

ITEM: 22

SUBJECT: Collins Pine Company, Chester Sawmill, Plumas County

BOARD ACTION: *Proposed Time Schedule Order*

BACKGROUND: Collins Pine Company (hereinafter Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Chester Sawmill (hereafter Facility). The Facility includes a sawmill and wood-burning cogeneration facility that discharges up to 0.36 million gallons per day of treated process wastewater into Stover Ditch (tributary to Lake Almanor).

The Discharger was unable to comply with new final average monthly effluent limitations for copper and lead at the time of the NPDES permit adoption in 2009; therefore, the NPDES permit contained a time schedule for meeting final effluent limitations for copper and lead. Compliance with these limits was to be achieved by 18 May 2010.

Since the NPDES permit was adopted, the Discharger has made efforts to improve facility performance as it relates to treatment and control of copper and lead in the effluent. Efforts include: sourcing and quantifying contaminants in the waste stream, improving treatment system components, analyzing treatment efficiency, altering the Facility's clarifier configuration and operation, modifying the configuration and operation of the Facility's ash settling basins, and installing and operating effluent reuse systems.

On 7 January 2014, 3 March 2014, and 16 June 2014 the Discharger submitted information for a request and justification for additional time to comply with final average monthly effluent limitations for copper and lead. In addition, the Discharger's request included justification for a time schedule to comply with final maximum daily effluent limitations for copper and lead. The Discharger has been evaluating the feasibility, economic requirements, and practicality of upgrading facilities and/or implementing reclamation and/or land disposal, which would eliminate or reduce the Facility's discharge to surface water.

Additional time is required for the Discharger to complete a final project that allows them to meet final effluent limits. The Discharger has submitted evidence that diligent progress has been made toward bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitations and that the time schedule is as short as possible. The proposed Time Schedule Order provides interim effluent limitations for copper and lead and a compliance schedule that requires compliance by January 2017.

ISSUES: Comments from the Discharger and Aqua Terra Aeris Law Group (representing Community Health Watch and Global Community Monitor) have been received on this item and the item is contested at this time. In consideration of certain comments, minor revisions have been made to the tentative TSO, including tightening (reducing) interim maximum daily effluent limits for copper and zinc. This item was first scheduled for consideration of adoption at the Board's 4/5 December 2014 meeting, but was rescheduled to the 5/6 February 2015 meeting to allow additional time for Board staff to prepare a response to the comments received and make minor revisions to the tentative TSO.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review \_\_BJS\_\_\_\_

Legal Review\_\_\_\_\_

February 4/5, 2015  
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