

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

MEETING OF OCTOBER 13-14, 2010

Barstow

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E), SOURCE AREA AND CENTRAL AREA IN-SITU REMEDIATION PROJECTS, HINKLEY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

CHRONOLOGY: This is a rescission of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for two Board Orders:

June 14, 2006	Mitigated Negative Declaration and WDRs adopted for the Central Area In-situ Remediation Pilot Study Project.
Nov. 9, 2006	Mitigated Negative Declaration and WDRs adopted for the Source Area In-situ Remediation Project.
Nov. 28, 2007	Mitigated Negative Declaration and Revised WDRs adopted for the Central Area In-situ Remediation Pilot Study Project.
Apr. 9, 2008	Mitigated Negative Declaration and General WDRs adopted for the General Site-Wide Groundwater Remediation Project.
Apr. 7, 2009	Notice of Applicability of General Waste Discharge Requirements for the South Central Area Re-injection Project
July 7, 2010	Notice of Applicability of General Waste Discharge Requirements for the In-Situ Reactive Zone Project

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ISSUES: Should the Board rescind WDRs for the two projects?

DISCUSSION: Board staff is proposing to rescind WDRs for two remediation projects operated by PG&E to cleanup hexavalent chromium in groundwater in Hinkley.

Since 2006, PG&E has been discharging carbon reagents, such as lactate and ethanol, to groundwater to facilitate in-situ remediation under WDRs adopted by the Water Board. Discharges occur at the Source Area, located at the Hinkley Compressor Station, and in the Central Area, located in the chromium plume about one mile to the north. Monitoring reports show that in-situ remediation is achieving clean up of chromium to levels less than background levels.

The rescissions have been prepared because remediation actions are being conducted under the Notice of Applicability (NOA), dated July 7, 2010, for the General Site-Wide Groundwater Remediation Project and the waste discharge requirements are no longer needed. The NOA combines three existing in-situ remediation projects into one project, referred to as the In-Situ Reactive Zone Project. Besides the Source Area and Central Area projects, the combined project includes the South Central Area Re-injection project, which operates under the April 7, 2009 NOA for General Permit R6V-2008-0014. The Monitoring and Reporting Programs associated with each of the three projects were rescinded with issuance of the July 7, 2010 NOA and replaced with a combined program. The discharge requirements of the NOA, however, do not go into effect until WDRs for the Source Area and Central Area are rescinded.

On August 16, 2010, Water Board staff mailed out Tentative Rescissions of Waste Discharge Requirements to interested agencies and the public. No comments were received.

RECOMMENDATION:

Rescind the two WDRs as proposed.

Enclosures:

1. Board Order R6V-2010-(**PROPOSED**)-Source Area Project
2. Board Order R6V-2010-(**PROPOSED**)-Central Area Project

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ENCLOSURE 1

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**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2010-(PROPOSED)

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2006-0054
WDID 6B360611007
(FORMERLY WDID 6B369107001)**

FOR

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
SOURCE AREA IN-SITU REMEDIATION PROJECT**

San Bernardino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) finds:

1. The Discharger

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted a complete report of waste discharge for the Source Area In-Situ Remediation Project (Project) on August 22, 2006. For the purposes of this Order, PG&E is the operator of the Project and is referred to as the Discharger.

2. History

The Water Board has previously established waste discharge requirements for the Project under Board Order No. R6V-2006-0054. On August 11, 2009, the Water Board Executive Officer issued Amended Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R6V-2006-0054A1 that changed the monitoring frequency for the Project from monthly to quarterly. On July 7, 2010, the Water Board Executive Officer issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) of General Waste Discharge Requirements for the General Site-Wide Groundwater Remediation Project, Board Order No. R6V-2008-0014, that combines three on-going in-situ remediation projects into one project. That NOA included a rescission of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R6V-2006-0054A1.

3. Description of the Project

The Project is a full-scale, in-situ remedial action for reducing hexavalent chromium in groundwater to trivalent chromium for achieving water quality standards. The Project includes two major elements: 1) injection of food-

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grade, biological reagents to groundwater and 2) extraction of groundwater to spread the reagents downgradient of the injection point. The Project is located on the PG&E Compressor Station property at 35863 Fairview Road in Hinkley and extends 300 feet to the north of Community Boulevard.

4. Description of the Discharge

The Discharger extracts groundwater containing hexavalent chromium and amends it with reagents, such as sodium lactate and ethanol, before returning the mixture to the saturated zone via injection wells. The Discharger can add tracer compounds and well rehabilitation compounds to the extracted groundwater to evaluate hydrogeologic conditions and restore flow rates to clogged well screens, respectively.

5. Reason for Action

The July 7, 2010, NOA combines three on-going in-situ remediation projects into one project. The combined project, referred to as the In-Situ Reactive Zone (IRZ) project, combines remedial actions at the Source Area, Central Area, and the South Central Re-injection Area. The IRZ utilizes existing infrastructure including wells, piping, electrical systems, and dosing systems and can expand treatment to areas already approved in the General WDRs. The NOA also combines the three monitoring and reporting programs from the individual projects into one monitoring and reporting program. The NOA's monitoring and reporting program replaced the rescinded Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R6V-2006-0054A1 and is in effect now. The discharge requirements of the NOA do not go into effect until waste discharge requirements in Board Order No. R6V-2006-0054 are rescinded.

6. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

This action is being taken by this regulatory agency, to rescind Board Order Nos R6V-2006-0054, pursuant to the California Water Code and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321(a)(2).

7. Public Notification

The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested parties of its intent to rescind Board Order No. R6V-2006-0054. The Water Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Board Order.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order No. R6V-2006-0054 be rescinded.

I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on October 13, 2010.

HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PROPOSED

ENCLOSURE 2

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**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2010-(PROPOSED)

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2007-0032
WDID 6B360711007
(FORMERLY WDID 6B369107001)**

FOR

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
CENTRAL AREA IN-SITU REMEDIATION PILOT STUDY PROJECT**

San Bernardino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) finds:

1. The Discharger

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted a complete revised report of waste discharge for the Central Area In-Situ Remediation Pilot Study Project (Project) consisting of two submittals on June 15, 2007 and June 28, 2007. For the purposes of this Order, PG&E is the operator of the Project and is referred to as the Discharger.

2. History

The Water Board has previously established waste discharge requirements for the Project under Board Order No. R6V-2006-0023. Revised waste discharge requirements were established under Board Order No. R6V-2007-0032, and that order rescinded Board Order No. R6V-2006-0023. On July 7, 2010, the Water Board Executive Officer issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) of General Waste Discharge Requirements for the General Site-Wide Groundwater Remediation Project, Board Order No. R6V-2008-0014, that combines three on-going in-situ remediation projects into one project. That NOA included a rescission of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R6V-2007-0032.

3. Description of the Project

The Project is an in-situ remedial action for reducing hexavalent chromium in groundwater to trivalent chromium for achieving water quality standards. The Project includes two major elements: 1) injection of food-grade, biological

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reagents to groundwater and 2) extraction of groundwater to spread the reagents downgradient of the injection point. The Project is located about 3,600 feet north of the PG&E Compressor Station at 35863 Fairview Road in Hinkley. Discharges and by-products are allowed at and north of the intersection of Fairview and Frontier Roads, extending 1,600 feet to the north.

4. Description of the Discharge

The Discharger extracts groundwater containing hexavalent chromium and amends it with reagents, such as sodium lactate and ethanol, before returning the mixture to groundwater via injection wells. The Discharger can add tracer compounds and well rehabilitation compounds to groundwater to evaluate hydrogeologic conditions and restore flow rates to clogged well screens, respectively.

5. Reason for Action

The July 7, 2010, NOA combines three on-going in-situ remediation projects into one project. The combined project, referred to as the In-Situ Reactive Zone (IRZ) project, combines remedial actions at the Source Area, Central Area, and the South Central Re-injection Area. The IRZ utilizes existing infrastructure including wells, piping, electrical systems, and dosing systems and can expand treatment to areas already approved in the General WDRs. The NOA also combines the three monitoring and reporting programs from the individual projects into one monitoring and reporting program. The NOA's monitoring and reporting program replaced the rescinded Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R6V-2007-0032 and is in effect now. The discharge requirements of the NOA do not go into effect until waste discharge requirements in Board Order No. R6V-2007-0032 are rescinded.

6. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

This action is being taken by this regulatory agency, to rescind Board Order No. R6V-2007-0032, pursuant to the California Water Code and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321(a)(2).

7. Public Notification

The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested parties of its intent to rescind Board Order No. R6V-2007-0032. The Water Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Board Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order No. R6V-2007-0032 be rescinded.

I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on October 13, 2010.

HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PROPOSED