

State Water Resources Control Board

August 14, 2015

Ms. Chantel McMorris
Pacific Bell Telephone Company (dba AT&T California)
308 S. Akard Street
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Ms. McMorris:

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; PACIFIC BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY – LOS ANGELES REGION, STATEWIDE UTILITY VAULTS PERMIT

Thank you for submitting your application package for coverage under the Statewide Utility Vaults Permit¹ adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in October 2014. 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 (NOA)

Based on the information submitted in the application package, including the Notice of Intent and the Pollution Prevention Plan received on June 5, 2015, 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 4000U000037 and a regulatory measure identification number of 192879. This NOA implements regulatory coverage under the permit for the application described below as of the date of this letter.

Discharge Description

Pacific Bell Telephone Company (Discharger) owns and operates numerous underground vaults, manholes, and other underground utility structures utilized for providing telecommunications service within its service areas. The Discharger proposes to discharge water from these utility vaults and underground structures within the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) jurisdiction. The discharges are intermittent in nature resulting from routine maintenance and operations of the Discharger's utility vaults and underground structures.

General Permit Requirements

To comply with the Utility Vaults Permit, the Discharger shall:

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.

- a. Comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), Attachment C of the Utility Vaults Permit, and future revisions thereto.
- b. Establish and maintain a liaison contact with the following 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

The Discharger 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 NOI and after any update to the list.

- c. Comply with the notification requirements of the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit of any MS4 that the Discharger 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 Los Angeles Water Board or the State Water Board.
- f. Implement the Pollution Prevention Plan and apply best management practices (BMPs) when discharging.
- g. Annually evaluate the effectiveness and adequacy of the control measures and BMPs in controlling the discharge of pollutants and revise the Pollution Prevention Plan control measures and BMPs if necessary. Document all changes to BMPs, 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
Attention: Victor Lopez
1001 I Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Discharge Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

In accordance with the MRP (Attachment C), Section IV Effluent Monitoring Requirements, the Discharger 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. The Discharger shall submit the monitoring plan and time schedule to the Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board by March 1, 2016. The Discharger 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 MS4 with a direct discharge to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBSs) shall submit a second Discharge Characterization Study to evaluate whether the discharges from utility vaults or underground structures to an ASBS alter natural ocean water quality in the ASBS. By November 1, 2015, the Discharger shall identify the MS4s with the potential to receive discharges from the Discharger's utility vaults and underground structures and determine whether the identified MS4s discharge to ASBSs. The Discharger shall submit the final report for this study to the Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board by January 1, 2019.

The Discharger 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 NOA or the Utility Vaults Permit, please contact Mr. Victor Lopez in the NPDES Wastewater Unit of the Division of Water Quality at (916) 323-5511 or victor.lopez@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


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

cc: Continued on next page.

cc: (Continued)

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
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
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