
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Status of Actions January 2022 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Third Quarter 2021 groundwater data indicate that plume migration is not occurring but do reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Third Quarter 2021 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Third Quarter 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results \(https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=2tmrx\)](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=2tmrx), and are Figures 5-1 through 5-6 of this report.

Chromium plume maps representing previous quarters are posted on the Water Board's Hinkley website at [Water Board's Hinkley website \(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml\)](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml), at the bottom of the page under the section titled "Other Documents and Information." The Fourth Quarter 2021 plume map is due on February 10, 2022, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

Submittal of the Sampling and Analysis Plan for Compliance with the In-Situ Remediation Zones and Freshwater Injection Systems Notice of Applicability

The new Notice of Applicability (2021 NOA) of General Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No. R6V-2008-0014 was issued on October 5, 2021. As required by the new NOA, PG&E submitted the *Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) for Compliance with the In-Situ Remediation Zones and Freshwater Injection Systems Notice of Applicability* on November 16, 2021. Requirement VIII.B of the 2021 NOA requires submittal of this SAP to be consistent with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), which is attachment C of the 2021 NOA.

The purpose of the SAP is to provide the plans and procedures for groundwater monitoring conducted in compliance with the requirements of the 2021 NOA MRP. This SAP is intended to be flexible over time and any changes must be submitted in accordance with Section VIII.B of the 2021 NOA and approved by Water Board staff.

The SAP is being reviewed by Water Board staff, the Independent Review Panel (IRP), and the community. On December 16, 2021, the IRP Manager held a public meeting to review the SAP. Comments from the IRP Manager and community members are anticipated to be submitted to Water Board staff by the end of January 2022 and will be incorporated into Water Board staff comments on the SAP.

Proposed Pilot Test to Assess Revised Hydraulic Capture Metrics

PG&E has submitted a request to perform an 18-month pilot test to evaluate an optimized groundwater extraction configuration to continue hydraulic containment. The extraction configuration was last optimized in 2016. Since then, the 10 microgram per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and 50 $\mu\text{g/L}$ hexavalent chromium and total chromium plume boundaries north of the Barstow-Bakersfield highway have retracted. The purpose of this pilot test will be to evaluate optimized groundwater extraction to continue hydraulic containment, allow for more efficient capture, and reduce water use based on the current conditions at the site. Water Board staff and the IRP Manager have reviewed the proposed pilot test. Water Board staff concurred with the approach in a letter dated January 11, 2022.

Water Board PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Webpage

Water Board staff have updated the [PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/). The project webpage hosts certain documents and announcements related to PG&E's corrective actions, as well as copies of past and current plume maps to download and print from the webpage. Please contact Water Board staff with any questions or for assistance.

Routine Monitoring Reports

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

- 3rd Quarter 2021 Hydraulic Capture Report
- 3rd Quarter 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results
- 3rd Quarter 2021 Monitoring Report for the IRZs and Northwest Freshwater Injection Projects
- 3rd Quarter 2021 Agricultural Treatment Units (ATUs) Monitoring Report

Water Board staff are reviewing these 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. 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.