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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 December 2015

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LIMITED THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2013-0073-01; PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY PROJECT R-503 CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING; BUTTE COUNTY

Our office received a Report of Waste Discharge application on 8 December 2015 from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (hereinafter Discharger), for discharge of treated groundwater to surface water. Based on the application packet and subsequent information submitted by the Discharger, staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order R5-2013-0073-046 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995002. Please reference your Limited Threat General Order number, **R5-2013-0073-046**, in your correspondence and submitted documents.

The enclosed Limited Threat General Order may also be viewed at the following web address:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073-01.pdf

You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Limited Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring and reporting requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order.

CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Limited Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Screening levels for CTR constituents are found in Attachment B of the Limited Threat General Order. Review of effluent water quality data in comparison to the screening values, showed reasonable potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives for aluminum, iron, and manganese in the receiving water. In addition, due to the use of chlorine in the treatment process that requires dechlorination, the project is categorized as a superchlorination project and has reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives for chlorine. The proposed treatment system addresses the water quality concerns by

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reducing constituent concentrations below water quality objectives prior to discharge; therefore, the Project qualifies for the Limited Threat General Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of installation of 9,500 feet of 8-inch natural gas pipeline in the City of Gridley, Butte County, California. The pipeline installation begins at the Discharger's Gridley Station near 60 W Liberty Road then extends east along W. Liberty Road to Highway 99, then extends north parallel to Highway 99 and terminates approximately 525 feet north of the intersection of Highway 99 and Standish Lane. Dewatering of groundwater generated during the various trenching and excavation activities is proposed to be discharged to the City of Gridley's storm drain system which ultimately flows to a retention basin behind 1596 State Highway 99. Water in the detention basin would rarely, if ever, flow in an easterly direction toward the ultimate receiving water which is considered to be Morrison Slough. Morrison Slough is a tributary of the Sutter Bypass. The Discharger is performing this project in order to improve the safety and operability of its natural gas transmission pipelines.

Project R-503 will be performed using open trench techniques and construction will occur in 200-foot segments. To assist with completion of these projects, trench and excavation dewatering will be completed using sump pumps or dewatering wells advanced around the construction area. Project R-503 is anticipated to generate excavation groundwater at a flow rate of up to approximately 50,000 gallons per day (gpd) beginning in January 2016 and continuing through August 2016. The flow rate may decrease as the surrounding water level is lowered. Historic depth to groundwater at the site has ranged from approximately 3 feet to 19 feet below ground surface, but may be influenced by rainfall during construction.

The Discharger will place sediment screens in the dewatering wells or at the bottom of the excavations to limit soil particulates in the excavation groundwater. The groundwater will be conveyed by a temporary PVC pipeline to a series of settling tanks staged along the pipeline alignment to allow for sedimentation. Settled groundwater will then be pumped through particulate filters, injected with sodium hypochlorite, processed through a manganese greensand filter, and then pumped through activated carbon filtration. The final unit process is clay filtration for trace metals removal, if required.

The Discharger will construct a temporary PVC pipeline from the filtration system(s) to the City of Gridley storm drain inlets on Fairview Drive. The proposed discharge locations are Storm Drain 1 and Storm Drain 2 (EFF-001 and EFF-002) and the proposed geographic coordinates are provided in the Discharger's application submittal.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Effluent limitations are specified in Section V. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications of the Limited Threat General Order. The following effluent limitations are applicable to this discharge and are contained in Section V. A, B, and D of the Limited Threat General Order:

A. Effluent Limitations – Applicable to All Limited Threat Discharges

1. Priority Pollutants and Constituents of Concern

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Iron, Total Recoverable	µg/L	300 (Annual Average) ¹	--
Manganese, Total Recoverable	µg/L	50 (Annual Average) ¹	--

¹For the calendar year, the annual average effluent concentration shall not exceed the footnoted value.

2. Acute Whole Effluent Toxicity. Survival of aquatic organisms in 96-hour bioassays of undiluted waste for all limited threat discharges shall be no less than:

- a. 70%, minimum for any one bioassay; and
- b. 90%, median for any three consecutive bioassays.

B. Effluent Limitations – Limited Threat Discharge to Specific Waterbodies

4. The pH of all limited threat discharges within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (except Goose Creek) shall at all times be within the range of 6.5 and 8.5.

D. Effluent Limitations – Limited Threat Discharges from Superchlorination Projects

1. **Total Residual Chlorine.** In addition to the effluent limitations contained in Sections V.A. and V.B. above, the discharge from a superchlorination project shall not exceed the following effluent limitations for total residual chlorine:

- a. 0.011 mg/L, as a 4-day average; and
- b. 0.019 mg/L, as a 1-hour average.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting requirements are contained in Attachment E of the Limited Threat General Order. The Discharger is required to comply with the following specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the effluent in accordance with Attachment E of the Limited Threat General Order.

Monitoring Locations – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent at the specified location as follows:

Table E-1. Monitoring Station Locations

Discharge Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
001	EFF-001	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to City of Gridley Storm Drain 1
002	EFF-002	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to City of Gridley Storm Drain 2

Effluent Monitoring – When discharging to the City of Gridley Storm drain system, the Discharger shall monitor the effluent at EFF-001 and EFF-002 as follows:

Table E-2. Effluent Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Total Flow	MGD	Estimate	1/Day	-
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Day	1
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Day	1
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Month	1
Temperature	°F	Grab	1/Month	1
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Month	1
Iron, Total Recoverable	µg/L	Grab	1/Month	1
Manganese, Total Recoverable	µg/L	Grab	1/Month	1
Aluminum	µg/L	Grab	1/Month	1
Acute Toxicity	% survival	Grab	1/Project Term ²	--
Chronic Toxicity	--	Grab	1/Project Term ³	

1. Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 CRF Part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.
2. Acute toxicity testing shall be conducted within 3 months of initiation of discharge and shall be analyzed using EPA-821-R-02-012, Fifth Edition. The test species shall be fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*).
3. Chronic toxicity testing shall be conducted within 3 months of initiation of discharge and shall be estimated using Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, Fourth Edition, EPA/821-R-02-013, October 2002.

Receiving Water Monitoring – Receiving water monitoring is not required. Treated groundwater will be discharged to the City of Gridley storm drain system where the project groundwater discharge will combine with surface drainage, and the combined flows are discharged to the receiving water. Receiving water monitoring would reflect the effects of the combined discharges and would not represent the effects of the discharge covered under this NOA. Therefore, compliance with receiving water limitations will be determined through effluent monitoring.

Monitoring Report Submittals - Monitoring in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order shall begin upon initiation of discharge. Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267 monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis, beginning with the First Quarter 2016. This report shall be submitted on 1 May 2016. The monitoring reports shall contain the results of the monitoring described above. If the discharge has not begun there is no need to monitor. However, a monitoring report must be submitted stating that there has been no discharge. Table E-4, below, summarizes the monitoring report due dates required under the Limited Threat General Order. Quarterly monitoring reports must

be submitted until your coverage is formally terminated in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter.

Table E-4. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

Sampling Frequency	Monitoring Period Begins On...	Quarterly Report Due Date
1/Day, 1/Week, 1/Month, 1/Quarter	First day of discharge	1 May (1 Jan – 31 Mar) 1 Aug (1 Apr – 30 Jun) 1 Nov (1 Jul – 30 Sep) 1 Feb, of following year (1 Oct – 31 Dec)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Based on the effluent water quality data submitted with the NOI, the Discharger has demonstrated the treatment system is capable of meeting the requirements of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA, except for the annual average effluent limitation for total recoverable iron and total recoverable manganese. In accordance with the Section X.A.2 of the Monitoring and Reporting Program in the Limited Threat General Order, prior to commencing discharge; 1) a representative sample of the effluent shall be collected and analyzed for total recoverable iron and total recoverable manganese, and 2) the test result must demonstrate compliance with the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA.

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff within 24 hours of having knowledge of 1) the start of each new discharge, 2) noncompliance, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Central Valley Water Board shall be notified immediately if any effluent limit violation is observed during implementation of the project.

Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing when the discharge regulated by the Limited Threat General Order is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Limited 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. In addition, late monitoring or incomplete reports may be subject to MMPs or discretionary penalties of up to \$1,000 per day late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly report monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly monitoring 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, enforcement, or general aspects of the Limited Threat General Order shall be directed to Jeremy Pagan of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Unit. Mr. Pagan can be reached at (530) 224-4850 or jeremy.pagan@waterboards.ca.gov

All documents, including monitoring reports, response to inspections, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order, should be submitted to the NPDES Unit.

We have transitioned to a paperless office, therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf) and email them to centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov
Please also include the Discharger name, facility name, county, and CIWQS Place ID# in the body of the email. Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger must be transferred to a DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "ECM Mailroom-NPDES".

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 pm, 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.



(for) Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

JP:reb

Enclosures: General Order R5-2013-0073-01 (Discharger only)

cc by email: David Smith, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco
Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento