

ALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. 88-46

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY  
Plaster City - Imperial County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. United States Gypsum Company (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger) located at 3810 West Highway 80, Plaster City, CA 92269, a subsidiary of U.S.G. Corporation at 101 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606-4385, verified as accurate the updated information given below, via its Plant Engineering Superintendent, David Steele, on February 8, 1988.
2. The basic operation of this gypsum facility is to quarry gypsum ore from the ground, then crush and grind the rock to a fine powder. The powdered gypsum is heated to produce a material called plaster or "stucco". The plaster is used as a base material to produce gypsum wall board and industrial plaster. In the manufacture of gypsum wall board, other ingredients not exceeding 7.5% of the total are added to the base material. Ingredients not exceeding 2.0% of the total are also added to the base material to manufacture the product industrial plaster.
3. The discharger reports the discharge of the following waste streams:
  - a. A maximum of 25,200 gallons-per-day of plant sewage and blowdown from cooling towers is routed through an Imhoff tank to a trickling filter and then discharged to two (2) earthen basins for evaporation and infiltration. Should overflow from said basins occur, it would be discharged to land, flow in a southeasterly direction and support wildlife habitat. Location of disposal is in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M. The total dissolved solids (TDS) content of this wastewater is about 360 mg/l and has an average pH of 7.4. The discharger reports that no chemical treatment additives are used in the cooling tower water.
  - b. A maximum of 10,000 gallons-per-day of sewage wastewater from plant village and office, is routed through an Imhoff tank into two (2) earthen basins for oxidation, evaporation and infiltration. Location of discharge is near the N $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M. The wastewater has a TDS content of about 440 mg/l and an average pH of 7.0.
  - c. A maximum of 10,000 gallons-per-day of industrial wastewater, mostly from cleanup of pulper equipment plus intermittent flow of about 2,500 gallons-per-day from the plant machine shop and vehicle wash rack pit is discharged to land via two (2) unlined earthen ditches near the E $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M. The wastewater flows easterly into Section 9, T16S, R11E, SBB&M for about one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

*Received  
By: 93-017  
5/19/93*

mile and supports wildlife habitat. The discharger reports that oil and grease are not discharged into the said ditches. The TDS content of the wastewater is about 330 mg/l and has an average pH of 7.2.

- d. A maximum of 7200 gallons-per-day of industrial cleanup wastewater containing some paper fiber, pulp, gypsum stucco and biodegradable synthetic soap, is discharged into two (2) unlined earthen basins for evaporation and infiltration. Wastewater in one basin is allowed to evaporate while wastewater flow is diverted to the other basin. The residue from the dry basin is removed and disposed at a solid waste disposal facility located on the plant site. Residue disposal would be done approximately once per year. Location of basins is in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M. The wastewater has a TDS content of about 1990, an MBAS measure of 0.76 mg/l and an average pH of 7.1. The discharger reports that no significant quantity of oil and grease would be discharged into the basins; also there would be no discharge of asphalt, diesel fuel, or other hazardous petroleum products into the basins.
- e. A maximum of 23,000 gallons-per-day of industrial wastewater, consisting of air compressor cooling water and a slight amount of water-base paint cleanup, is discharged to land via two (2) earthen ditches and flows one quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) mile southward and supports wildlife habitat. The location of discharge is in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M. The TDS content of the wastewater is about 410 mg/l, chemical oxygen demand of 119 mg/l and has an average pH of 7.5. The discharger reports that no chemical treatment additives are used in the cooling water. In addition there is no discharge of oil and grease into said ditches.

#### 4. Groundwater

- (a) The discharger reports that a well was drilled at the plant site in 1925 to a depth of 600 feet and groundwater at a depth of about 106 feet was found to be brackish. The plant obtains its process and drinking water from three (3) wells located about 10 miles west of the plant.
  - (b) In June of 1975, United States Geological Survey drilled one (1) well on either side of the Elsinore Fault located about eight (8) miles west of Plaster City. The first well was located on the eastern side of the fault line, (plant located on same side of the fault line) yielded water with TDS content of about 15,200 mg/l. The second well was located on the western side of the fault and well water had a TDS content of 307 mg/l.
  - (c) In 1977, Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey obtained water samples from 6 monitoring wells located around the plant, within a radius of eight (8) miles. The water samples indicated TDS values ranging from 4680 mg/l to 54,200 mg/l.
5. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California was adopted by the Regional Board on November 14, 1984.

6. The Basin Plan delineates the location of said discharge to be in the Imperial Hydrologic Unit. Groundwater at some locations of said hydrologic unit is known to have the following beneficial uses:
  - a. Municipal Supply
  - b. Industrial Supply

However, ground water within a radius of about 8 miles of the plant is saline and not beneficially used.

7. The discharger reports that the wastewaters described in Findings No. 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, and 3e of this Order do not contain substances that would qualify the wastes to be toxic or hazardous in accordance with the criteria set forth in Sections 66680, 66696, 66699, 66702, 66705, 66708, Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.
8. The wastes referred to in Finding No. 7 above, are also not a designated waste as defined in Section 2522, Subchapter 15, Chapter 3, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations. In accordance with its Section 2511, said five (5) waste streams of Findings No. 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, and 3e are exempt from the provisions of said Subchapter 15, Chapter 3, Title 23 of California Code of Regulations.
9. The discharge of wastewaters from this facility has been subject to waste discharge requirements adopted in Board Order No. 78-11.
10. The purpose of this Order is to update the waste discharge requirements contained in Board Order No. 78-11.
11. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to update waste discharge requirements for the said discharge.
12. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.
13. These waste discharge requirements govern an existing facility which the discharger is currently operating and are therefore exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications

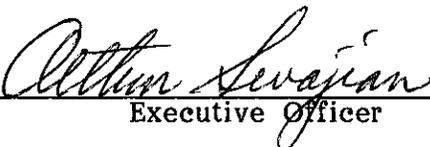
1. Neither the treatment nor the discharge of wastewater shall create a pollution or a nuisance as defined in Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. All waste disposal shall be confined to property owned or controlled by the discharger.
3. A minimum freeboard depth of at least two (2) feet shall be maintained in each wastewater disposal basin and/or ditches.

4. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
5. Wastewater is to be discharged to only those basins and channels described in Finding No. 3 (above), and only in the volumes, compositions and methods of disposal described therein.
6. Treatment and disposal by ponding shall be conducted in such manner that there shall be no stranded or exposed sewage solids.
7. Treated or untreated sludge, or similar solid waste materials, shall be disposed only at locations approved by the Regional Board.
8. The discharge of asphalt, oil and grease, diesel fuel and any hazardous or toxic substance in the wastestreams of Finding No. 3 of this Order is prohibited.

B. Provisions

1. Prior to any modifications in this facility which could result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater discharged, or any material change in the location of the discharge, the discharger shall report in writing to the Regional Board.
2. In the event of any change in control or ownership of land or waste disposal facilities described herein, the discharger shall:
  - a. Notify this Regional Board of such change;
  - b. Transmit a copy of this Order to the succeeding owner or operator, and file a copy of the transmittal letter with this Regional Board.
3. This Order includes the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 88-46 and future revisions thereto as specified by the Executive Officer.
4. This Order supersedes Board Order No. 78-11.

I, Arthur Swajian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on March 23, 1988.

  
Executive Officer

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 88-46  
FOR  
UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY  
Plaster City - Imperial County

MONITORING

The five (5) wastestreams discharged at locations given below, shall be monitored as follows:

1. Plant Sewage and Blowdown from Cooling Towers:

Location of Discharge: SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M

The Trickling Filter Effluent shall be monitored for constituents as indicated below:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Once-per-year
pH	-	Grab	Once-per-year
Estimated Volume of Effluent Discharge Daily	Gallons Per Day (GPD)		Monthly*

2. Sanitary Sewage from Village and Office

Location of Discharge: Near the N $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M

Wastewater discharged to two (2) oxidation basins shall be monitored for constituents as indicated below:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Once-per-year
pH	-	Grab	Once-per-year
Estimated Volume of Daily Discharge	Gallons Per Day (GPD)		Monthly*

\* Reported Annually as a calculated average value in GPD

3. Industrial Wastewater from Cleanup of Pulper Equipment

Location of Discharge: Near the E $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M

Wastewater discharged via pipe to drain shall be monitored for constituents indicated below:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Once-per-year
pH	-	Grab	Once-per-year
Estimated Volume of Daily Discharge	Gallons Per Day (GPD)		Monthly*

4. Industrial Cleanup Wastewater

Location of Discharge: SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M

Wastewater discharged to two (2) lagoons shall be monitored for constituents as indicated below:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Once-per-year
pH	-	Grab	Once-per-year
Estimated Volume of Daily Discharge	Gallons Per Day (GPD)		Monthly*

5. Compressor Cooling Water

Location of Discharge: SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M

Wastewater discharged to the two (2) ditches shall be monitored for constituents as follows:

\*Reported Annually as a calculated average value in GPD

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Once-per-year
pH	-	Grab	Once-per-year
Estimated Volume of Daily Discharge	Gallons Per Day (GPD)		Monthly*

\*Reported Annually as a calculated average value in GPD

The collection, preservation and holding times of all the above samples shall be in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended methods for the said constituents. The laboratory performing the sample analyses shall be certified by the State of California, Department of Health Services or by this Regional Board office.

#### REPORTING

For each year, the discharger shall submit to the Board an annual monitoring report which shall be signed by a duly authorized person. This annual report shall be submitted no later than January 15 of the following year.

Forward monitoring reports to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-271 Highway 111, Suite 21  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

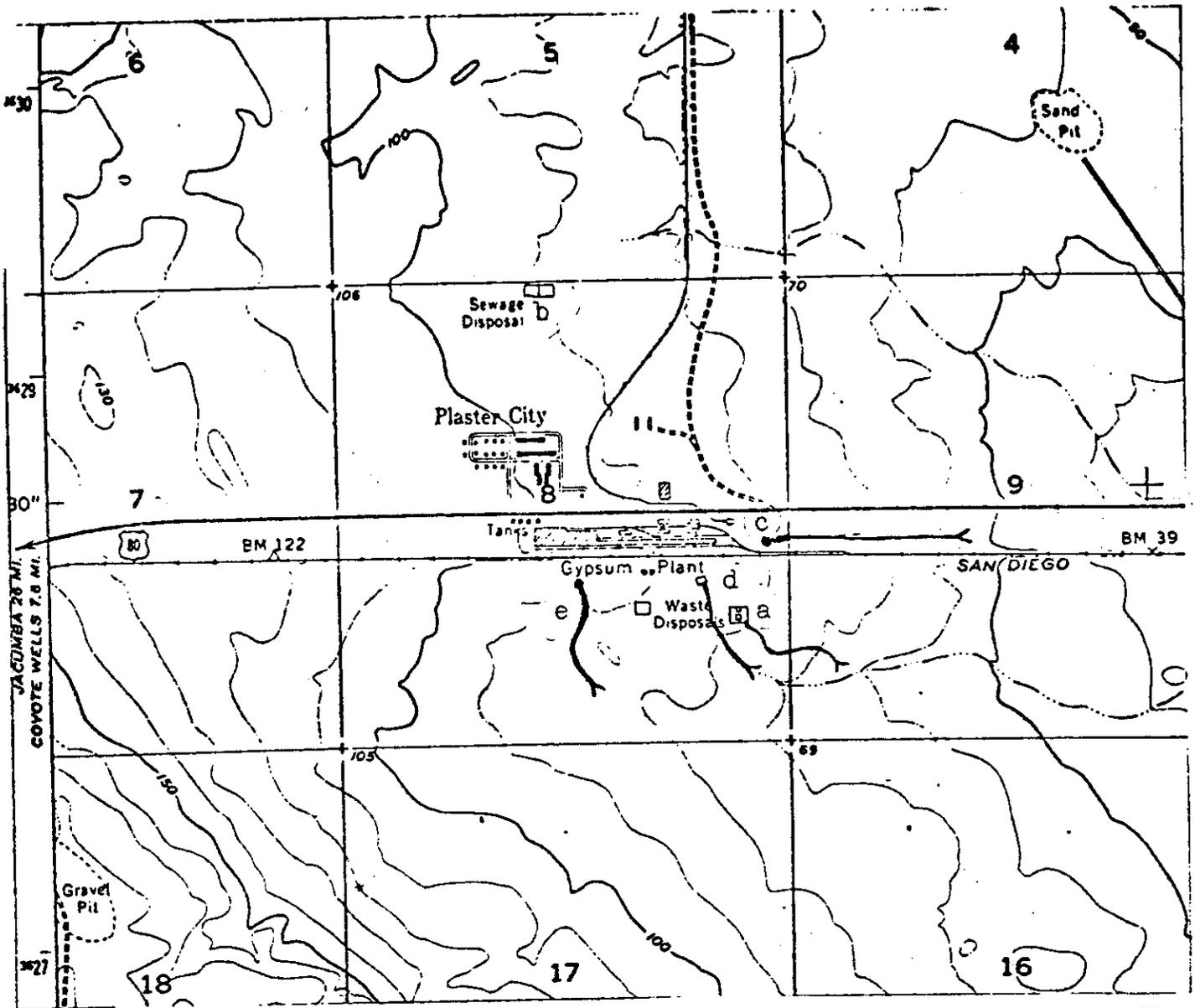
ORDERED BY:

*Arthur Levajian*  
Executive Officer

March 23, 1988

Date

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD-7



SITE MAP  
 UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY  
 Plaster City - Imperial County

Location of Waste Discharges:

- a. Plant sewage and blowdown from cooling towers
- b. Sanitary sewage from village and office
- c. Industrial wastewater from cleanup & pulper equipment
- d. Industrial cleanup wastewater
- e. Compressor cooling water and water base cleanup waste

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 min. Topographic Map - Plaster City, California  
 Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M

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 scale  
 1" = 2000'