

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 91-66

AMENDING CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 91-709
(MOBIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCING U.S., INC.,
WOODY PRODUCTION FACILITY, CYMRIC OIL FIELD)

WHEREAS:

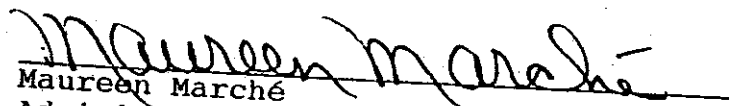
1. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 91-709 on April 29, 1991 for four surface impoundments owned by Mobil Exploration and Producing U.S., Inc. (Mobil), Woody Production Facility, Cymric Oil Field, which found that the surface impoundments were subject to the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act of 1984 (Health and Safety Code Section 25208 et seq).
2. Order No. 91-709 found that hazardous concentrations of mercury are present in the bottom of the impoundments and in underlying soils, and required that the surface impoundments close by May 1, 1993.
3. Mobil has responded in a timely manner to Regional Board requests for information and cease discharge activities since the impoundments were first found to be subject to the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act of 1984 (TPCA) in August 1990.
4. Following issuance of Order No. 91-709, representatives of Mobil have indicated to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) that Mobil wishes to complete closure as soon as possible.
5. This Order amends Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 91-709 (attached) and reaffirms all of the Findings in that Order.
6. Order No. 91-709 is in full force and effect, except as modified by the Order.
7. If Mobil completes the remaining work in accordance with the tasks prescribed in this order, sufficient work will have been completed to fulfill the requirements of the TPCA.
8. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321 (a)(2), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STATE BOARD:

1. Amend the attached Regional Board Order No. 91-709, pursuant to California Water Code Section 13304, to require closure of the four surface impoundments by May 1, 1992.
2. Direct the Regional Board Executive Officer to file a complaint against Mobil for administrative civil liabilities if the revised May 1, 1992 closure deadline, or the cease discharge or HAR completion date specified in Regional Board Order No. 91-709, is violated.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 18, 1991.


Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 91-709
FOR

MOBIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCING U.S. INC.
(OPERATOR)

AND

MADELEINE C. CHAFFEY TRUST, SECURITY PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK,
ESTATE OF EVA PEARL WILSON, ODILE G. WOODY TRUST, AND
DOROTHY H. BAILEY

(LAND OWNERS)

WOODY PRODUCTION FACILITY
CYMRIC OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Board) finds that:

1. Mobil Exploration and Producing U.S. Inc. (Mobil) operates the Woody Production Facility in the Cymric Oil Field, approximately 35 miles west of Bakersfield, California in Kern County, at Section 22 in T29S, R21E, M0B&M. The land is owned by the Madeleine C. Chaffey Trust, Security Pacific National Bank, the Estate of Eva Pearl Wilson, the Odile G. Woody Trust, and Dorothy H. Bailey.
2. Mobil acquired the Woody Production Facility through merger with the Superior Oil Company in the mid-1980s.
3. Oil production wastewater was discharged into unlined surface impoundments and allowed to percolate into the soil, or evaporate into the atmosphere. There are four unlined surface impoundments at the Woody Production Facility that have the following dimensions:

Disposal pit W1 is approximately 72 feet long, 42 feet wide, and varies from 12 to 15 feet in depth.

Disposal pit W2 is approximately 68 feet long, 45 feet wide, and averages 7 feet in depth.

Disposal pit W3 is approximately 106 feet long, 39 feet wide, and ranges from 15 to 20 feet in depth.

Disposal pit W4 is approximately 25 feet long by 25 feet wide by 3 feet deep.

The bottoms, walls, and berms of the impoundments are believed to consist of soils native to the immediate area.

4. The area of the Mobil-Woody site is underlain by Recent alluvium. The upper portion of the alluvium is comprised of unconsolidated, poorly-graded to well-graded, fine- to medium-grained sand with interspersals of gravel-sized material. Interpretation of E-logs indicate the lower portion of the alluvium consists of coarse-grained, poorly sorted sand, with gravel and silty interbeds. The Tulare Formation lies beneath the alluvium; the upper portion of the Tulare Formation consists of fine-grained sediments such as siltstone or mudstone. The contact between the

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 91-709
MOBIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCING U.S., INC
WOODY PRODUCTION FACILITY
CYMRIC OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

-2-

- Tulare Formation and the overlying Recent alluvium is interpreted to occur approximately 250 feet below ground surface. The siltstone or mudstone in the upper part of the Tulare Formation is considered by some authorities to be the Corcoran Clay that separates an unconfined aquifer from the underlying confined aquifer and oil-producing zones throughout the valley.
5. Some work has been done to characterize ground water quality at the Cymric Oil Field. Additional characterization is needed of ground water bodies at the Woody Production Facility.
 6. In accordance with the Water Quality Control Plan, Tulare Lake Basin (5D), the beneficial uses of ground water in the general area include municipal, domestic, agricultural, and industrial supply.
 7. In preparation for closure of the impoundments, Mobil sampled the pits on 13 March 1990 and 11 April 1990. Elevated concentrations of mercury, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene were found in the material sampled from the pits. Mobil sampled the pits again on 22 June 1990 to confirm the results from the earlier assessments. Hazardous levels of mercury were found in the soils at the base of and beneath the pits. Elevated concentrations of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, and total petroleum hydrocarbons were also present.
 8. Discharge of liquid hazardous wastes or hazardous wastes containing free liquids to surface impoundments after 1 January 1985 is regulated by the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act, Section 25208, et seq., Health and Safety Code (H&SC).
 9. The impoundments are not covered and receive rainwater each rain storm. The hazardous wastes within the impoundments have, therefore, been in contact with free liquids after 1 January 1985, and the impoundments at the facility are subject to the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act (TPCA).
 10. The legislature has found that discharges of liquid hazardous wastes or hazardous wastes containing free liquids into lined or unlined ponds, pits, and lagoons pose a serious threat to the quality of the waters of the state [H&SC, Section 25208.1(a)]. Hazardous concentrations of mercury, which pollute or threaten to pollute underlying ground water, have been discharged in the surface impoundments.
 11. "Surface impoundment" or "impoundment" means a waste management unit which is a natural topographic depression, artificial excavation, or diked area formed primarily of earthen materials, which is designed to hold an accumulation of liquid hazardous wastes or hazardous wastes containing free liquids, including evaporation ponds and percolation ponds [H&SC, Section 25208.2(x)].
 12. On 2 August 1990, Mobil Exploration and Producing U.S. Inc., was informed that four impoundments at the facility are subject to the TPCA and was requested to submit a Hydrogeological...

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 91-709
MOBIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCING U.S., INC
WOODY PRODUCTION FACILITY
CYMRIC OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

-3-

- Section 25208.7(b) and Section 25208.8, H&SC; to submit fees to cover TPCA costs, pursuant to Section 25208.3, H&SC; and to cease discharge to the surface impoundments.
13. In conducting an investigation of the quality of any waters of the state within its region, the Regional Board may require that any person discharging or proposing to discharge waste within its region or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state discharging or proposing to discharge waste outside its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, those technical or monitoring program reports as the Board may specify. The burden, including costs, of those reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports [California Water Code, Section 13267(b)].
 14. Mobil submitted a HAR work plan on 12 October 1990. Work on the HAR is in progress.
 15. Mobil submitted an acceptable work plan to cease the discharge from the impoundments on 2 April 1991.
 16. When the Regional Board determines that a surface impoundment is polluting, or threatens to pollute, the waters of the state, or that hazardous waste constituents are migrating from the surface impoundment into the vadose zone or the waters of the state, in concentrations which pollute the vadose zone, or pollute, or threaten to pollute, the waters of the state, the Regional Board shall order the surface impoundment to close (H&SC, Section 25208.6).
 17. "Close the impoundment" is defined in Section 25208.2(d) of the Health and Safety Code.
 18. Section 13304(a) of the California Water Code states, "Any person who has discharged or discharges waste into the waters of this state in violation of any waste discharge requirement or other order or prohibition issued by a regional board or the state board, or who has caused or permitted, causes or permits, or threatens to cause or permit any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the state and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the regional board clean up such waste or abate the effects thereof or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action. Upon failure of any person to comply with such cleanup or abatement order, the Attorney General, at the request of the board, shall petition the superior court for that county for the issuance of an injunction requiring such person to comply therewith. In any such suit, the court shall have jurisdiction to grant a prohibitory or mandatory injunction, either preliminary or permanent, as the facts may warrant."

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 91-709
MOBIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCING U.S., INC
WOODY PRODUCTION FACILITY
CYMRIC OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

-4-

19. There are no existing waste discharge requirements for discharge of wastes to the impoundments.
20. All work necessary to determine the effects of the disposal of oil production wastes to the impoundments on the underlying ground water has not yet been completed; free liquids can come into contact with soils in the impoundments containing hazardous concentrations of mercury, allowing hazardous waste constituents to migrate from the surface impoundments into the vadose zone or the waters of the State; and the impoundments have not yet been closed. This threatens to result in a condition of pollution of ground water which may underlie the facility.
21. "Pollution" means an alteration of the quality of the waters of the state by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects (1) such waters for beneficial uses, or (2) facilities which serve such beneficial uses [California Water Code, Section 13050(1)].
22. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321(a)(2), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.
23. Any persons affected adversely by this action of the Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review this action. The petition must be received by the State Board within 30 days of the date on which the Board took action. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided upon request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Sections 13267 and 13304 of the California Water Code and Section 25208, et seq., of the California Health and Safety Code, Mobil Exploration and Producing U.S., Inc. (Operator), the Madeleine C. Chaffey Trust, Security Pacific National Bank, the Estate of Eva Pearl Wilson, the Odile G. Woody Trust, and Dorothy H. Bailey (Land Owners) shall comply with the following tasks and time schedules. All work outlined below shall be performed under the direction of a California registered civil engineer or certified engineering geologist. Supporting data and rationale shall be submitted by the Discharger for each proposed plan. All plans and time schedules are subject to approval by the Executive Officer. Submitted time schedules become part of this order once approved or revised by the Executive Officer.

Task

Compliance Date

1. Cease the discharge and complete the Hydrogeological Assessment Report.
 - a. Cease the discharge. 15 June 1991
 - b. Submit a HAR in accordance with H&SC Sections 25208.7 and 25208.8. 15 September 1991

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 91-709
MOBIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCING U.S., INC
WOODY PRODUCTION FACILITY
CYMRIC OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

Task

2. Close the impoundments.

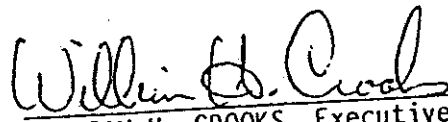
a. Submit a closure plan for the surface impoundments. The closure plan must include a time schedule and the disposal methods proposed for the hazardous materials.

b. Close the impoundments in accordance with the approved closure plan.

Compliance Date

Within 90 days of the Executive Officer's approval of Task I-B.

1 May 1993


WILLIAM H. CROOKS, Executive Officer

DATED: 29 April 1991