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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

13 December 2017

Michelle Le, 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-1385 - HYDROSTATIC TEST DISCHARGE, KERN COUNTY**

On 21 March 2017, 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 2017. A site-specific notification and land owner agreement for the discharge of hydrostatic test water from testing of pipeline segment T-1385 to be spread on approximately 630 acres owned by Ten-Star Farming, Inc. in Kern County were submitted on 15 November and 8 December 2017.

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-0184**. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The treated hydrostatic test water will be discharged on approximately 630 acres at 2909 Houghton Road just south of Bakersfield in Kern County, Assessor's Parcel Number 184-391-08. This portion of Kern County is within the Tulare Lake Basin.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition*, revised July 2016 (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-1385 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 4.2 million 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 spread on approximately 630 acres of farmland owned by Ten-Star Farming, Inc. According to PG&E the water will be evenly dispersed using temporary sprinklers or an equivalent method to prevent excessive ponding or runoff. No indication of sensitive species or active waste sites have been reported for this location. 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-1385 on property owned by Ten-Star Farming, Inc. in Kern 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. After every 500,000 gallons, samples of the filtered discharge shall be collected and analyzed for constituents of concern including pH, electrical conductivity, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), semi-volatile organic compounds, Title 22 metals, and total petroleum hydrocarbons. If sampling shows constituents of concern at concentrations above water quality objectives, then the discharge shall be stopped, and the particulate filters and activated carbon will be replaced prior to reinitiating the discharge.
4. Prior to discharge, the hydrostatic test water must comply with United States Environmental Protection Agency Region IX regulations regarding PCBs for unrestricted reuse and not contain PCBs at concentrations above 0.5 ug/L or present an oily sheen.
5. 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.

6. Analytical results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program.
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.

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: 842705, Facility Name: Hydrostatic Test T-1385, Enrollee Number: 2003-0003-DWQ-0184.

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: Hal McCutchan, PG&E, (via e-mail)  
Kevin Antongiovanni, Ten-Star Farming, Inc., 10457 Van Horn Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313