
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

23 December 2015

Adam O'Connor
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
3401 Crow Canyon
San Ramon, CA 94583

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, NATURAL GAS PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT R-502 EXCAVATION DEWATERING DISCHARGE, SUTTER COUNTY

On 11 November 2015, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for discharges to land of groundwater from excavation dewatering during Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement Project R-502 on Line 050A.

PG&E's submittal contains all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0145. Please include this order number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION

Project R-502 includes installation of 4,800 feet of 8-inch natural gas pipeline in the City of Live Oak, in Sutter County. The pipeline installation will extend from north of the intersection of Highway 99 and Ash Street, north on Highway 99 to Archer Street, northeast on Archer Street to Larkin Road, north along Larkin Road to Nevada Street, west along Nevada Street, and will terminate near the intersection of Nevada Street and Hall Drive, as shown on Attachment A. The illustration identified several locations where documented hazardous materials releases have occurred, as tracked by the GeoTracker and Envirostor websites.

Approximately 33 acres of agricultural land (Sutter County APN 08-100-026 and 08-100-067) has been identified for the discharge of extracted groundwater. PG&E has secured authorization from the property owner for the discharge, and has provided documentation demonstrating that the discharge will be contained to these parcels. The NOI also included a Project Notification Form for any additional landowner(s) to complete prior to any discharge to that owner's land. PG&E shall notify the Central Valley Water Board if there are any changes to the planned discharge locations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pipeline construction will include open trench excavation and borings, primarily using horizontal directional drilling techniques. It is anticipated that the dewatering of the bore pit excavations and trenches will be necessary, as groundwater has been historically measured at approximately 4 feet below ground surface in the project vicinity. Dewatering will be performed using a series of groundwater extraction wells and/or in-excavation sump pumps.

PG&E conducted a pre-excavation evaluation of shallow groundwater and collected grab samples from the northern and southern extent of the project area for laboratory analysis. The majority of analytical results for all specified constituents were below California Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), however total iron was detected at a concentration of 82 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in one grab groundwater sample collected at the southern end of the pipeline corridor construction project.

PG&E will collect and analyze a pre-discharge sample of the extracted groundwater at the southern end of the pipeline corridor construction project to confirm that all constituents meet MCLs and that the water will be suitable for land application and/or reuse as irrigation supply. If the total iron concentration exceeds the corresponding MCL, PG&E will use 1 micron particulate filtration to reduce iron concentrations in the extracted groundwater prior to discharge to land. A limited amount of the extracted groundwater will also be used for dust control during the pipeline corridor construction project.

Groundwater will be dewatered into fractionation tanks staged near the excavation to allow for solid settling prior to discharge. Due to the close proximity of the pipeline excavation corridor to known sources of hazardous materials releases from nearby commercial business operations, PG&E will filter the extracted groundwater with granular activated carbon prior to land application. The water will then be discharged by tanker trucks or temporary above-ground pipelines to the discharge areas. The discharge will comply with PG&E's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for non-storm water discharges.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Dewatering wells (if any) shall be permitted, constructed, and permanently abandoned in accordance with Sutter County requirements and under the oversight of the Sutter County Environmental Health Department.
2. Groundwater shall be disposed of as described in the NOI and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
3. Discharge of water at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI is prohibited.
4. All wells connected to any irrigation system utilized for the discharge shall be equipped with an air gap or other backflow prevention device.
5. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.
6. Analytical results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance with the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program.

7. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.
8. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information must be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

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| Facility Name: PG&E Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement Project 502, Sutter County | | |
| Program: Non-15 Compliance | Order: R5-2003-0003-DWQ-0145 | CIWQS Place ID: 403730 |

Documents that are 50 MB or larger must be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Brendan Kenny is your new point of contact for any questions about the Order. In addition, all monitoring and technical reports should be submitted to him. The enclosed transmittal sheet shall be included with each monitoring report. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Brendan will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Brendan at (916) 464-4635 or at bkenny@waterboards.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding terminating this NOA, please contact Scott Armstrong at (916) 464-4616 or at sarmstrong@waterboards.ca.gov.


PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A, Site Plan
Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ

cc (w/o encls): Mr. Jan Hill, Sutter County Environmental Health Department, Yuba City