

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 22, 2016

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WDID 6B360912003

TIME EXTENSION FOR BIOREACTOR PILOT TEST OPERATION - AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR BOARD ORDER R6V-2008-0014

On March 11, 2016, the Water Board received PG&E's electronic request to extend the operation time of the Bioreactor Pilot Test for six months. The Pilot Test was approved in the December 5, 2014 Notice of Applicability (NOA) and PG&E began operation in March 2015. The NOA states it will expire within 14 months from the issuance date. When PG&E realized the expiration date had passed, it ceased discharges on March 10, 2016.

The request for an additional six months of operation is needed to complete the Pilot Test consistent with the work plan objectives. Longer than expected time was needed to complete tasks during the original twelve months due to slower growth and maturation of the biofilm than was planned. This led to longer time to complete the stabilization phase and forward flow phase for increasing the flow rate from 5 gallons per minute (gpm) to 20-30 gpm. Additional pilot testing will allow for evaluation of additional activated carbon on effluent quality and to conduct stress testing for determining residence time (tank size) requirements necessary for a potential full-scale bioreactor system.

As stated in a March 24, 2016, electronic message by Lisa Dernbach, the Water Board supports PG&E continuing the Pilot Test for an additional six months. We understand the bioreactor operation will continue through third quarter 2016. In accordance with Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. 8, PG&E shall submit a final results report to the Water Board within 60 days of project completion. We look forward to receiving the final report.

To account for delays in start-up and operation, I hereby amend the Notice of Applicability by extending its authorization through April 2017. All other provisions of the Notice of Applicability and Board Order R6V-2008-0014 remain in effect.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (530) 542-5412
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc: PG&E Technical Lyris List
Lisa Dernbach, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan

LSD/ma/T: PG&E Bioreactor extension approval 4-16
File Under: Geotracker