
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

3 April 2014

Michelle Le, Water Quality Manager
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
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San Ramon, CA 94583

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SEGMENT T-215-13 - HYDROSTATIC TEST DISCHARGE, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

On 28 June 2012, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted a Programmatic Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for discharges to land of hydrostatic test water from testing of its existing natural gas transmission lines during the current calendar year. Site specific notification for the discharge of hydrostatic test water from pipeline segment T-215-13 to agricultural land in Antioch was received on 14 March 2014.

The submittals contain all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the NOI is complete. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under General Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ-0095. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION

The discharge of hydrostatic test water will be to a 3.5-acre field in Antioch, Contra Costa County, latitude 38° 00' 45.45" N, longitude 121° 45' 27.02" W.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PG&E will conduct hydrostatic pressure line testing of its existing natural gas pipeline. For the pressure test, the pipeline segment will be isolated and vented. The segment will then be filled with water and pressurized for eight hours in accordance with industry standards. Water for the pressure test will consist of potable water from a municipal supply, surface water, or groundwater source. Approximately 220,000 gallons of water will be utilized for the test.

Following the pressure test, hydrostatic test water will be placed in portable storage tanks and filtered through particulate filters and activated carbon to remove any residual contaminants. To ensure compliance with the conditions in the General Order, samples of the filtered hydrostatic test water will be collected and analyzed by a certified laboratory prior to discharge.

Following treatment and testing, the hydrostatic test water will be discharged via hand watering to a field owned by PG&E. No indication of sensitive species or active waste sites have been reported for this site. The discharge will comply with PG&E's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for non-storm water discharges.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Hydrostatic test waters shall be disposed of as described in the NOI and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Discharge of hydrostatic test water at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI is prohibited.
3. All wells connected to any irrigation system utilized for the discharge of hydrostatic test water will be equipped with an air gap or other backflow prevention device.
4. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.
5. Analytical results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program.
6. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.
7. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

If you have any questions regarding this NOA or associated fees, please contact Anne Olson at 464-4740 or by email at aolson@waterboards.ca.gov.

-Original signed by Andrew Altevogt for-

PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ