

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

TENTATIVE ORDER

RESCISSION OF SITE CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 94-062 FOR:

JOHNSTON PUMP/GENERAL VALVE, INC.
300 WEST CHANNEL ROAD
BENICIA, SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter the Board), finds that:

- 1. Regional Board Orders:** The Board adopted site cleanup requirements for this site on May 18, 1994 (Order No. 94-062). The Order requires the dischargers to complete soil and groundwater pollution characterization, evaluate and implement remedial actions, and implement a final remedial action plan.

- 2. Summary of Investigation and Remediation Activities:** The site is located in an industrial area that is part of the former Benicia Arsenal and occupies about 1.25 acres. The Discharger operated a repair facility at the site, which serviced pumps from wastewater treatment and industrial facilities. The pumps were steam cleaned and the steam cleaning rinsate was discharged into a concrete lined, below-grade sump. The sump was in operation for eight years. The contents of the sump were reportedly removed only once during the operating period. In May 1989, a preliminary site investigation determined that soil and groundwater at the site had been impacted by solvents from the pump servicing operations. Groundwater samples from the one on-site monitoring well revealed 21,000 ug/l methylene chloride and 1,700 ug/l dichloroethylene.

In 1989 the Discharger removed the below-grade sump and over-excavated approximately 120 cubic yards of contaminated soil. At the same time, the Discharger removed an underground storage tank at the site. Results from post-removal sampling indicated that no petroleum hydrocarbons had been released from the UST. Subsequent hydrogeologic investigation revealed low levels of benzene, toluene, and PCE in on-site soils and concentrations of PCE and 1,2-DCE in groundwater up to 4,700 ug/l and 950 ug/l, respectively. It was proposed as early as 1990 that PCE was coming from an off-site source. In 1992, an extraction trench approximately 50 feet long and extending to approximately 25 feet below ground surface was installed. The extracted groundwater was treated by carbon adsorption and discharged to the Benicia sanitary sewer. The trench and treatment system were shut down in October 1996 after extraction and treatment of approximately 1.4 million gallons of groundwater. The contaminant removal efficiency was poor, likely due to the fractured nature of the bedrock and lack of interconnected groundwater. Remediation of groundwater using the interceptor trench is considered technically infeasible for the site due to the hydraulic limitation of extracting groundwater from fractured bedrock.

At various times from July 1994 to June 1996 more than 18,000 gallons of groundwater was extracted from selected monitoring wells and treated in the existing system. The approach proved to be relatively ineffective, apparently due to the relatively low interconnected transmissivity of the fractured bedrock and relatively low yield of the monitoring wells.

The Discharger has presented evidence that historic land use and/or activities at adjacent property has contributed to the groundwater contamination detected at the site, upgradient from the former sump. MTBE has been detected at relatively high concentrations near the upgradient property boundary, and concentrations of PCE are higher upgradient of the suspected source (the sump) than near the source or downgradient from the source.

- 3. Basis for Rescission:** The dischargers have complied with the requirements of the Order and completed final remedial actions.

Recent groundwater data collected from the vicinity of the former source area indicates significant reduction in contaminant concentrations and mass has occurred. This information indicates that no additional sourcing of chlorinated solvent mass to the groundwater plume has occurred or is likely to occur in the future, and the plume is stable or diminishing. These conclusions are consistent with the removal of the source in 1989 and marginally effective groundwater extraction and treatment. Site data indicate that contamination resulting from releases from the sump has largely been remediated, either through active remediation or natural attenuation. Site-related contaminants are either non-detect or at low concentrations near the down-gradient property boundary. Cis-1,2-dichloroethene was detected at 1.8 ug/l at MW-1, near the downgradient property boundary, in March 2004. This concentration is well below the freshwater aquatic habitat goal of 590 ug/l, which would apply to nearby Sulfur Springs Creek. Groundwater is not a source of drinking water in the area.

- 4. California Environmental Quality Act:** This action rescinds an order to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Board. As such, this action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15321 of the Resources Agency Guidelines.
- 5. Notification:** The Board has notified the dischargers and all interested agencies and persons of its intent under California Water Code Section 13304 to rescind site cleanup requirements for the discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments.
- 6. Public Hearing:** The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to Section 13304 of the California Water Code, that Order No. 94-062 is rescinded.

I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on _____.

Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer