

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-09-13  
NPDES Permit No. CA0104248  
April 20, 2009

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R7-2009-0049**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR  
EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION  
FOR DISCHARGES OF EFFLUENTS  
COPPER, SELENIUM, AND FREE CYANIDE  
OF BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2004-0086  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0104248**

Imperial Irrigation District (hereinafter, Discharger), P.O. Box 937, Imperial, California 92251, owns the El Centro Generating Station, which is a gas and oil-fired power plant located at 485 E. Villa Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243. The plant has a total output of 240 Megawatts (MW) and consists of two (2) steam units and one (1) combined cycle unit. The steam units are rated at 77 MW and 46 MW, and the combined cycle unit is rated at 117 MW (85 MW gas turbine and 32 MW steam turbine). All units are cooled using water circulated through unit specific cooling towers.

The El Centro Generating Station (hereafter referred to as Station) provides treatment and chlorination and dechlorination process units. Cooling tower supply water is treated with corrosion inhibitors, deposit control agents, microbial control agents and a coagulant and flocculent. In addition chlorination is used as an oxidizing biocide and sulfuric acid is added for pH control to protect cooling tower equipment. The effluent from the Station's cooling system is dechlorinated using a bisulfite based solution prior to discharge into receiving waters.

The Station is currently operates under Order No. R7-2004-0086 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104248), which allows discharge of industrial cooling water to Central Drain No. 5, which flows into the Alamo River, which flows to the Salton Sea. The Central Drain No. 5, the Alamo River and the Salton Sea are waters of the United States.

On March 12, 2009, Regional Board received a letter from the Discharger indicated that the Discharger has conducted pilot studies to evaluate treatment technologies to reduce the levels of constituents of concern in the Station's effluent, but it has not identified a treatment technology that will result in an effluent that will meet the CTR discharge limitations. Therefore, in its March 2009 letter, the Discharger requested the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) from the Regional Board.

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Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13301, draft Cease and Desist Order No. R7-2009-0049 sets forth actions that the Discharger shall take to correct or prevent discharges of waste that are in violation of Board Order No. R7-2004-0086 with respect to the effluent discharge limitations for copper, selenium, and free cyanide.

A public hearing on this matter will be held as follows:

Date: May 21, 2009  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Location: City of La Quinta  
City Hall Council Chambers  
78-495 Calle Tampico  
La Quinta, CA 92253

During the hearing, the public and any other person interested in this matter can provide the Regional Board with comments on the tentative Order.

Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the draft Cease and Desist Order are requested to do so within 30 days of the date of this Notice so that the Regional Board may consider the comments.

Comments must be mailed to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

A copy of the draft Cease and Desist Order may be obtained from the Regional Board Office. Please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 346-6585 for any questions regarding this matter. Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you think would be interested in this matter.

For any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this Regional Board hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 346-7491 no later than 10 days before the scheduled hearing date.