

ITEM: 28

SUBJECT: Southern California Edison Company, Big Creek Powerhouse No. 1 Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fresno County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements/NPDES Permit (NPDES No. CA0079545) and adoption of new Time Schedule Order*

BACKGROUND: Southern California Edison Company owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment plant that serves the community of Big Creek. The wastewater treatment plant provides tertiary treatment with ultraviolet disinfection for up to 0.023 mgd. Treated wastewater is discharged to Big Creek, a water of the United States, and tributary of the San Joaquin River. The proposed permit includes new effluent limitations for aluminum, ammonia (as N), copper, lead, nitrite plus nitrate (as N), and zinc. Compliance schedules for complying with the new effluent limitations for aluminum and ammonia (as N) are included within the permit. A separate Time Schedule Order is included to provide time for complying with new effluent limitations for copper, lead, nitrite plus nitrate (as N), and zinc.

ISSUES: The discharger provided comments on the proposed permit and TSO. Comments and staff responses can be found in the Agenda Packet. The following are the major issues:

1. The discharger requested the final effluent limits for copper, lead, and zinc to be relaxed to what they were in a November 2011 staff letter requesting an infeasibility report.
2. The discharger requested a new interim effluent limit in the TSO for nitrite plus nitrate (as N) based on new data that show the discharge does not meet the interim effluent limit in the tentative TSO.
3. The discharger requested a permit effective date of 120 days after permit adoption to allow additional time for developing monitoring plans, making changes in operation and maintenance schedules, and providing training and budgeting for new monitoring requirements.
4. The discharger requested an eight-hour notification requirement for spills instead of a two-hour requirement.
5. The discharger requested a dilution factor for the chronic toxicity monitoring trigger.

Staff believes it has resolved all of the issues, with the exception of the effective date request. Per the Memorandum of Agreement between USEPA and State Water Resources

Control Board, the effective date can only be the adoption date, or, if the permit is subject to significant public comment, 50 days after the adoption date.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit and proposed TSO, with the permit effective date 50 days after its adoption date.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review ___APM___

7/8 June 2012

11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670