
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 October 2013

NOTICE
TENTATIVE REVISED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
CORRECTIVE ACTION, POSTCLOSURE MAINTENANCE, AND
SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT OPERATIONS
NEVADA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MCCOURTNEY ROAD LANDFILL
CLASS III LANDFILLS AND CLASS II SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS
NEVADA COUNTY

TO ALL CONCERNED PERSONS AND AGENCIES:

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adopting revised waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the McCourtney Road Landfill at its meeting on 6 and 7 February 2014. The 157-acre facility was developed in a ravine along Wolf Mountain Road (near McCourtney Road) about four miles southwest of Grass Valley. The landfill operated from 1973 to 1992, accepting primarily household wastes. The landfill ceased accepting wastes in 1992 and was closed in 1998. The landfill consists of two closed landfill units referred to as Landfill Unit 1 (31.2 acres) and Landfill Unit 2 (5.1 acres). Most of Landfill Unit 1 is unlined and predates Title 27 regulatory standards. Landfill Unit 2 is a compositely-lined Subtitle D landfill unit. The facility also includes two Class II surface impoundments under Title 27 regulations, the largest of which (5.2 MG) was historically used for leachate storage and the other (1.3 MG) as a fire suppression impoundment.

The site geology is complex due to faulting, fracturing, and other heterogeneities. Groundwater occurs in fractured/weathered bedrock at depths from 12 to 101 feet below ground surface. Groundwater flow is generally to the east. Groundwater impacts from the landfill, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and elevated general minerals, have been detected at the site since 1987. The highest concentrations of total VOCs (up to 60 µg/L) have been historically detected in the central portion of the site between Landfill Units 1 and 2. Lower concentrations of VOCs have been detected along the northern and eastern site perimeter. Low concentrations of VOCs have also been historically detected in several privately-owned domestic wells southeast and northeast of the site.

Beginning in the late 1980s, the Discharger implemented various interim corrective action measures to address groundwater impacts at the site, including clean closure and decommissioning of former operations areas (i.e., burn dump, septage ponds, old landfill

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cells), de-watering of landfill units, and cessation of landfill operations. In 1998, the Discharger completed landfill closure as under a 1996 Corrective Action Plan (CAP), and in 2004, installation of a landfill gas extraction system after it was discovered that landfill gas was likely a significant contributor to the groundwater impacts.

Monitoring data through the Second Half 2012 indicated that the above corrective action measures have been effective in significantly reducing groundwater impacts at the site. Most VOCs had declined to low to trace levels and the maximum concentration of total VOCs had declined to about 15 µg/L. Three VOCs remained above water quality objectives, including Carbon Tetrachloride at 0.6 µg/L (MW-20A), cis-1,2-Dichloroethene at 10.8 µg/L (PZ-105), and Trichloroethylene at 0.8 µg/L (MW-4A). No VOCs were detected in any of the offsite domestic wells since the First Half 2009 and only a few, low level VOC hits had been detected in the wells since 2003.

The proposed WDRs prescribe requirements for postclosure corrective action of the landfill units and detection monitoring of the Class II surface impoundments at the site, including the submission of various technical reports, as follows:

Landfill Units (WDR Provision J.5)

Report		Due Date
a.	A completion report for installation of the landfill gas controls installed at the site in 2004.	1 April 2014
b.	An updated Final Postclosure Maintenance Plan for both closure units.	1 May 2014
c.	A financial assurances demonstration report for postclosure maintenance, and corrective action.	1 July each year beginning 2014
d.	A report documenting previous final cover surveys and the methodology used to track differential settlement.	15 August 2014
e.	A work plan for installation of additional corrective action monitoring wells at Landfill Unit 1	15 September 2015
f.	A Well Installation Report for the above wells.	15 December 2015

Class II Surface Impoundments (WDR Provision J.6)

Report		Due Date
a.	A report providing corrective action cost estimates for both impoundments	15 April 2014
b.	A preliminary closure and postclosure maintenance plan for both impoundments.	15 May 2014
c.	Financial assurances demonstration report for closure, postclosure maintenance, and corrective action	1 July each year beginning 2014

d.	Operations plan(s) for both impoundments	15 September 2014
e.	A work plan for installation of a Point of Compliance monitoring well downgradient of SI-1.	15 September 2015
f.	A Well Installation Report for the above wells.	15 December 2015

The WDRs also require submission of a revised Water Quality Protection Standard Report for the units at the site by 31 July 2014. The monitoring and reporting program in the revised WDRs requires corrective action monitoring for the two closed landfill units and detection monitoring for the two Class II surface impoundments. Monitoring frequencies for each unit are generally quarterly for field parameters, semiannually for monitoring parameters, and every five years for all constituents of concern. Monitoring is also required for major landfill control systems (e.g., leachate, gas, and drainage) and discharges to the surface impoundments.

The proposed WDRs and the Notice of Public Hearing (NOPH) are available on our website at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders.

The NOPH contains important information about the public hearing process. Electronic copies of the September 2003 Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Industrial Facilities that would be adopted as part of the WDRs are available at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders

If you do not have access to the Internet or otherwise require paper copies of these documents to be sent to you, please contact John Moody at (916) 464-4641 or by email at jmoody@waterboards.ca.gov. Persons wishing to comment on this matter must submit their testimony, evidence, and/or comments in writing to the attention of John Moody at the Central Valley Water Board no later than 5 p.m. on **10 December 2013**. Written materials received after 5 p.m. on **10 December 2013** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

If you have any questions, please call John Moody at (916) 464-4641.

VICTOR J. IZZO
Senior Engineering Geologist
Title 27 Permitting and Mining

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Public Hearing
2. Tentative Order
3. Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Industrial Facilities (September 2003)

Bob Elder
McCourtney Road Landfill
Nevada County

-4-

31 October 2013

cc w/enclosures:

Bob Elder, Solid Waste Program Manager, Nevada County Department of Public Works

cc w/o enclosures:

Frank Davies Jr., Closure & Technical Support, CalRecycle, Sacramento
Richard Castle, Financial Assurances Division, CalRecycle, Sacramento
Kelvin Yamada, Environmental Management Branch, Department of Public Health, Sacramento
Richard Hinrichs, Drinking Water Program, Department of Public Health, Redding
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