

## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Status of Actions October 2025 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

#### Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Second Quarter 2025 groundwater data indicates that plume migration is not occurring but does reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Second Quarter 2025 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Second Quarter 2025 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?url=bftml) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?url=bftml>) and are Figures 5-1 through 5-6 of this report.

Chromium plume maps representing previous quarters are posted on the Water Board's Hinkley website at [Water Board's Hinkley website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water\\_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml)), at the bottom of the page under the section titled "Other Documents and Information." The Third Quarter 2025 plume map is due on November 10, 2025, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068-A1.

#### Domestic Well 35-41 and Monitoring Well MW-67A Hexavalent Chromium Concentrations

During routine monitoring, monitoring well MW-67A had an increase in hexavalent chromium concentrations during the Second Quarter 2024. PG&E began providing bottled water to the residence with domestic well 35-41 in accordance with the Environmental Impact Report mitigation measure WTR-MM-2A and began monthly monitoring of domestic well 35-41 and MW-67A. Monthly monitoring of monitoring wells MW-230S/D, MW-231S/D, and MW-67A/B have shown that concentrations of hexavalent chromium have stabilized in the area and have remained below 10 micrograms per liter.

PG&E has modified monitoring for nearby monitoring wells from monthly to quarterly. Monitoring of domestic well 35-41 will continue monthly performing a 5-gallon purge prior to collecting the sample. If any increases in hexavalent chromium are observed, Water Board staff will request PG&E increase sampling frequency to monthly.

#### PG&E Request to Discontinue Bioreactor Post-Pilot Test Monitoring and Reporting

Between January 2015 and September 2016, PG&E conducted a bioreactor pilot test to assess the effectiveness of a bioreactor in treating hexavalent chromium in groundwater. The bioreactor used phosphoric acid as a food source for the microbes which resulted in orthophosphate in reinjection water. Following the pilot test,

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orthophosphate monitoring was performed in a network of thirty wells that were used for reinjection during the bioreactor pilot test. In 2017, PG&E requested to cease sampling associated with the bioreactor pilot test, although five wells still exhibited elevated orthophosphate concentrations. Water Board staff responded with a letter requiring ongoing orthophosphate monitoring until the appropriate orthophosphate travel time in groundwater had passed and concentrations reached 0.1 parts per million (ppm) or less for two consecutive sampling events.

On May 7, 2025, Water Board staff received PG&E's request to discontinue bioreactor post-pilot test monitoring. Monitoring of CA-MW-101 is the only remaining activity for the bioreactor pilot test that was performed under a notice of applicability to the Board Order No. R6V-2008-0014, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Pacific Gas and Electric Company General Site-wide Groundwater Remediation Project. Water Board staff are reviewing this request.

### **PG&E Modified Domestic Well Sampling Area**

Discussed in the First Quarter 2025 monitoring report, PG&E plans to modify the domestic well sampling area that was established using the 2014 hexavalent chromium plume boundary. PG&E planned to discontinue sampling domestic wells outside of the 1-mile required area based on WTR-MM-2a based on the third quarter 2023 plume boundary. Water Board staff requested PG&E continue the sampling of monitoring wells in the current domestic well sampling area until the requirements to modify the area have been reviewed.

### **Feasibility Study to Evaluate Hexavalent Chromium Background Values**

As discussed at the January 2025 board meeting, the Water Board will be requiring a feasibility study to be performed by PG&E to inform us on cleanup time frames, developing cleanup goals or milestones, applying information learned from the USGS Background Study, and updating the model to correspond with current site conditions. Other information may include cost analysis, consideration of any new technology available, modification to the remedy to accelerate cleanup, and running the model with new data not included in the previous feasibility study.

### **Water Board PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Webpage**

Water Board staff have updated our [PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water\\_issues/projects/pge/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/)). The project webpage hosts certain documents and announcements related to PG&E's corrective actions, as well as copies of past and current plume maps to access or download and print from the webpage. Please contact Water Board staff with any questions or for assistance.

## **Your Water Board Staff Contacts**

Water Board oversight of the PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup project is provided by staff in the Water Board's Victorville office located at 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394. Your Water Board staff contacts are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of the listed should you need assistance.

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# Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Are you interested in participating  
in the development of the  
Lahontan Regional Water Board's

## Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Action Plan?

scan the QR code below or visit:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/programs/racial-equity-environmental-justice/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/racial-equity-environmental-justice/)

### Water Boards Mission Statement:

"To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations."

### Lahontan Regional Water Board goals:

- Protect Human Health and Aquatic Life
- Protect Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Support Disadvantaged Communities
- Respond to Climate Change



Scan this QR code for more  
information about the Action Plan  
and about racial equity and  
environmental justice efforts at the  
Lahontan Regional Water Board.

Please direct any questions to Eli Balderas at  
[eli.balderas@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:eli.balderas@waterboards.ca.gov) or (530) 542-5597