

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 90-074  
AGAINST  
THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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, CA 92503, operates the Coachella Class III Waste Management Facility (WMF) located north of the City of Coachella within Section 22, T5S, R8E, SBB&M.
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 92507.
3. The Coachella Class III Waste Management Facility (WMF) is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements prescribed in Board Order No. 88-120, which was adopted on September 22, 1988.
4. The Site receives approximately 577 tons-per-day of refuse. The discharger reports that the Site presently receives municipal refuse, plant trimmings, agricultural produce, tires, construction/demolition wastes, inert materials, dead animals, and grease trap pumpings.
5. The WMF is located on an alluvial fan draining the Fargo Canyons with an average slope of four percent to the southwest. The Site is underlain by old alluvial deposits, consisting mostly of sand, gravel and silt. The Site is in the Fargo Canyon Hydrologic Subarea. Depth to ground water ranges from 146.4 to 218.0 ft below ground surface. Available hydrological data suggest that ground water flows in a southwesterly direction.
6. On August 23, 1989, the discharger submitted a Solid Waste Water Quality Assessment Test (SWAT) report for the WMF in compliance with Section 13273, Article 4, Chapter 4, Division 7 of the California Water Code. As part of the SWAT investigation, the discharger constructed two downgradient ground water monitoring wells and one upgradient monitoring well. The SWAT investigation shows that purgeable halocarbons and volatile aromatic compounds are leaking from the WMF Site into the ground water.
7. The hazardous constituents detected in the downgradient monitoring wells during the SWAT investigation include the following: 1,1-dichloroethane, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, chloroform, dichlorodifluoromethane, methylene chloride, tetrachloroethene, trichlorethylene, trichlorofluoromethane, and toluene.

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8. On June 25, 1990, the verification results of the initial round of sampling were received. The verification analyses confirms the results of analyses detected in the SWAT first round of sampling. The concentrations of trichlorethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), 1,4-dichlorobenzene, benzene, toluene, 1,1-dichloroethane, methylene chloride and carbon tetrachloride exceed the State Department of Health Services (DOHS) maximum contaminant levels or drinking water action levels.
9. The State DOHS drinking water action levels (DWAL) for PCE is 5 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ). This limit was exceeded in the downgradient monitoring wells. The PCE concentrations in the monitoring wells ranged from 1.3 to 76  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The DOHS maximum contaminant level for TCE is 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The TCE concentration in the downgradient monitoring wells ranged from 5.6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$  to 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The DOHS DWAL for toluene is 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The toluene concentration in the monitoring wells ranged from 1.4 to 570  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The DOHS DWAL for methylene chloride is 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The methylene chloride concentration in monitoring wells ranged from 1 to 43  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The DOHS DWAL for 1,1-dichloroethane is 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ . The 1,1-dichloroethane concentration in monitoring wells ranged from 1.5 to 13  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ .
10. The hazardous constituents stated in Finding No. 6, 7, and 8 indicate landfill and septage pond leakage.
11. 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.
12. The Basin Plan delineates the location of the discharge to be in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit.
13. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit are:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
  - c. Agricultural supply (AGR)
14. The discharge of the hazardous constituents described in Finding No. 6 from the WMF has caused pollution of the ground water underlying the site.
15. Contamination of ground water at this Site will adversely impact the above listed beneficial uses.
16. 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."
17. 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 Section 13304 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, the dischargers shall comply with the following:

1. Cleanup and abate the effects of the discharge of purgeable halocarbons, and volatile aromatic compounds.
2. By December 15, 1990, submit to the Regional Board a workplan for investigation of the WMF Site. The investigation shall be designed to:
  - a. determine the presence, concentration, and vertical and areal extent of the purgeable halocarbons and aromatic compounds, and any related constituents in the soil and ground water beneath and in the vicinity of the Site;
  - b. determine the mechanism by which the ground water is being contaminated and the control measures needed to prevent further contamination.
3. By February 15, 1991, following the review by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, implement the proposed investigation plan.
4. By August 15, 1991, submit a technical report to the Regional Board describing the results of the site investigation. The report shall also contain a detailed cleanup proposal for any contaminated soils and ground water.
5. By October 15, 1991, following review and approval by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, implement the proposed cleanup plan.
6. Beginning on November 15, 1991, submit to the Regional Board monthly progress reports describing the current status of the 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 may be deemed appropriate.

ORDERED BY:

Phil Gruenberg  
Executive Officer

9-21-90

Date