

From: Randy Nichols <randynichols@yahoo.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 4/10/2010 9:44 AM
Subject: Comment Letter - OTC Policy

Apr 10, 2010

Chairman Charlie R. Hoppin
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Hoppin,

I realize we are in a financial crunch, but in the long run, from what I read, "once-through cooling" used by some power plants is causing such ecological damage that we're going to end up paying more in the end.

OTC was a dumb design to begin with, created back when the public was less informed about the consequences of engineering environmental impact and when decision makers were short-sighted. We know better now. We have to start doing things right.

I have heard that "the Clean Water Act called for the phase-out of this destructive practice almost four decades ago... there were past efforts to develop a state policy that would protect California's ecosystems from OTC. However, the recent, major changes to the latest draft of the OTC policy meet neither the letter nor the intent of the Clean Water Act to phase out these antiquated, inefficient, environmentally harmful cooling systems".

Please....State Water Board... reject the recently-proposed OTC policy amendments that move the state away from a path to phase out once-through cooling systems. The OTC policy needs to be strengthened significantly to reinforce the state's commitment to ensuring that these facilities convert to the "best technology available" ASAP.

Even the state's top three power agencies thought the stronger version of the policy were workable and healthier for our society. OTC even appears to violate the state's overall goal to reduce greenhouse emissions!

It doesn't make sense that we spend our tax dollars to restore and maintain marine habitats, and then undermine that by allowing OTC to remain.

Please reject proposed amendments that weaken the goal of getting rid of OTC on an aggressive schedule.

Sincerely,

Mr. Randy Nichols
2718 Piedmont Ave Apt 9
Montrose, CA 91020-1367

