

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research

For U.S. Mail:

P.O. Box 3044,
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

1400 Tenth St., Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Geological Services Branch

5769 Corporate Ave
Cypress, CA 90630

County Clerk

County of:

Address:

Contact: Aaron Yue

Phone: (714) 484-5439

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Subject: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2008051003

Project Title: Final Implementation Plan for Evaluation of Alternative Freshwater Sources in the Topock Remediation Project Area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Topock Compressor Station (August 2, 2013).

Project Location (include county): Needles, California (San Bernardino County); Topock, Arizona (Mohave County)

Project Description:

The approved project is a modification to the Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project that was previously approved by DTSC. The Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project involves manipulation of subsurface water flow to move a contaminated groundwater plume with hexavalent chromium Cr(VI) and other chemicals of potential concern (COPCs), originating from past operations at the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Topock Compressor Station (compressor station) site, through a treatment zone. This treatment zone or "in situ reactive zone (IRZ)" will be created by introducing a carbon substrate such as, but not limited to, ethanol, molasses, lactate, or whey to induce microbial growth which, in turn, creates an environment where the Cr(VI) is reduced and precipitated.

The Final EIR for the Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project considered the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of adopting the preferred remedy, determined to be Alternative E – In Situ Treatment with Freshwater Flushing - through the Final Groundwater Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study Report for Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) 1/Area of Concern (AOC) 1 and AOC 10 (Final CMS/FS) process, completed in December 2009. As discussed in the Final EIR, implementation of the final remedy would involve piping water in from an off-site source and the Final EIR considered several options for obtaining the freshwater source for use in the overall remediation project.

DTSC subsequently recognized the need to evaluate potential alternate freshwater supply locations outside the originally defined project boundary in the Final EIR, in order to identify a freshwater supply source of sufficient quantity and quality to be used in the Topock groundwater final remedy. Therefore, the project has been modified by DTSC. Modifications include expansion of the EIR project area in order to identify a new freshwater source, which will require two exploratory borehole drilling sites and construction of up to two wells (as previously approved by the project) in a new area located outside the original project boundary. The exploratory borehole drilling and groundwater quality sampling will occur at two sites (referred to as Site B and the HNWR-1 well) which are located just outside the Final EIR project boundary, on the Arizona side of the Colorado River. Groundwater quality sampling and drilling of one borehole will occur at each site. If sufficient quality and quantity are identified, one water supply well may be constructed at each site.

Because an environmental impact report was already prepared and certified for the Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project, but the approval of the modifications constitutes a change to the project, DTSC prepared a checklist,

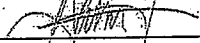
similar to an "Initial Study," to determine whether a subsequent or supplemental EIR was required pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines section 15162. The checklist demonstrated that none of the bases for requiring a subsequent EIR existed in this circumstance. An addendum to the previous EIR is therefore the appropriate CEQA document for analyzing the project modifications.

This is to advise that the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, as Lead Agency or Responsible Party under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has approved the above-described project on September 4, 2013 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The proposed modifications to the project will, will not have a significant effect on the environment.*
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

* The project modifications were approved with an addendum to the Final EIR. Significant effects on the environment were previously identified in the Final EIR. The project modifications will not result in any new significant impacts, any substantial increase in previously identified significant impacts, or new information or changed circumstances that would require a subsequent EIR.

This is to certify that the addendum to the final EIR and the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, is available to the General Public at: 5760 Corporate Ave, Cypress, CA 90630

Signature (Public Agency)  Title Project Manager

Date September 4, 2013 Date Received for filing at OPR _____

RECEIVED
SEP 06 2013
STATE CLEARING HOUSE