

State Water Resources Control Board

January 20th, 2016

Ms. Myrna Allende
Verizon Wireless, Inc.
15505 Sand Canyon Avenue, Building D
Irvine, CA 92618

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; VERIZON WIRELESS, INC. – LOS ANGELES REGION; STATEWIDE UTILITY VAULTS PERMIT

Dear Ms. Allende:

Thank you for submitting your complete application package for coverage under the Statewide Utility Vaults Permit¹ adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in November 2015. Effective July 1, 2015, the Utility Vaults Permit regulates utility companies with short-term intermittent discharges from utility vaults and underground structures to waters of the United States that do not cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above any applicable state or federal water quality objectives/criteria or cause acute or chronic toxicity in the receiving water.

Notice of Applicability

Based on the information submitted in the application package, including the Notice of Intent and the Pollution Prevention Plan, the discharge as described below satisfies the conditions of the Utility Vaults Permit. Staff has deemed the application package complete and has assigned an enrollee number of 4000U000104 and a regulatory measure identification number of 404252. This Notice of Applicability implements regulatory coverage under the permit for the application described below as of the date of this letter.

Discharge Description

Verizon Wireless, Inc. must discharge water from utility manholes, vaults, and other underground structures as a result of storm water inflow, subterranean seepage, inflow of other surface waters and/or condensate from air conditioning units. Discharges of this nature are a routine part of network operation and maintenance. Utility vaults and underground structures may have small quantities of pollutants present due to the normal operation of equipment and roadway runoff inflow.

Water that accumulates in manholes, vaults, hand holes, underground spaces (containing cables, cable connections, and signal enhances) will remain there until Verizon Wireless, Inc. workers must enter. The amount of discharge that must be released is dependent upon the dimensions of the structure and the depth of the water trapped within the structure. Typically,

¹ State Water Board Order 2014-0174-DWQ; Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Discharges from Utility Vaults and Underground Structures to Surface Waters.

hand holes vary in discharge volume from about 15 to 50 cubic feet. Manhole discharge volumes are between 80 to 500 cubic feet. Typically, water from utility vaults and underground structures can contain trace amounts of hydrocarbons, oil and grease, fertilizers, organic matter, and other natural and artificial pollutants. Such pollutants are consistent with common storm and irrigation runoff events. The normal operations within substructures do not produce contaminants. Sometimes repair or installation procedures may involve soldering to make electrical connections. These activities have the potential to add insoluble lead or traces of other inorganics traces to the floor of structures. Verizon Wireless, Inc. staff is trained to minimize and mitigate environmental impacts while conducting routine work. Other pollutants occasionally encountered that may affect the quality of water removed from wet structures include byproducts from microbial activity, silt, materials from illegal dumping by the public, and insoluble solids from surface runoff.

General Permit Requirements

To comply with the Utility Vaults Permit, Verizon Wireless, Inc. shall:

- a. Comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program, Attachment C of the Utility Vaults Permit, and future revisions thereto.
- b. Establish and maintain a liaison contact with the following Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) staff:

Namiraj Jain, Water Resource Control Engineer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 620-6003
Namiraj.Jain@waterboards.ca.gov

Verizon Wireless, Inc. must send the Los Angeles Water Board a list of designated liaison personnel, telephone number(s), and specific area(s) of responsibility within 30 days from the date of submittal of the Notice of Intent and after any update to the list.

- c. Comply with the notification requirements of the municipal separate storm sewer system permit of any municipal separate storm sewer system that Verizon Wireless, Inc. utilizes for discharging utility vault and underground structure water.
- d. Keep a copy of the Utility Vaults Permit and the Pollution Prevention Plan where key operating personnel and site management can refer to the documents. Key operating and site management personnel shall be familiar with its contents.
- e. Retain records, including all monitoring information and copies of all reports required by the Utility Vaults Permit, for five years unless directed otherwise by the Los Angeles Water Board or State Water Board.
- f. Implement the Pollution Prevention Plan and apply best management practices when discharging.
- g. Annually evaluate the effectiveness and adequacy of the control measures and best management practices in controlling the discharge of pollutants and revise the Pollution Prevention Plan control measures and best management practices if necessary. Document all changes to best management practices, the Pollution Prevention Plan, or other information on file with the State Water Board. Submit the annual report to the Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board for review and comment.

h. Submit all other information required by the Utility Vaults Permit to the following address:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
NPDES Wastewater Unit
1001 I Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Discharge Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

In accordance with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment C), Section IV Effluent Monitoring Requirements, Verizon Wireless, Inc. is required to conduct effluent monitoring and submit annual reports by June 1 of each year.

As described in Attachment G, Section II of the Utility Vaults Permit, dischargers shall submit a Discharge Characterization Study to evaluate the potential for discharges from a utility vault or underground structure dewatering to cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards for priority pollutants. Verizon Wireless, Inc. shall submit the monitoring plan and time schedule to the Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board by March 1, 2016. Verizon Wireless, Inc. shall submit the final report for the study to the Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board by January 1, 2020.

In addition, as described in Attachment G, Section II of the Utility Vaults Permit, dischargers that discharge to an municipal separate storm sewer system with a direct discharge to Areas of Special Biological Significance shall submit a second Discharge Characterization Study to evaluate whether the discharges from utility vaults or underground structures to an Areas of Special Biological Significance alter natural ocean water quality in the Areas of Special Biological Significance. By November 1, 2015, Verizon Wireless, Inc. shall identify the municipal separate storm sewer system with the potential to receive discharges from Verizon Wireless, Inc.'s utility vaults and underground structures and determine whether the identified municipal separate storm sewer system discharge to Areas of Special Biological Significances. Verizon Wireless, Inc. shall submit the final report for this study to the Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board by January 1, 2019.

Verizon Wireless, Inc. shall include the following certification in all monitoring reports:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all enclosures were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability or the Utility Vaults Permit, please contact Mr. Gil Vazquez in the NPDES Wastewater Unit of the Division of Water Quality at (916) 322-1400 or gil.vazquez@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria A. Whitney". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Victoria A. Whitney, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality

cc: Pascal Mues
NPDES Permits Office
U.S. EPA Region 9, WTR-5
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Samuel Unger, Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Namiraj Jain, Water Resource Control Engineer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
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