



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

Deborah O. Raphael, Director  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630



**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

Via Electronic Mail

May 22, 2014

Ms. Yvonne Meeks  
Portfolio Manager – Site Remediation  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGRADING HISTORIC PACIFIC GAS AND  
ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E) WELLS, TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION SITE,  
NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA (EPA ID NO. CAT080011729)

Dear Ms. Meeks,

Based on recently submitted information to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), DTSC has evaluated historic wells that are associated with PG&E operations. In the process, DTSC noticed that a few historic PG&E groundwater wells have either not been accurately mapped, are lacking in information, or have not been disclosed to agencies in the past. In compliance with Corrective Action requirements to fully evaluate the environmental condition of the Topock facility, DTSC is requesting the following information for the wells discussed below. DTSC is also requesting PG&E to document and provide an accurate description of the current understanding of each well.

1. **Well #1.** PG&E has recently submitted old site figures to DTSC during investigation of TCS Well #4 located in Bat Cave Wash and preparation of the RFI Volume 1 Addendum. The drawing, dated January 17, 1957 (portion of this drawing is attached - Drawing 58055), indicates that " Well #1 Elev. 535.9' " was located by the Transwestern Meter area. Additionally, faint text occurring above the notes section of this drawing discusses Well #1 and appears to read, "Contours Change of Well #1 4/24/60".

PG&E should, as accurately as possible, plot this well on a current site map and disclose the historic use of this well and its ultimate disposition.

2. **Well No. 1 and Well No.2:** This is in reference to the two original water supply wells for the station located by the AOC-14 Railroad Debris site and Interstate 40. These two wells have not been accurately located on past PG&E figures. Recently submitted figures dated from the 1950s (Drawings 482557 and 482629) appear to provide sufficient information for PG&E to accurately plot them on site maps. The drawings (including Drawing 58055) indicate that Well No. 1 was located in the footprint of the freeway, but Well No. 2 was located in the Railroad Debris area and outside of the freeway footprint. Detailed drilling log information for these wells is contained in the Alisto 1996 Current Conditions Report for Bat Cave Wash. The top of casing elevation for Well No. 2 was stated to be 552.76' and casing diameter was noted to be 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

PG&E should, as accurately as possible, plot these wells on a current site map. It's assumed that Well No. 1 was situated under the current freeway and would be inaccessible to further assessment. In addition, PG&E should ascertain if Well No. 2 was appropriately decommissioned. If not, PG&E should propose methods to locate Well No. 2 (e.g., geophysical survey and/or pothole).

3. **Topock Well No. 1:**

According to the 2007 RFI/RI Volume 1 Report, Topock Well No. 1 supplied the PG&E Topock Compressor Station with water from approximately 1960 until 1980 after Wells No. 1 and No.2 were taken offline. DTSC recently searched for Topock Well No.1 based on USGS maps and aerial photographs and found a roughly six to eight inch diameter iron pipe with a 90 degree elbow rising from the ground (see Figure 1 attached). PG&E should confirm if this is indeed a well and if it is Topock-1. If it is a well, PG&E should also determine if the well can yield reliable water level or chemical data in support of the groundwater remedy.

4. Finally, DTSC has concerns with the numbering system used to identify historic wells, specifically the PGE-X series. The numbering of PGE-6 through 9 is consistent and well documented. PG&E-1 through 4, however, have been briefly mentioned in the past with limited information. Based on the numbering scheme, it would be logical to assume that a PGE-05 well should also exist. However, PGE-05 has not been mentioned in documents to date. PG&E should review all

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historical data and comment on the PGE-X numbering system including listing the identity of wells PGE-01 through PGE-09.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Christopher Guerre of DTSC at (714) 484-5422.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Yue', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Yue  
Project Manager  
Geological Services Branch  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

aky: 051401A

cc: PG&E Topock Consultative Workgroup Members  
PG&E Topock Geo/Hydro Technical Workgroup Members  
Tribal Representatives in PG&E Project Contact List  
Technical Review Committee



Figure 1: Iron pipe elbow rising from the ground surface in the Topock 1 area in Arizona.