



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Maureen F. Gorsen, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Sent Via Email

February 4, 2009

Ms. Yvonne Meeks
Portfolio Manager – Site Remediation
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
4325 South Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF REVISED FINAL RCRA FACILITY INVESTIGATION/
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION, VOLUME 2 REPORT, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC
COMPANY (PG&E), TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION, NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
(EPA ID NO. CAT080011729)

Dear Ms. Meeks,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the revised final RCRA Facility Investigation/ Remedial Investigation, Volume 2 Report (RFI/RI Volume 2 Report) dated January 30, 2009. DTSC notes that the January 30, 2009 revision of the RFI/RI Volume 2 report is a redline and strike out version of the proposed final report, and that PG&E will issue a final report by accepting all the changes as defined in the document and will certify that no other sections of the document is altered in any way aside from the redline edits. The January 30, 2009 revised final RFI/RI Volume 2 Report was submitted to reflect changes made collectively with the Department of Interior, DTSC and PG&E during a telephone conference call on January 28, 2009. As a result of our review, DTSC accepts the revised RFI/RI Volume 2 Report as final with the following changes and condition:

Specific Changes:

1. Page ES-19 and 10-8: Revise the sentence to “The consistent lack of Cr(VI) above reporting limits in groundwater samples from bedrock wells in the vicinity of the SWMU -2 area indicate that no negative effects to bedrock groundwater have resulted from the PGE-8 past operations.” This sentence is revised to delete the words “compressor station and” from the bullet. Edit identical sentences on page 10-8.
2. Page 5-19: Edit last sentence of redline to “This disruption of the desert pavement might increase the nitrate flux to groundwater in the area of the site.” This revision changed the words “has likely increased” to “might increase”

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3. Figure 5-22: Dot colors between light blue and blue are still difficult to differentiate. Use orange for oxidizing wells, blue for reducing, and bright green for transitional wells.
4. Page 6-16: Change section citation under Other Trace Metals from 6.2.2.1 to 6.2.1.5.
5. Delete blank lines on pages 6-6, 6-11, 6-12, and 131 of 243

Condition:

In the interest of maintaining the current schedule for approval of the RFI/RI Volume 2 report, DTSC will require PG&E to further discuss nitrates in the RFI/RI Volume 2 Addendum. DTSC expects PG&E to, at a minimum; provide a figure to define wells which had detected nitrate concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and the Upper Tolerance Limit (UTL).

Although DTSC is accepting the RFI Volume 2 Report, DTSC may require PG&E to conduct additional studies or provide additional information associated with the Bat Cave Wash release and the chromium plume if new information becomes available. DTSC also understands that PG&E will be issuing an addendum to the RFI Volume 1 Report to capture additional solid waste management units and areas of concern at a later date. Please note that PG&E is required to continue to monitor the site and report to the agencies any new information or identification of additional units at the Topock Compressor Station within a reasonable time.

If you have any questions regarding this conditional approval of the RFI/RI Volume 2 Report, please feel free to contact me at (714) 484-5439.

Sincerely,



Aaron Yue
Project Manager
Geology, Permitting and Corrective Action Branch

aky:020901B

cc: PG&E Topock Consultative Workgroup Members – Via e-mail

PG&E Topock Technical Workgroup Members – Via e-mail

Native American Tribal Contacts for PG&E Topock project – Via e-mail