

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

Public Notice 7-13-23
Board Order R7-2013-0034
February 28, 2013

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SPECIAL BOARD ORDER R7-2013-0034 AMENDING CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER (CAO) R7-2012-0043 ISSUED TO ESCHER OIL COMPANY (EOC) FOR SUBMITTING REQUIRED REPORTS

Mr. Leo Escher, owner of Escher Oil Company (EOC), hereinafter referred to as the Discharger, 72-713 Beavertail, Palm Desert, CA 92260, owned a 2.67 acre property site containing Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs), Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), assorted buildings, loading docks, and parking areas located at 85-119 Avenue 50, Coachella in Riverside County, California, Section 5, T6S, R8E (latitude 33.6858 /longitude -116.11290). Mr. Escher sold this property in February 2006 to Mark R. Sprouse, Lee M. Osborne, and Stanley G. Paxon. In 2008, the property was sold to Beck Oil, Inc., the current property owner.

EOC is the former landowner and site operator, and is the primary responsible party for the purpose of cleaning up and abating the pollution at this property based on Regional Water Board records that document various petroleum spills having occurred when EOC was the owner and site operator. The Regional Water Board records indicate that the site may have been established in the 1950s, and may have originally had eight ASTs and eight USTs.

The Regional Water Board records indicate the groundwater beneath the site has been adversely impacted for over 25 years by petroleum hydrocarbons. Despite modest efforts to cleanup and abate the pollution of on-site hydrocarbon impacted soils, the groundwater remains polluted by previous EOC on-site operations, including a significant amount with free product of petroleum hydrocarbons. The nature and vertical and lateral extent of groundwater contamination is yet to be fully characterized, and EOC is yet to start remediating the impacted groundwater.

On June 21, 2012, the Regional Water Board adopted Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R7-2012-043. On February 6, 2013, EOC's consultant, EnviroApplications, Inc., on behalf of the Discharger, requested that a 45-day extension be granted for submission of the Site Assessment Report due to the Regional Water Board on February 15, 2013, in accordance with Ordered paragraph 4 in CAO R7-2012-0043. EnviroApplications explained that the extension was necessary due to unforeseen access issues, which caused it to experience delays in the permitting process. EnviroApplication noted, however, that it obtained encroachment and well permits needed to proceed with drilling new wells, which was scheduled for February 12, 2013. Following the well drilling, EnviroApplications stated that it expected to submit the required Site Assessment Report by March 30, 2013.

Accordingly, pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13304, this proposed Special Board Order R7-2013-0034 will extend the deadline specified in Ordered paragraph 4 in

CAO R7-2012-0043 for submission of the Site Assessment Report from February 15, 2013, to April 2, 2013. This date accommodates the weekend schedule and a State holiday that occurs around March 30.

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

Date: March 21, 2013
Time: 9:00 a.m
Location: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
Board Room
73720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

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

Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the proposed Special Board Order are requested to do so by March 19, 2013, so that the Regional Water 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 original CAO R7-2012-0043 may be obtained from the Regional Water Board Internet website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/. Click on year 2012, and Adopted Orders. Then scroll down to R7-2012-0043. A copy of this proposed Special Board Order may be obtained going to the same website, and then clicking on 2013 and Tentative Orders. Then scroll down to R7-2013-0034.

Please contact the Regional Water Board's Assistant Executive Officer, Jose Angel, at (760) 776-8932 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 Water Board hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 no later than 10 days before the scheduled hearing date.