pond prior to being pumped to the final clarifier. Effluent from the final clarifier is combined with untreated non-contact cooling and sealing water and then discharged to the Sacramento River.

The tentative NPDES permit renewal proposes new effluent limits for zinc and copper. A Time Schedule Order is also proposed to include a compliance schedule which allows the Discharger time to evaluate alternatives, secure funding, and complete construction of the selected alternative adequate to achieve compliance with the new effluent limits.

Public comments were received from the Discharger and U.S. EPA. Detailed comments and responses are included in the Staff Response to Comments document included in this agenda item.

ISSUES: The two main issues for this item is the investigation of Ponds 1-3, and the new zinc and copper limits. The Discharger is required to conduct a study to determine if any of the ponds are degrading groundwater quality. Additionally, based on current data, there are interim effluent limitations for copper and zinc, along with reopeners based on the results of the required constituent/pollution prevention special studies, and a reduction in the dilution credit for zinc. The Discharger would like the interim/final effluent limitations for copper and zinc not be set until it has evaluated potential sources of copper/zinc in its discharge.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

9/10 June 2011
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