

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: Proposed Order rescinding Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2006-0064, ExxonMobil Production Company, Hill Lease, South Belridge Oil Field, Kern County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Proposed Order*

BACKGROUND: ExxonMobil Production Company (ExxonMobil) owns and operates four unlined surface impoundments on the Hill Lease in the South Belridge Oil Field, Kern County. Non-hazardous oilfield production wastewater and treatment plant filter backwash water have been discharged to the surface impoundments since the 1950's for disposal by evaporation and percolation.

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2004-0080 (WDRs) requires ExxonMobil to cease the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments by 30 June 2006. On 27 February 2006, ExxonMobil notified staff that additional time was needed to cease the wastewater discharge.

Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2006-0064 (CDO) was adopted on 23 June 2006. The CDO extended the compliance date in the WDRs for ExxonMobil to cease the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments to 31 December 2006. The CDO also required ExxonMobil to submit by 28 February 2007, a technical report with the results of a hydrogeologic investigation that began in 2002 and a groundwater Corrective Action Plan.

On 28 December 2006, ExxonMobil ceased the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments. Treated wastewater is conveyed by pipelines to subsurface injection disposal wells permitted by the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources. On 26 February 2007, ExxonMobil submitted a technical report with the final results of the hydrogeologic investigation. On 28 February 2007, ExxonMobil submitted the groundwater Corrective Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Order rescinding the CDO

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

13 August 2009
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