

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice
Of Application for Water Quality Certification**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Board) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple RWQCB jurisdictions. The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Applicant Contact: Patricia Sanchez

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Project Name: Gas Pipeline 303 ILI Repair Project

Date of Application: 5/27/2009

Affected Regions: Region 2 (San Francisco Bay) and Region 5 (Central Valley)

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company Gas Pipeline 303 ILI Inspection and Repair
Project**

The State Water Board proposes to certify, with technical conditions, the discharge of dredge and fill materials from a project by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to inspect and, if necessary, repair three anomalies identified by previous in-line inspections of a 36 inch diameter gas pipeline. .

Sites 1 and 2 are located north and south of Camino Diablo Road, respectively, in Contra Costa County. Site 3 is located in Alameda County approximately two miles north of Interstate 580 and 0.45 miles west of Vasco Road near Livermore, California. Sites 1 and 2 are separated from Site 3 by a distance of approximately 9.8 miles. Sites 1 and 2 are accessed by Camino Diablo Road and Site 3 is accessed via a gated unpaved road located at the intersection of Ames Road and Raymond Road, which is located underneath the Contra Costa-Los Positas 230kV overhead electrical transmission line.

PG&E is required to inspect and repair its natural gas pipelines on a regular basis as mandated by Code of Federal Regulation 49, Part 192 Applicable Code

Requirement: Part 192 Subpart "O": Pipeline Integrity Management (192.901 through 192.951). A recent internal in-line inspection of Line 303 performed in April 2008 revealed three anomalies in the pipeline. As part of the verification of the in-line inspection results, an external direct examination of the pipeline is required. The objective of the external direct examination is to gather data to validate the in-line inspection results and verify the integrity of the pipeline.

As a result of the external direct examination, a repair may be made to restore the integrity of the pipeline. Each pipeline anomaly will require excavation of a 10 foot x 20 foot hole placed within a 50 foot x 50 foot work area. Soil from the excavation will be stockpiled alongside the pipe, within the work area and outside of any wetland areas. After the pipe has been exposed, examined and repaired, a protective epoxy coat will be applied and the pipe trench will be backfilled. The temporarily impacted areas will then be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Wetland features have been identified at Site 1. A seasonal wetland is located in the work area of site 1, and a vernal pool is located immediately to the east of this anomaly. The access route to Site 3 crosses a swale characterized by *Distichlis spicata* (salt grass) and *Juncus Balticus* (baltic rush) and *Eryngium vaseyi* (coyote thistle).

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Cliff Harvey at (916) 558-1709, or at charvey@waterboards.ca.gov, or Bill Orme at (916) 341-5464, or at borme@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

State Water Resources

Control Board Staff Contact:

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State Water Resources Control Board
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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.