

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA, 95403

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

of

Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2020-0019

for

Modification of Waste Discharge Requirements and Monitoring and Reporting Program  
Order No. 99-35

for

Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC

for

Geothermal Drilling Mud and Cuttings Disposal Area  
Waste Management Unit  
(Change of Ownership)

WDID No. 1B86002RSON

Sonoma County

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) proposes to adopt proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2020-0019 for Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC for the Geothermal Drilling Mud and Cuttings Disposal Area Waste Management Unit (Change of Ownership) which will replace Order No. 99-35.

This item will be open for public comment between March 13, 2020 and April 13, 2020.

**Board Action:** The Board will consider adoption of Modification to Waste Discharge Requirements and Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. 99-35 for Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC.

**Background:** Geysers Power Company, LLC (Discharger) is a subsidiary of Calpine Corporation. The Discharger is engaged in geothermal well drilling and exploration, transportation of steam to power plants, disposal of drilling mud and drill cuttings in a waste management unit, injection of geothermal steam condensate from power plants, and injection of disinfected advanced secondary-23 treated wastewater and Clear Lake water from Lake County and disinfected tertiary treated wastewater from Santa Rosa. Steam condensate, treated wastewater, and Clear Lake water is injected into the subsurface steam producing formation for electrical generation.

On July 21, 1999, the Regional Water Board (Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements and Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. 99-35 for Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC. The Order provided for the construction of a pipeline network to inject up to 2,600,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater comingled with Clear Lake water into the geothermal reservoir. Additionally, the Order provided for notification, monitoring, and reporting of activities conducted in the geothermal field such as construction projects including roads, drilling pads, waste sump activities, drilling mud circulation losses, and waste transfers; liquids monitoring of geothermal steam condensate, accidental spills, injection volumes of steam condensate and Clear Lake water mixed with treated wastewaters; and liquids from the Geothermal Drilling Mud and Cuttings Disposal Area subsurface drainage system.

**Discussion:** Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2020-0019 (proposed Order) is a Modification to the active portion of Waste Discharge Requirements and Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. 99-35 for Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC. The active portion of Order No. 99-35 covers the Geothermal Drilling Mud and Cuttings Disposal Area Waste Management Unit and subsurface drainage system. The modification proposes to change the Order name from Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC to Geysers Power Company, LLC.

**Public Hearing Procedures:** A public hearing to consider comments and objections to the proposed permit is scheduled for the Regional Water Board's June 18 and 19, 2020 Board Meeting, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. The meeting will be held in Santa Rosa at the California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. You can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board website ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_info/board\\_meetings/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/)). At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed permit.

In order for the Regional Water Board to consider any evidentiary material concerning this hearing, any documents, including written technical reports and other evidentiary material, must be submitted to the Regional Water Board email at [Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov) no later than 5:00 pm on April 14, 2020. All documents that are received timely will be distributed to the Regional Water Board members and interested persons. These records will also become a permanent part of the administrative record for this public hearing.

Except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair, written material received after the above date will not be accepted. If the Chair chooses to accept late written material, that material will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so

would prejudice the Permittee or the Regional Water Board staff. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, sections 648.1 and 648.4).

All those who plan to testify at this hearing must submit written statements to the Regional Water Board no later than April 14, 2020. The statements should provide the name of the witness, his or her qualifications (if an expert), and the scope of his or her intended testimony. The time limit for oral testimony or comments will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and are subject to change. These time limits normally allow no more than 10 minutes each for Regional Water Board staff and Dischargers. All speakers are expected to honor these time limits. Other interested persons may also provide testimony at this public hearing. However, any testimony given by someone other than staff or the Dischargers, may be limited to 3 minutes and may only be given under the limited scope of summarizing or explaining any timely-submitted or late-accepted written evidence. No new evidence will be allowed to be presented at this public hearing. In an effort to be fair to all people who wish to testify at this public hearing, the Regional Water Board Chair may choose to use a timer to ensure that individuals stay within the time limits set by the Chair. The Chair also requests that in order to avoid unnecessary repetitive testimony, that one spokesperson be selected to speak on behalf of many individuals when those individuals share a common affiliation or interest.

**Document Review:** The Proposed Permit and related documents are available at the Regional Water Board's website for tentative orders for Board decisions. Additionally, the Proposed Permit and file may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA. Appointments are recommended for document review and can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer  
March 13, 2020

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