CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

FACT SHEET
APPLICATION FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE LIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
TO DISCHARGE TO STATE WATERS

Public Notice No. 7-00-07
NPDES No. CA7000003
Board Order No. 00-001

Second Imperial Geothermal Company (SIGC)
855 Dogwood Road
Heber, CA 92249

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the Regional Board proposes to renew waste discharge requirements for the discharge. The tentative proposed determinations are described below.

Description of Proposed Discharge

The Second Imperial Geothermal Company discharges a maximum of 1.5 million gallons-per-day of treated industrial re-circulated cooling tower water to the Beech Drain, which flows to the New River.

Basis for Discharge Specifications

Effluent discharged from this facility could contain pollutants in sufficient quantities to affect receiving water quality. Pursuant to Section 13263, Article 4, Chapter 4 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Regional Boards are required to issue Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges that could affect the quality of the State's waters. Furthermore, Federal Regulations 40 CFR 122.1 requires the issuance of NPDES Permits for pollutant discharges from a point source to the waters of the United States. The draft discharge requirements contain specific discharge limitations for selected pollutants. The rationales for each of the limitations is as follows:

Constituents	Basis for Limitations
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	High levels of suspended solids can adversely impact aquatic habitat. Untreated or improperly treated wastewater can contain high amounts of suspended solids.
Settleable Matter	High levels of settleable matter can have an adverse effect on aquatic habitat. Untreated or improperly treated wastewater can contain high amounts of settleable matter.

Constituents	Basis for Limitations
Hydrogen Ion (pH)	Hydrogen Ion (pH) is a measure of the inverse log of the Hydrogen Ion concentration in the water. A range specified between 6.0 to 9.0 allows for biological life. This limitation has been adopted from the Basin Plan of the Region.
Toxicity	Toxicity testing ensures that the effluent does not contain metals, chemicals, pesticides or other constituents in concentration toxic to aquatic life.
Chlorine	Chlorine is toxic to aquatic life. The U. S. EPA recommended criteria to protect fresh water aquatic life is incorporated in this Board Order.

Written Comments

Interested parties and agencies are invited to submit written comments on the proposed waste discharge requirements and the Regional Board's Executive Officer's proposed determinations. Comments should be submitted in writing not later than January 6, 2000 to:

Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The application number shall appear on the first page of any submitted comments. All comments received by the above date will be considered in the formulation of the final determinations.

Public Hearing

The Waste Discharge Requirements will be considered by the Regional Board at a public hearing to be held at the La Quinta City Council Chambers, 78-495 Calle Tampico, La Quinta on April 12, 2000.

Waste Discharge Requirements Appeals

Any person may petition the State Board to review the decision of the Regional Board regarding waste discharge requirements. A petition must be made within 30 days on the Regional Board's hearing.

Additional Information

Persons wishing further information may write to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Or call the Regional Board at (760) 346-7491.