



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Katherine Hart, Chair**



Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

23 June 2011

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE TO TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT ALMOND POWER PLANT NO. 2 PROJECT; STANISLAUS COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 2 May 2011 from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), (Discharger) for the Gas Transmission Pipeline to Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Almond Power Plant No. 2 Project. Based on the information in the NOI, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0081-099 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-099 in all future correspondence and documents.

The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger(s).

CALIFORNIA TOXIC RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxic Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP).

Screening levels for the Priority Pollutants constituents are found in Attachment B of the Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-081. The Discharger obtained groundwater samples from three existing TID groundwater monitoring wells located near the proposed gas pipeline.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Review of the priority pollutant laboratory data in comparison to the Most Stringent Objective/Criteria values, showed no reasonable potential to impact the receiving waters known as the San Joaquin River.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Discharger is proposing to discharge groundwater associated with the dewatering activities for the placement of 13 miles of gas pipeline, and surface waters from the hydrostatic testing of the newly constructed pipeline. The project consists of the installation of 1.8 miles of 24-inch pipeline extending PG&E Gas Line-215 along Prune Avenue, easterly of Sycamore Avenue and then northerly towards the San Joaquin River within the Patterson Irrigation District (PID) service area, and the installation of 11.61 miles of 16-inch pipeline that will connect to the Almond Power Plant No. 2. Groundwater will be placed in Baker Tanks and treated as necessary to meet the effluent requirements found in the Low Threat General Order R5-2008-0081 prior to discharging into either PID or TID's irrigation canal systems. Surface waters to conduct the hydrostatic test will be obtained from the canal system, therefore no treatment of the hydrostatic test waters is currently planned. The project will be six months in duration with dewatering activities to be intermittent. The duration of the hydrostatic test will be 1-3 days. Groundwater flows are not expected to exceed 0.25 million gallons daily, however the maximum flow of 1 million gallons daily is estimated for the discharge of the hydrostatic water. TID and PID irrigation canal systems are both tributary to the San Joaquin River.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

All Dischargers must notify Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and when the discharge ceases. The Discharger is required to comply with all the monitoring and reporting requirements contained in Attachment E of the Low Threat General Order.

Effluent and receiving water analytical monitoring shall be conducted and the results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis unless specified otherwise. The Discharger must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X, even if there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the reporting quarter, until the Discharger formally requests that coverage under this Order be terminated.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the discharge is terminated. To terminate coverage under the Low Threat General Order, the Dischargers must submit written notification to the Central Valley Water Board that the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order has ceased and is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, then the Dischargers will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. Late reports may be subject to an MMP of \$3,000 for

each period of 30 days late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

COMMUNICATION

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Spencer Joplin of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Compliance and Enforcement Unit. Mr. Joplin can be reached at (916) 464-4660 or sjoplin@waterboards.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and written notification for termination of coverage under this Order, shall be directed to Mike Negrete of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Permitting Unit. Mr. Negrete can be reached at (916) 464-4662 or mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Kenneth D. Landau for

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enclosure: General Order No. R5-2008-0081 (Dischargers only)

cc: Mr. Dave Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento