
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Status of Actions April 2021 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Fourth Quarter 2020 groundwater data indicate that plume migration is not occurring but do reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Fourth Quarter 2020 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Fourth Quarter 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo_report/4510028302/SL0607111288.PDF)

(https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo_report/4510028302/SL0607111288.PDF), and are Figures 5-1 through 5-6 of this report.

Previous quarters chromium plume maps are posted on the Water Board's Hinkley website at [Water Board's Hinkley website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml), at the bottom of the page under the section titled "Other Documents and Information." The First Quarter 2021 plume map is due on May 10, 2021, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

Request to Expand In-Situ Remediation Zone Permitted Area

PG&E requested a revision to the In-Situ Remediation Zone (IRZ) permitted area under the existing Notice of Applicability (NOA) of General Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2008-0014. PG&E proposes to expand the IRZ areas as follows: 600 feet to the west for the Central Area; and 140 feet to the west and 650 feet to the north for the South-Central ReInjection Area. The proposal also includes changes to the sentry well monitoring network used to monitor for treatment byproducts from IRZ operations. The increased size of the IRZ areas is conservative and would allow for future remedial expansion.

Expanding the permitted IRZ areas will require reissuance of the NOA. Water Board staff are exploring ways to build flexibility into the new NOA that would allow PG&E to implement adaptive management as remediation progresses. PG&E is also requesting a change from quarterly to semi-annual reporting, while continuing to collect monitoring data on a quarterly basis. The process by which notifications of adverse conditions are reported will remain unchanged. Water Board staff are working with the IRP Manager to identify ways to allow for public participation by community members prior to release of a draft NOA for public comment.

Replacement Water for Domestic Well 02-23

PG&E submitted the *Replacement Water Workplan for Domestic Well 02-23* (Workplan) to provide replacement water to the private well owner of domestic well 02-23. Domestic well 02-23 has been identified as a “potentially affected” well due to an increase in manganese concentrations in groundwater at nearby monitoring well MW-220S during the Third and Fourth Quarters 2020; manganese is an IRZ byproduct. Monitoring well MW-220S has been identified as an “actually affected” well due to the elevated concentrations of manganese. The 2016 NOA requires either an action plan to prevent supply wells within a 0.5-mile distance downgradient or 0.25-mile cross gradient of monitoring wells “actually affected” by IRZ remediation from becoming “actually affected.” In developing the action plan, PG&E should consider actions that may include adjusting the IRZ flow rates, installing additional sentry wells, or providing replacement water, among other possible actions.

PG&E evaluated various options, and in consultation with the private well owner, has chosen to provide potable drinking water for the residence and the swimming pool. PG&E proposes to haul water from the compressor station fresh water supply and place it in a new poly holding tank at the residence. Domestic well 02-23 will continue to supply water for an in-house geothermal climate control system and for outdoor irrigation. PG&E will install all necessary equipment and make modifications to existing plumbing for the replacement water system. PG&E will perform frequent visits to the property to fill and routinely sanitize the water tank and equipment, as well as sample domestic well 02-23 quarterly to monitor for IRZ byproducts. Replacement water will be provided for the duration of the well IRZ byproduct impacts. Water Board staff are reviewing the Workplan.

Independent Review Panel Manager’s Annual Report

PG&E submitted The Annual Report for the Independent Review Panel (IRP) Manager budget and scope of work that we received on January 29, 2021. The Annual Report demonstrated that PG&E provided adequate funds for an independent consultant to provide technical information, education, and advice to Hinkley community members, and included a scope of work and budget for the previous year and for the next 12-month period. The Annual Report meets the requirements of CAO No. R6V-2015-0068, section VIII.B.

The Annual Report documented that while funds were available in 2020, the IRP Manager was unable to provide the minimum of four public meetings in the Hinkley community due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the previously scheduled April 2020 meeting was cancelled due to State and regional stay-at-home orders. The subsequent July and October 2020 meetings were held as a “Drive-Through” venue following State and County COVID-19 safety protocols and was a successful meeting facilitation solution implemented by the IRP Manager to resume public meetings. The IRP Manager was able to perform all other activities outlined in the 2020 scope of work. Water Board staff are reviewing the report.

Routine Monitoring Reports

PG&E submitted the following monitoring reports in accordance with the respective monitoring and reporting requirements:

- 4th Quarter 2020 Hydraulic Capture Report
- 4th Quarter 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results
- 4th Quarter 2020 Monitoring Report for the IRZs and Northwest Freshwater Injection Projects
- 4th Quarter 2020 Agricultural Treatment Units (ATUs) Monitoring Report
- Annual Cleanup Status and Effectiveness Report (January to December 2020)
- 2020 Annual Agronomic Rate Performance Report
- 2020 Annual MMRP Compliance Report for Groundwater Remediation

Water Board staff are reviewing the routine monitoring reports.

Chromium Background Study

The final draft of the Hinkley Chromium Background Study Report continues to move through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) internal review process.

Dr. John Izbicki, the study's lead scientist, reports that progress is going smoothly and that each step within the review process adds to the quality of the final report. The report is prioritized within the USGS review process, and review staff are working hard to move the report along through the steps.

Your Water Board Staff Contacts

Water Board oversight of the PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup project is provided by staff in the Water Board's Victorville office located at 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394. Your Water Board staff contacts are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of the those listed should you need assistance.

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*Please note, the majority of Lahontan Water Board staff are teleworking due to an Executive Order from Governor Newsom. However, we are available via email and voicemail. We are responding to emails throughout the workday. Responses to voicemail may take more than one business day.