

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

INSPECTION REPORT

6 April 2005

DISCHARGER: Winemucca Trading Company Inc.

LOCATION & COUNTY: Former Shasta Mill-site, Anderson – Shasta County

CONTACT(S): Mr. Michael Sommers – Owner

INSPECTION DATE: 22 March 2005

INSPECTED BY: Katie Bowman (RWQCB)

ACCOMPANIED BY: Jim Whittle (Shasta County), Murray Salisbury, III (VESTRA),
Darryl Johnson – site contact

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS:

Background

On 29 October 2004, the Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2004-0717 to Winemucca Trading Company Limited Inc. (Winemucca) for cleanup of facilities and property that was formerly the Shasta Pulp and Paper Mill. The Shasta Paper Company previously owned the mill property, which included a bleached kraft mill, a paper mill, and treatment facilities for industrial and sanitary wastewater. The facilities were regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R5-00-082 (NPDES No. CA 0004065). On 31 October 2001 Shasta Paper Company filed for bankruptcy and on 20 May 2004 the senior secured creditor (Congress Financial Corporation) sold at auction the Shasta Pulp and Paper Mill to Winemucca. The treatment facilities previously discharged wastes to land at the Shasta Ranch and to the Sacramento River. The pipeline was blanked off on 31 August 2001 and the Shasta Ranch was sold at auction on 20 April 2004.

The treatment lagoons, located northeast of the mill site contain a large accumulation of sludge that remains to be characterized before removal. Wastewater from the pulp mill was high in solids and contained chlorinated organic compounds in addition to polychlorinated di-benzo dioxins and di-benzo furans, from the pulping and bleaching processes. The waste stream was combined with a small amount of effluent from the domestic wastewater treatment plant and flowed to the industrial wastewater treatment system.

The industrial wastewater treatment system consisted of holding basins and clarifiers on the mill property and treatment lagoons on the property located across Hawes Road from the mill property. The treatment lagoons consist of two ponds, one approximately 5-acres in area, and the other approximately 27-acres in area. CAO No. R5-2004-0717 requires the Discharger to submit a plan to clean close the holding basins and wastewater treatment lagoons, pursuant to Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 21400, by 1 April 2005.

Approved: 

Inspection (photographs attached)

I inspected the facility on 22 March 2005. The weather was overcast and windy. Jim Whittle of Shasta County and I met with Murray Salisbury (VESTRA) at the access road to the treatment lagoons. The treatment lagoons had adequate freeboard following the previous days rain. The areas of Pond 1 with accumulated sludge were thick with cattails. Two storage tanks are located between the lagoons, one is empty and the other may contain an unknown substance. We next inspected the mill-site, no longer in operation, and were joined by the facility operator. The industrial wastewater treatment system clarifiers were full and one contained floating petroleum product. At least three additional storage tanks remain on-site and may contain reportable quantities of hazardous materials including phosphoric acid, and ammonia. Shasta County Division of Environmental Health staff may request removal of reportable quantities of hazardous materials or submittal of a Hazardous Materials Disclosure Business Plan. The remaining structures and mechanical components of the former Shasta Pulp and Paper Mill are heavily corroded and in poor condition. The structures that contained black liquor and other chemicals associated with the mill operations appeared to be empty. Areas in the northeast portion of the facility were littered with 55-gallon drums with unknown contents and miscellaneous debris. What appeared to be an abandoned well was also observed northeast of the facility. We left the facility at approximately 16:00.

Case File Review

In accordance with CAO No. R5-2004-0717, the Discharger has submitted the following technical reports:

- 1) 27 January 2005 – Water Management Plan, Winemucca Trading Company, Former Shasta Pulp and Paper Mill, Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2004-0717;
- 2) 28 January 2005 – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, Winemucca Trading Company, Former Shasta Pulp and Paper Mill;
- 3) 7 March 2005 – Sludge Characterization, Winemucca Trading Company, Former Shasta Pulp and Paper Mill.

To date we have not received:

- 1) Confirmation that dyes and other additives stored in the on-site warehouse have been properly removed or recycled;
- 2) Confirmation that the petroleum coke and black liquor sludge stored on-site have been removed and properly disposed;

- 3) Complete characterization of sludge from the wastewater treatment lagoons, holding basins, and clarifiers. VESTRA has completed initial characterization of the wastewater treatment lagoons sludge. Two composite sludge samples were collected, one from each pond. Results indicate that dioxin levels may be at or above background concentrations; however additional characterization, including depth specific analysis of the ponds and the clarifier, is needed to develop a plan to clean close the treatment lagoons and determine disposal options for the sludge;
- 4) A plan to clean close the wastewater treatment lagoons pursuant to Section 21400, Title 27, California Code of Regulations.

SUMMARY:

Additional characterization of the industrial wastewater treatment system sludge in Ponds 1 and 2, and the clarifier is needed prior to submittal of the clean closure plan due 1 April 2005. Remaining areas of concern, including removal of on-site storage tanks and drums, and dilapidated structures should also be addressed in a closure plan.



Katie Bowman

Water Resources Control Engineer

KB: kg



Figure 1. Treatment lagoon No. 2



Figure 2. Treatment lagoon No. 1

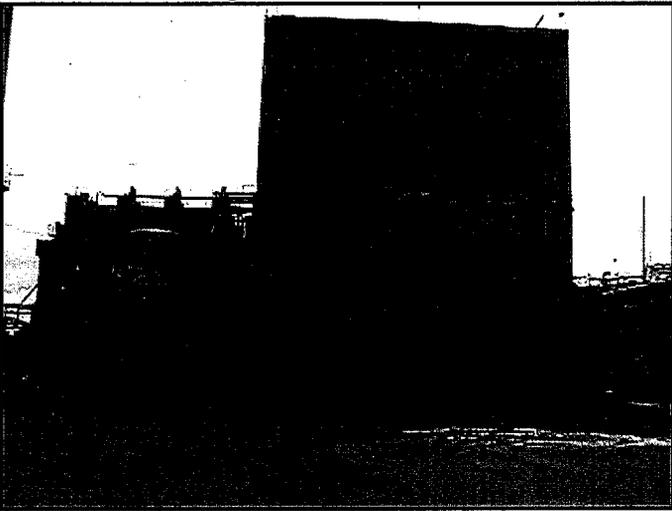


Figure 3. Remaining industrial facilities



Figure 4. Remaining industrial facilities (cont.)

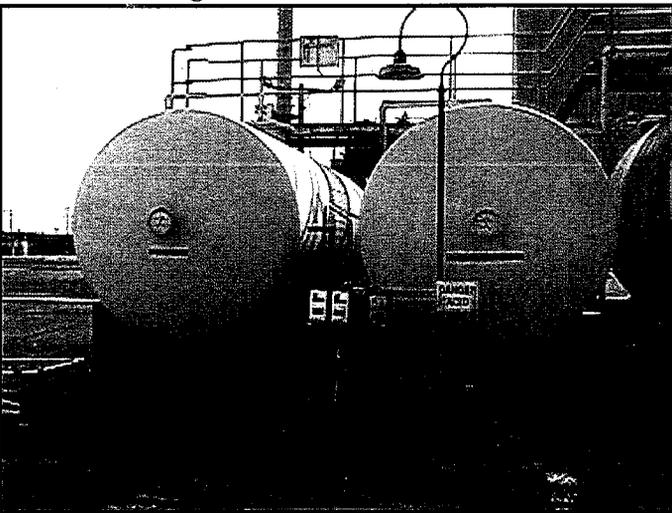


Figure 5. Tanks potentially containing hazardous materials

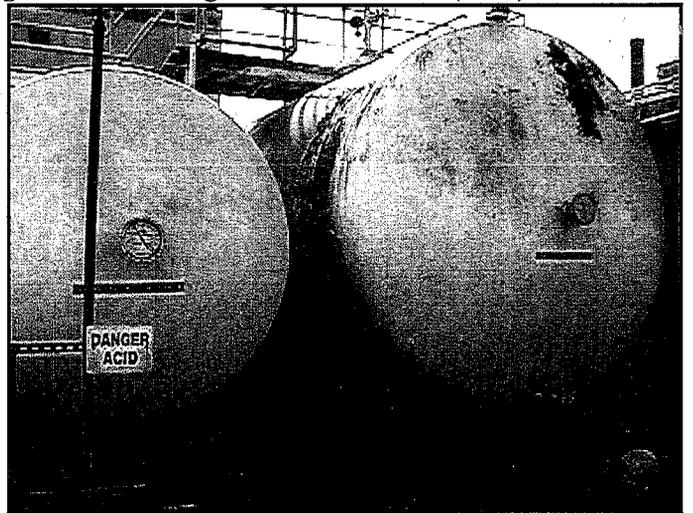


Figure 6. Tanks potentially containing hazardous material (cont.)



Figure 7. Unidentified well, possibly abandoned (northeast portion of facility)



Figure 8. Solid waste on-site (northeast portion of facility)

Katie Bowman

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Michael Sommers
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