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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

24 November 2015

Daniel Sanchez, Water Quality Manager  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
6111 Bollinger Canyon Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
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-1028 - HYDROSTATIC TEST DISCHARGE, FRESNO COUNTY**

On 23 January 2015, 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 2015. A site specific notification for the discharge of hydrostatic test water from testing of pipeline segment T-1028 for dust control was submitted on 10 November 2015.

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-0139. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The treated hydrostatic test water will be used for dust control within work areas and temporary construction easements in Fresno County, Section 32, Township 12 South, Range 19 East MDB&M. This portion of Fresno County is within the Tulare Lake Basin.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition*, revised January 2004 (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the Basin.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PG&E will conduct hydrostatic pressure line testing of its existing natural gas pipeline. For the pressure test, pipeline segment T-1028 will be isolated and vented. The segment will then be filled with water and pressurized 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 140,000 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 for constituents of concern by a certified laboratory prior to discharge.

Following treatment and testing, the hydrostatic test water will be used for dust control within work areas and temporary construction easements on land owned by PG&E. The hydrostatic test water will be discharged using a drip system spread over approximately nine acres to minimize ponding and prevent runoff. According to PG&E, the discharge will take place during dry weather and will be stopped in the event of a major rain event. 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-stormwater discharges.

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability (NOA) regulate the discharge of hydrostatic test water from PG&E's Hydrostatic Test Project of Natural Gas Transmission Line Segment T-1028 for dust control on land owned by PG&E in Fresno County.

## FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

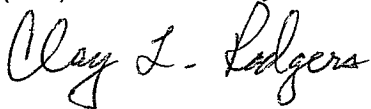
1. Hydrostatic test waters shall be disposed of as described in the NOI and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Discharge of hydrostatic test water at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI is prohibited.
3. Prior to discharge, the hydrostatic test water must comply with United States Environmental Protection Agency Region IX regulations regarding polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) for unrestricted reuse and not contain PCBs at concentrations above 0.5 ug/L or present an oily sheen.
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. 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.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) has gone to a Paperless Office System. All regulatory documents, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office:

Program: Non-15, Place ID: 819574, Facility Name: Hydrostatic Test T-1028,  
Order: 2003-0003-DWQ-0139.

If you have any questions regarding this NOA, please contact Katie Carpenter at (559) 445-5551 or by email at [kcarpenter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kcarpenter@waterboards.ca.gov).



*for* Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

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

cc: Adam O'Connor, PG&E, (via e-mail)