

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

**MEETING OF JUNE 10!11, 2015
.....BISHOP**

- ITEM:** 5
- SUBJECT:** **RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS - BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2004-0008 FOR SEARLES VALLEY MINERALS, ARGUS BOILER ASH LANDFILLS 1 AND 2, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**
- CHRONOLOGY:**
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| January 30, 1992 | Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements issued |
| June 11, 2003 | Waste Discharge Requirements – Adopted (Board Order No. R6V-2003-0024) |
| March 11, 2004 | Revised Waste Discharge Requirements for Facility Expansion – Adopted (Board Order No. R6V-2004-0008) |
- ISSUE:** Should the Water Board rescind Waste Discharge Requirements for Argus Boiler Ash Landfills 1 and 2?
- DISCUSSION:**
- Searles Valley Minerals (Discharger) owns and operates two boiler ash landfill facilities within the community of Argus. The Discharger owns and operates a mineral production plant that includes two solid fuel (coal) boilers at an electrical power and process steam cogeneration plant in Trona near the west side of Searles Dry Lake.
- Landfills 1 and 2 are two unlined, unclassified facilities which receive inert boiler ash and furnace slag wastes from the Discharger’s cogeneration plant. The boilers generate an annual average of 46,961 cubic yards of inert waste consisting of fly ash, bottom ash, and pyrites (boiler ash waste). Samples collected from the waste and from the vadose zone since 2003 support the designation of inert waste. In addition, the only beneficial use for groundwater in the Searles Valley is industrial service supply (IND). As this waste is inert, and does not present a threat to water quality,

it is in the public interest to rescind the waste discharge requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2004-0008.

Water Board staff has solicited comments from the Discharger and interested parties. No comments were received.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Order as proposed.

ENCLOSURE	ITEM	BATE NUMBER
1	Board Order No. R6V-2015-(Proposed)	5-5

ENCLOSURE 1

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

**BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2015-(PROPOSED)
WDID NO. 6B360210001**

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2004-0008**

FOR

**SEARLES VALLEY MINERALS
ARGUS BOILER ASH LANDFILLS 1 AND 2**

_____ San Bernardino County _____

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

1. Discharger

Searles Valley Minerals (hereinafter referred to as “Discharger”) owns and operates two boiler ash landfill facilities (Facility) within the community of Argus. The Discharger owns and operates a mineral production plant that includes two solid fuel (coal) boilers at an electrical power and process steam cogeneration plant in Trona near the west side of Searles Dry Lake.

2. Facility

The Facility consists of two unlined, unclassified landfills (Landfill 1 and Landfill 2) which receive inert boiler ash and furnace slag wastes from the Discharger’s cogeneration plant. The boilers generate an annual average of 46,961 cubic yards of inert waste consisting of fly ash, bottom ash, and pyrites (boiler ash waste).

3. Order History

- a. **New Waste Discharge Requirements:** The Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Board Order No. R6V-2003-0024 on June 11, 2003. Prior to adoption of Board Order No. R6V-2003-0024, Landfill 1 was operating under a waiver of WDRs issued January 30, 1992 and an extension issued February 3, 1997. The waiver was terminated on January 1, 2003, pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code), section 13269.
- b. **Revised Waste Discharge Requirements:** The Water Board adopted (WDRs, Board Order No. R6V-2004-0008 on March 10, 2004, in response to a Report of Waste Discharge submitted by the Discharger requesting the Facility expand from a single landfill disposal area (Landfill 1) to two landfills.

4. Basis for Rescission

- a. WDRs, Board Order No. R6V-2004-0008, Findings 2, 6, and 9 describe the waste disposed at the Facility as inert. The Facility consists of two unlined, unclassified landfills and can only accept inert waste, pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 27, section 20230, subdivision (b). Finding 10 supports the designation of inert as the waste cannot impact water quality. Samples collected from the waste since 2003 further support this designation. Should the waste be modified, the Discharger is required to submit a revised Report of Waste Discharge.
- b. The beneficial use of the groundwaters of Searles Valley is Industrial Service Supply (IND). There is no beneficial use for Municipal (MUN) or Agricultural (AGR) use in this location.
- c. The Discharger submitted a Semi-Annual Monitoring Report on January 21, 2014, demonstrating compliance with WDRs, Board Order No. R6V-2004-0008. The data collected from the vadose zone indicate there is no threat to water quality from the Facility.

5. Conclusion

It is in the public interest to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2003-0008 as the discharge is inert and does not pose a threat to water quality.

6. California Environmental Quality Act

Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.), in accordance with title 14, CCRs, section 15321.

7. Notification of Interested Parties

The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested persons of its intent to rescind WDRs, Board Order No. R6V-2004-0008.

8. Public Meeting

The Water Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Rescission Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2004-0008 is hereby rescinded.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, 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 June 10, 2015.

PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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