
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Status of Actions January 2023 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Third Quarter 2022 groundwater data indicate that plume migration is not occurring but do reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Third Quarter 2022 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Third Quarter 2022 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=oe6lf) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=oe6lf>) 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 2022 plume map is due on February 10, 2023, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

Water Board PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Webpage

Water Board staff have updated our [PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/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 access or 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 reports in accordance with the respective monitoring and reporting requirements.

- 3rd Quarter 2022 Hydraulic Capture Report
- 3rd Quarter 2022 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results
- 3rd Quarter 2022 Agricultural Treatment Units (ATUs) Monitoring Report

Water Board staff are reviewing these routine monitoring reports.

Request to Revise Hydraulic Capture Metrics

On December 29, 2022, PG&E submitted results of the 2022 Pilot Test to Assess Revised Hydraulic Capture Metrics. PG&E collected eight months of monitoring data to demonstrate hydraulic containment using revised hydraulic capture metrics as part of 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 revised capture metrics is to optimize groundwater extraction to continue hydraulic containment, allow for more efficient capture, and reduce water use based on the current conditions at the site.

PG&E has submitted a request to revise the Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068 to allow for operation of the northern hydraulic containment system under the proposed revised hydraulic capture metrics determined by the pilot test results. PG&E plans to continue operating the hydraulic containment system, as described in the pilot test, for the duration of the approved 18-month pilot testing period that ends July 31, 2023. Water Board staff are reviewing the pilot test results and request for revised hydraulic capture metrics.

Chromium Background Study

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

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 anticipated to be published by Spring 2023. Following the release, Dr. Izbicki will present a high-level overview which is tentatively scheduled for the April 2023 Lahontan Water Board meeting.

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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