

Pacific Steel Casting Company

1333 SECOND STREET

BERKELEY, CA 94710

510-525-9200

January 31, 2005

Ms. Debbie Irvin, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor [95814]
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100

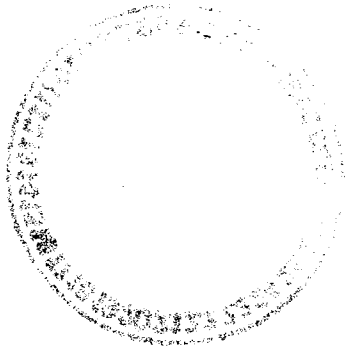


**Subject: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit
For Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities
(Industrial General Permit)**

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

We are extremely concern with the December 2004 "Draft Industrial General Permit". This draft permit if it goes through would place excessive and unmanageable burden to our business. We are located in Berkeley, California with 350+ Union paying jobs for many with little or no education. On top of the many personnel on site participating in the General Permit compliance, we have 1.5 fulltime personnel dedicated to oversee and work in compliance of the existing General Permit. As a company which constantly seeking for a better approach that would benefit the environment, this proposed permit would force all the sites to complete useless paper work instead of applying their resources to improve and update the facility.

1. The current proposal places USEPA benchmarks as the same as the effluent limits without considering the many factors such as their relationship with the Water Quality Standards and technology involved in developing the "real" effluent limits. This is an abuse and misuse of the benchmarks. Some existing benchmarks levels are set so low that no existing treatment technology would reach it if the influent level is already low (i.e. zinc and copper). **Since the proposal would require sampling for following storms if previous analytical showed exceedances of the benchmarks, it would force most industrial sites to sample every single qualified storm.**
2. The proposed permit would take additional time just to fill out the required forms and reports after every qualified storm. **More paper works would not make a cleaner environment.** It just takes away the quality or personnel time that would otherwise be used to fill out the forms and submit to your agency. The storm water visual inspections and sampling requirements in place already have information relating corrective actions for any non-authorized storm water discharges observed. Creating an extra layer of reporting every quarter not only waste our time. It also wastes the taxpayers time for you to manage this additional paper works. **It would mean every company would have to send in a report to RWQCB after every qualified storms since most would have some exceedances of the benchmarks in one or more of their samples.**



Pacific Steel Casting Company

3. The sample collection method suggested that "Use only the sample containers provided by the laboratory to collect and store samples" (page 21, 9c). This is obviously written by someone who had not sampled before. Many of the laboratory containers have preservatives, which would require extra care in collecting these samples. Unless a company has an automatic sampler, most people would use a clean (new) paper cup or bottles to collect the storm water and place it into the laboratory containers. This is done so that the preservatives would not spill during the time of collection. The proposed permit needs to make changes to take this into account.
4. As participant of a Group Monitoring Program, we have advanced in many ways beyond our neighboring facilities in managing the General Permit and the storm water program at our site. Storm Water Group has provided us guidance, training, materials and update that we would not otherwise obtained. This proposed General Permit seems to pressure and discourage the group participants and its leaders. Instead of using the Group Leader as resources and assistance, this proposed permit would put them in a position similar to the regulator requiring them to report these companies who did not adopt their recommendations. As many of you know, as consultants, Group Leaders job is to provide as many alternatives and recommendations to their clients. Often, upon further in-house evaluation, the recommendations provided may not be feasible or practical to attack the problem. **The Group Leaders should not act as a regulator.**
5. It is difficult as it is to complete all the required work from the existing General Permit. I know many companies out there are still struggling to comply with the existing permit requirements. Many still unsure when to sample or monitor their sites. Having a new permit that is even more tedious than the existing permit would basically get more people to give up in their compliance. Unlike many federal programs, the storm water program in California tends to overkill (i.e. analyzed for unrelated industrial parameters in 2008 - 2009) without giving individual facility much assistance in complying. It is set up for businesses to fail.
6. **All the effort the Board has to put in to manage the paper works for the proposed permit would be better used to enforce your existing general permit. All the non-filer or those who had not submitted all the necessary reports should have their site review by the Board.** The way this proposed permit is written is a set up to allow for additional lawsuits from the many environmental groups as well as an opportunity for them to point fingers at the regulators.

We ask the Board to consider our concerns, and make practical edition of the General Permit so that twenty years from now, good paying industrial jobs will still be in California.

Sincerely,



Joe Emmerichs
General Manager

