

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 90-077  
AGAINST  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
BLYTHE CLASS III WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY  
Blythe - Riverside County

The Executive Officer of the California Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. The County of Riverside (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger), 11728 Magnolia Avenue, Suite A, Riverside California 92503, operates a Class III waste management facility (WMF) at Blythe. Waste discharge requirements for said facility have been prescribed under Board Order No. 88-067.
2. The WMF is located on property owned by the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (herein after also referred to as the discharger), 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, California.
3. The site is located approximately seven miles north of the City of Blythe, in the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 31 and SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 25, T5S, R22E, SBB&M.
4. The discharger reports the discharge of an average of 58 cubic yards-per-day of non-hazardous solid waste, as defined in Chapter 15, Division 3, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations.
5. In addition to the non-hazardous solid wastes discharged, the site receives an average of 1,500 gallons-per-day of septic tank pumpings, chemical toilet wastes, and grease trap pumpings.
6. Section 13273 of the California Water Code requires operators of solid waste disposal sites to prepare a solid waste assessment test (SWAT) report and submit it to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The SWAT report must contain analyses of ground and surface water on, under and within one mile of the solid waste disposal site to provide a reliable indication whether there is any leakage of hazardous waste.
7. On February 18, 1988 the SWAT report for the Blythe WMF was received. The report contained the results of one sampling event. The results of the sample analyses showed that detectable levels of nine organic hazardous constituents were present in the samples of ground water collected from the downgradient monitoring well (BG-2).
8. The hazardous constituents detected in the downgradient monitoring well during the initial SWAT investigation include the following: 1,1-dichloroethane, methylene chloride, tetrachloroethene (PCE), 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, chloroform, toluene, benzene, and trichlorofluoromethane.
9. The concentration of two of the detected organic contaminants benzene and tetrachloroethene (PCE) exceeded the Department of Health Services Action Levels.

*Rescinded  
9/19/95*

10. On June 10, 1988 the operator was requested to verify the results of initial round of sampling. The operator was requested to resample the monitoring wells and determine any statistically significant variations from the background concentration.
11. On September 15, 1988 the SWAT verification for the Blythe WMF was received in this office. The report indicated that a statistically significant increase in seven organics was detected in the downgradient monitoring well. The concentration of one of the organics, tetrachloroethene (PCE), exceeded the Department of Health Services Action Level.
12. The State Department of Health Services drinking water level (DWAL) for PCE is 5 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ). The PCE concentrations in the downgradient monitoring well ranged from 6.2 to 13  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ .
13. On September 30, 1988 the operator of the WMF was requested to determine the lateral and vertical extent of the contamination plume.
14. On May 17, 1989 the operator submitted a technical report which indicated that no contaminants were detected in the downgradient monitoring well and recommended continuation of the monitoring program at the WMF.
15. On September 17, 1989 and December 11, 1989 two rounds of sampling were conducted at the WMF. The results of both rounds of sampling confirmed the findings of the initial SWAT and verification sampling events. The concentration of PCE exceeded the State Department of Health Services DWAL.
16. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
17. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Colorado Hydrologic Unit are:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
  - c. Agricultural supply (AGR)
18. Ground water depth measured in January 1988, ranged from 180.84 feet below the land surface to 161.67 feet, in the vicinity of the site. Ground water quality in the upgradient monitoring well is suitable for domestic use.
19. Section 13304 of the California Water Code states, in part, that:

"Any person...who has caused or permitted...any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the state and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the regional board cleanup such waste or abate the effects thereof, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action."
20. The discharger has caused, or permitted, the discharge of waste into the waters of the State, and created a condition of pollution.
21. Contamination of the ground water with detected organics can impair the beneficial uses of the ground water.

22. Board Order No. 88-67 requires in part:

"A. Discharge Specifications

- "1. The treatment or disposal of waste shall not cause pollution or a nuisance as defined in Section 13050 (l) and 13050 (m) of the California Water Code.
  - "13. The discharge shall not cause degradation of ground or surface water."
23. This enforcement action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15308 and 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that pursuant to Sections 13267 and 13304 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, the discharger shall comply with the following:

1. Cleanup and abate the effects of the discharge of hazardous constituents described in Finding No. 8.
2. By January 2, 1991, submit to the Regional Board a workplan for investigation of the WMF. The investigation must include the following:
  - a. A determination of presence, concentration, and vertical and lateral extent of the contaminant plume in the ground water in the vicinity of the site;
  - b. Adequate determination of the ground water hydrology; and, installation of additional monitoring wells to determine the direction of ground water flow at the WMF.
3. By March 1, 1991, implement the proposed investigation plan.
4. By September 1, 1991, submit a technical report to the Regional Board describing the results of the site investigation. The report shall contain a detailed cleanup proposal for any contaminated ground water.
5. By November 1, 1991, following review and approval by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, implement the proposed cleanup plan.
6. Beginning on December 1, 1991, submit to the Regional Board monthly progress reports describing the current status of cleanup efforts.

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, this Order is not complied with in a reasonable and timely manner, the Executive Officer will recommend additional enforcement action by the Regional Board, which may include the imposition of administrative civil liabilities or referral to the State Attorney General for such legal action as be may deemed appropriate.

Ordered By: Phil Gruenberg  
Executive Officer  
10-2-90  
Date