

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION**

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 576-6600

Public Notice No. 15-045
NPDES No. CA0001180

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER

**REQUIRING NRG CALIFORNIA SOUTH LP
(MANDALAY GENERATING STATION)
TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN
ORDER NO. R4-2015-0201
(NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0001180)**

NRG California South LP (hereinafter Discharger) discharges wastewater from its Mandalay Generating Station under waste discharge requirements (WDRs) contained in Order No. R4-2015-0201, adopted by this Regional Water Board on October 8, 2015. Order No. R4-2015-0201 serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES No. CA0001180) Program. The permit authorizes the discharge of up to 255.3 million gallons per day (MGD) of combined wastewater consisting of once-through cooling water, internal process wastewaters, and storm water into the Pacific Ocean, a water of the United States through Discharge Point 001.

NRG California South LP, is the owner and operator of the Mandalay Generating Station (hereinafter Facility), a steam-electric generating facility. The Facility is located at 393 North Harbor Boulevard in Oxnard California. The Facility generates internal process waste streams consisting of low volume wastes and chemical metal cleaning wastes. The chemical metal cleaning wastes are transported to an approved disposal site and no discharges of these wastes have occurred since 2001. However, the permit includes requirements for the discharge of the chemical metal cleaning wastes.

The low volume wastes consist of boiler blowdown, boiler condensate overboard, reverse osmosis reject water, softener regeneration wastes, and equipment wash water collected in floor drains. The low volume wastes (except for boiler blowdown) are conveyed to the north and south retention basins (retention basins) for settling and stabilization. Storm water collected in the yard drains is conveyed to the retention basins and combined with other process wastewater. The internal process waste streams as well as the storm water from the retention basins are routed to combine with the once-through cooling water prior to discharge to the Pacific Ocean through Discharge Point 001. The boiler blowdown is also combined with other process water and cooling water prior to discharge to the receiving water.

Order No. R4-2015-0201 prescribes new limits for pH for the low volume waste stream (i.e., retention basins discharge, and boiler blowdown discharge), and chemical metal cleaning waste stream. The previous Order No. 01-057 included the same pH limitations but the limitations were applied to the final combined effluent in accordance with the 1997 California Ocean Plan. These pH limitations for the final combined effluent are retained in Order No. R4-2015-0201. The new limits prescribed are based on Section 423, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations

(40 C.F.R), effluent limitations, guidelines and standards (ELGs) for steam electric power generating point sources. These ELGs are applicable to the Facility.

NRG California South LP cannot consistently meet the effluent limits for pH limitations (for the retention basins and boiler blowdown discharges) contained in Order No. R4-2015-0201. Therefore, a tentative Time Schedule Order (TSO) has been developed for NRG California South LP with interim limits for pH that will expire on July 1, 2016. The TSO will provide the Discharger with the required time needed to make infrastructure changes and implement appropriate control measures or make necessary modifications to its operations to bring the Facility into full compliance with the final limitations for pH.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, tentatively proposes to issue this TSO, including interim effluent limitations and special conditions.

HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Date: December 10, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Metropolitan Water District, Board Room
700 N. Alameda Street,
Los Angeles, California

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Report of Waste Discharge, related documents, tentative requirements, comments received, and other information received on the discharge are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents may be made by calling the Los Angeles Regional Water Board at (213) 576-6600. The entire file will become a part of the administrative record of this proceeding, irrespective of whether individual documents are specifically referenced during the hearing. The entire file will not be present in the hearing room. Should any interested persons desire staff to bring to the hearing any particular documents that are not included in the agenda packet, they must submit a written or electronic request to staff during business hours, not later than 5 business days before the hearing. The request must identify the documents with enough specificity for staff to locate them.

NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal adjudicative hearing pursuant to section 648 et seq. of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) will not apply to this proceeding.

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Ex Parte Communications Prohibited: As a quasi-adjudicative proceeding, no board member may discuss the subject of this hearing with any person, except during the public hearing itself. Any communications to the Regional Board must be directed to staff.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

Rosario Aston
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
PHONE: (213) 576-6653
FAX: (213) 576-6660
Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov

PARTIES TO THE HEARING

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

1. The applicant/permittee

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff not later than 20 business days before the hearing. All parties will be notified if other persons are so designated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the tentative TSO, or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing to the above address. To be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments must be submitted to the Regional Water Board staff at losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy submitted to Rosario Aston at Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 16, 2015**. Comments or evidence received after that date will not be accepted into the record if it will prejudice any party or the Regional Water Board and only accepted as agreed by the Chair of the Board. Additionally, if the Board receives only supportive comments, the tentative TSO may be placed on the Board's consent calendar, and approved without an oral testimony.

HEARING PROCEDURE

The meeting, in which the hearing will be a part of, will start at 9:00 a.m. Interested persons are invited to attend. Staff will present the matter under consideration, after which oral statements from parties or interested persons will be heard. For accuracy of the record, all important testimony should be in writing. The Board will include in the administrative record written transcriptions of oral testimony that is actually presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to 3 minutes maximum or less for each speaker, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Parties or persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to

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choose one representative to speak. At the conclusion of testimony, the Board will deliberate in open or close session, and render a decision.

Parties or persons with special procedural requests should contact staff. Any procedure not specified in this hearing notice will be waived pursuant to section 648(d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Objections to any procedure to be used during this hearing must be submitted in writing not later than close of business 15 business days prior to the date of the hearing. Procedural objections will not be entertained at the hearing.

If minor comments are addressed to the satisfaction of the parties, this item may be issued by the Executive Officer.

If there should not be a quorum on the scheduled date of this meeting, all cases will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on February 11, 2016. A continuance will not extend any time set forth herein.

Date: October 15, 2015