

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, CA 96002

PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

Consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements
for

**BIG VALLEY POWER, LLC
AND
NORRIS AND DOROTHY GERIG**

**BIG VALLEY POWER
SAWMILL AND COGENERATION FACILITY**

LASSEN COUNTY

Big Valley Power, LLC is proposing to restart a wood burning steam power plant and sawmill formerly operated by Big Valley Lumber Company. Big Valley Lumber Company operated a sawmill at the site from the mid-1950's to 2001. The power plant facility was added in 1983. The sawmill and power plant facility most recently operated under Regional Board Order No. 98-232 (NPDES No. CA0081451). The project consists of restarting the power plant and sawmill. A projected 50,000 dry tons of wood waste will be burned each year at this steam powered plant to produce 7.5 megawatts (MW) of electrical power for sale to a utility company. The plant includes a boiler feed water treatment system, a boiler, a turbine, a condenser, and a two-cell evaporative cooling tower. Equipment for the sawmill is still incomplete though the operation of the sawmill is expected to be similar to its historic operation. Most cooling tower water will be discharged to two retention ponds located north of the power plant on property owned by Norris and Dorothy Gerig. A portion of the cooling tower water may be used to wet the logs on the log deck. No process water will be discharged to surface waters. The mailing address for Big Valley Power, LLC is 329 Jefferson Street, Oakland, CA 94607. The mailing address for Norris and Dorothy Gerig is P.O. Box 5, Bieber, CA 96009. Staff recommends the Regional Water Quality Control Board adopt the Waste Discharge Requirements regulating the discharge from the facility.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) meeting, which is scheduled for:

DATE: 21/22 June 2007
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Known designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Staff of the Regional Board
- Big Valley Power, LLC
- Norris and Dorothy Gerig

Only designated parties will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. All other persons wishing to testify or provide comments are interested persons and not designated parties. Such interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Regional Board no later than **7 June 2007**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

Persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item must submit evidence and/or comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than **7 June 2007**. Written evidence or comments submitted after **7 June 2007** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record, unless the Regional Board agrees to accept the evidence or comments and if doing so would not prejudice any party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross-examination will be limited in time by the Regional Board Chair.

Anyone having questions regarding this issue should contact Kevin Kratzke at (530) 224-4850. Interested parties may download the proposed Orders and related documents from the Regional Board Internet website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/tentative/index.html>. The proposed item and related documents may also be inspected and copied at the Regional Board's office at 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, California, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The procedures governing Regional Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and is available upon request. Hearings before the Regional Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_laws/index.html. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Regional Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_meetings/mtgprocd.html or by contacting any one of the Regional Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Original signed by

James C. Pedri, P.E.
Assistant Executive Officer