
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Status of Actions July 2024 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the First Quarter 2024 groundwater data indicates that plume migration is not occurring but does reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The First Quarter 2024 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [First Quarter 2024 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=0ei22) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=0ei22>) 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 Second Quarter 2024 plume map is due on August 10, 2024, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

Cleanup and Abatement Order R6V-2015-0068-A1 Amendment for a Revised Proposed Area of Allowable Expansion

During the Second and Third Quarters 2022, increased In-situ Remediation Zone (IRZ) injections resulted in plume expansion along Summerset Road between Community Boulevard and Frontier Road. The 2015 CAO Requirement V.H allows for temporary plume expansion in this area during implementation of remedial action. It was observed that the plume expansion was reaching the fringes of the 2008 Area of Allowable Expansion. Similar plume expansion occurred previously in 2020 when injections were occurring, so plume expansion in this area was anticipated. PG&E decreased IRZ injections into this target treatment area in spring 2022 to stop further expansion. PG&E stopped IRZ injections altogether in August 2022, and resumed minimal operations in December 2022. PG&E requested a revised Area of Allowable Expansion to allow for temporary expansion to the east to perform IRZ injections at the rate required for remediation. The significant reduction in IRZ injections is limiting progress toward remedial timeframe targets. The Water Board requested public review and written comments on the Draft Amended Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6V-2015-0068-A1. The Water Board received comments from the IRP Manager and from one community member.

On May 21, 2024, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) issued Amended Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6V-2015-0068-A1. The CAO

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Amendment increases the Area of Allowed Plume Expansion by 1000-feet to the east, reduces the concentration from 4 parts per billion (ppb) to 3.1 ppb hexavalent chromium allowed to migrate laterally to the east into the Area of Allowable Plume Expansion, and increases monitoring and domestic well sampling along the plume expansion boundary from quarterly to monthly. The CAO Amendment also removes the requirement for the submittal of hard copy reports and technical documents, as all documents are submitted electronically via GeoTracker, and includes incidental and administrative changes.

Continued Monitoring and Reporting in the Western Finger Area

In December 2023, PG&E requested to discontinue sampling in the Western Finger Area. Water Board staff reviewed the request and on June 4, 2024, issued a letter stating that PG&E must continue sampling the wells in the Western Finger Area. Any modifications to the monitoring and reporting requirements for the Western Finger Area may be considered and incorporated into the upcoming or future CAO revisions.

Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6V-2015-0068 Revision

Water Board staff will begin working with PG&E, the IRP, and the technical work group (TWG) to determine cleanup goals for this project. On February 20, 2024, the Water Board requested PG&E submit a proposal evaluating the application of the background hexavalent chromium values, as determined in the United States Geological Survey Background Study as a cleanup level(s) for groundwater. On May 15, 2024, PG&E submitted the Hexavalent Chromium Background Value Evaluation to the Water Board. Water Board staff and PG&E will be evaluating the ideal number(s) to consider for the cleanup level(s) based on information gained through the USGS Background Study and time to cleanup to background levels.

Water Board staff plan to begin outreach efforts after preparing some initial proposed changes to the CAO to present to the community for input. Revisions to the CAO may include establishing a cleanup level(s), revising remedial timeframes, reviewing the monitoring network, and updating monitoring and reporting requirements. Community outreach is tentatively expected to begin between late 2024 and early 2025. These outreach efforts will include listening sessions, workshops, technical work group meetings, and community meetings. All are invited to participate. Comments will also be accepted via mail, e-mail, and phone. Water Board staff contact is Amanda Lopez, (amanda.lopez@waterboards.ca.gov), 760-241-7373.

Routine Monitoring Reports

PG&E submitted the following reports in accordance with the respective monitoring and reporting requirements. Water Board staff are reviewing these routine monitoring reports.

- First Quarter 2024 Hydraulic Capture Monitoring Report
- First Quarter 2024 Agricultural Treatment Units Monitoring Report

- First Quarter 2024 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results

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/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 access or download and print from the webpage. Please contact Water Board staff with any questions or for assistance.

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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