

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday June 18, 2020

Item: 4

Subject: Public Hearing on Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2020-0019 to consider adoption of proposed Modification to Waste Discharge Requirements and Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. 99-35 for Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC (*Scott Gergus*).

Board Action: The Board will consider adoption of proposed Order No. R1-2020-0019 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 proposed Order simply changes the ownership name for the facility. The Discharger is engaged in various geothermal activities, including 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 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 (existing Order) for Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC. The existing 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 existing 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: Proposed Order No. R1-2020-0019 is a modification to the existing Order simply to change the name of the owner of the facility from Calpine Corporation dba Geysers Power Company, LLC to Geysers Power Company, LLC. There are no changes to the active portion of the existing Order which covers the Geothermal Drilling Mud and Cuttings Disposal Area Waste Management Unit and subsurface drainage system.

A copy of the Draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from March 13, 2020 through April 14, 2020. No comments were received from the public.

The Proposed Order is uncontested.

Recommendation: Adopt Order No. R1-2020-0019, as proposed.

Supporting Documents:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2020-0019
2. Public Notice

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