

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
 State Clearinghouse
 P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
 Southern California Permitting and Corrective
 Action Branch
 1011 N. Grandview Avenue
 Glendale, CA 91201

Project Title: Closure of Wastewater Retention Basins for Southern California Edison, Highgrove Generating Station

Project Location – Specific: Southern California Edison, Highgrove Generating Station,
 12700 Taylor Street

Project Location – City: Grand Terrace **Project Location – County:** San Bernardino

Description of Project:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the closure sampling and determined that:

- a) The two Wastewater Retention Basin Units and their associated pipelines are properly closed to meet the health risk based closure for residential land use;
- b) No contaminant associated with the operation of the retention basins was detected in the groundwater, and;
- c) No further action is necessary to complete the closure of the unit and no post-closure maintenance of the unit is required.

Background

In response to a Final Judgment Pursuant to Stipulation (February 1, 1995), the Southern California Edison (SCE) performed the investigation and activities to close wastewater retention basins that had operated without a permit or other form of authorization from the DTSC. There are two 35-foot-square shaped retention basins in the Highgrove Generating Station. They are located approximately 180 feet apart and were used to store wastewater that contained minor amounts of oil, grease, metals, suspended solids and acidic cleaning solution which were systematically discharged to the Santa Ana River under the provisions of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

SCE submitted a Closure Demonstration Report (CDR) that is equivalent to a Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Closure Plan and Closure Certification Report. The CDR provides: 1) information on the procedures used to close the retention basins, and 2) certification by an independent qualified professional engineer that the closure satisfies the closure performance standards under the Title 22, California Code of Regulations, section 66265.111.

Site Investigation

SCE performed the soil and groundwater investigations for two retention basins and their associated pipelines. The results of this investigation were:

- None of the soil samples taken beneath the east basin exceeded the background level.
- For the west basin, nine soil samples were taken beneath it. Only one sample detected molybdenum at 4.4 mg/kg which exceeds the maximum background level of 4.0 mg/kg.
- For the pipeline area, fifty-eight samples were taken during the pipeline investigation. Eight detected nickel above the maximum background level of 21 mg/kg. Of these, seven samples detected nickel at concentrations ranging from 21 to 26 mg/kg and a sample detected 34 mg/kg at two feet. None of the soil samples detected any volatile organic compounds.
- A groundwater investigation determined that the operation of the retention basins and their pipelines have not impacted the groundwater quality. The groundwater is approximately 115 feet below the ground surface.

A health risk assessment was performed for the entire site for those constituents above background levels. The cancer and non cancer risks for soil are 1×10^{-9} and 0.0009, respectively for all constituents. These risks are well below the acceptable risks for unrestricted residential land use scenario which are 1×10^{-6} and 1 for cancer and non-cancer risks, respectively.

In summary, the CDR supports the determination that no further action is needed to close the retention basins and associated pipelines.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Randall Weidner, Southern California Edison

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(A));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____
- General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Exemption Title: Title 14, California Code of Regulations section 15061(b)(3)
With certainty, No Possibility of a Significant Environmental Effect

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

No further action is needed to close the retention basins because the closure standards for an unrestricted land use have been met: The health risk assessment indicates that the site risks are acceptable for residential use. This site is not listed in the Hazardous Waste and Substances List.

Chia-Rin Yen (818) 551-2182
 Lead Agency Contact Person Phone #

 DTSC Branch Chief Signature Date

Jose Kou, P.E. Supervising Hazardous Substances Engineer II
 DTSC Branch Chief Name DTSC Branch Chief Title

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