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## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **Status of Actions April 2022** **PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination**

#### **Chromium Plume Boundary**

In general, the Fourth Quarter 2021 groundwater data indicate that plume migration is not occurring but do reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Fourth Quarter 2021 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Fourth Quarter 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=7jl4w) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=7jl4w>) and are Figures 5-1 through 5-6 of this report.

Chromium plume maps representing previous quarters are posted on the Water Board's Hinkley website at [Water Board's Hinkley website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml)), at the bottom of the page under the section titled "Other Documents and Information." The First Quarter 2022 plume map is due on May 10, 2022, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

#### **Submittal of the Sampling and Analysis Plan for Compliance with the In-Situ Remediation Zones and Freshwater Injection Systems Notice of Applicability**

The new Notice of Applicability (2021 NOA) of General Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2008-0014 was issued on October 5, 2021. As required by the NOA, PG&E submitted the *Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) for Compliance with the In-Situ Remediation Zones and Freshwater Injection Systems Notice of Applicability* on November 16, 2021. Requirement VIII.B of the NOA required submittal of this SAP to be consistent with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), which is Attachment C of the NOA.

The purpose of the SAP is to provide the plans and procedures for groundwater monitoring conducted in compliance with the requirements of the NOA MRP. This SAP is intended to be flexible over time and any changes must be submitted in accordance with Section VIII.B of the NOA and approved by Water Board staff.

The SAP was reviewed by Water Board staff, the Independent Review Panel (IRP), and the community. PG&E provided responses to comments on March 1, 2022, incorporating the requested changes from the Water Board and IRP comment letters. The Final SAP was submitted on March 15, 2022, and Water Board staff concurrence was provided on March 25, 2022. PG&E will begin implementing the SAP during the Second Quarter 2022 sampling event.

## **Workplan for Investigation in the Western In-Situ Reactive Zone Area**

PG&E submitted the *Workplan for Investigation in the Western In-Situ Reactive Zone Area* on February 17, 2022. The purpose of the investigation is to evaluate the western IRZ for modifications to the system due to concerns of lithologic and aquifer conditions. This work is covered as part of the 2021 NOA. Water Board staff solicited comments from the IRP manager and received their response on March 14, 2022. Water Board staff and the IRP manager had no comments or questions on the workplan. The findings of the investigation will be provided in a technical memorandum.

## **Water Board PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Webpage**

Water Board staff have updated the [PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water\\_issues/projects/pge/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/)). The project webpage hosts certain documents and announcements related to PG&E's corrective actions, as well as copies of past and current plume maps to download and print from the webpage. Please contact Water Board staff with any questions or for assistance.

## **Routine Monitoring and Annual Reports**

PG&E submitted the following reports in accordance with the respective monitoring and reporting requirements.

- 4th Quarter 2021 Hydraulic Capture Report
- 4th Quarter 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results
- 4th Quarter 2021 Monitoring Report for the IRZs and Northwest Freshwater Injection Projects
- 4th Quarter 2021 Agricultural Treatment Units (ATUs) Monitoring Report
- 2021 Annual Agronomic Rate Performance Report
- 2021 Annual MMRP Compliance Report for Groundwater Remediation
- Annual Cleanup Status and Effectiveness Report (January to December 2021)
- IRP Manager Annual Report 2021

Water Board staff are reviewing these routine monitoring and annual reports.

## **Release of Administrative Draft Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level**

On March 21, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) announced the release of an administrative draft maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium. The proposed hexavalent chromium MCL is 10 parts per billion (ppb). In November 2015, the Regional Board issued Cleanup and Abatement Order

(CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068 to Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) to clean up and abate waste discharges of total and hexavalent chromium to the groundwaters of the Mojave Hydrologic Unit. At the time the CAO was issued, the MCL for hexavalent chromium was 10 ppb; however, the MCL was subsequently invalidated in 2017. Depending on the final State Water Board adopted MCL for hexavalent chromium, the Regional Board may need to update the CAO to reflect the then current regulatory level. Water Board staff do not anticipate that a final MCL of 10 ppb hexavalent chromium will affect the cleanup goals established in the CAO.

### **Chromium Background Study**

The final draft of the Hinkley Chromium Background Study Report continues to move through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) internal review process.

Dr. John Izbicki, the study's lead scientist, reports that progress is going smoothly and that each step within the review process adds to the quality of the final report. The report is prioritized within the USGS review process, and review staff are working hard to move the report along through the steps.

### **Your Water Board Staff Contacts**

Water Board oversight of the PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup project is provided by staff in the Water Board's Victorville office located at 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394. Your Water Board staff contacts are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of the those listed should you need assistance.

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\*Please note, the majority of Lahontan Water Board staff are teleworking. However, we are available via email and voicemail. We are responding to emails throughout the workday. Responses to voicemail may take more than one business day.