

# Public Information Meeting

---

## PG&E Hinkley Compressor Station Groundwater Cleanup Project



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

January 26 & 27, 2011  
Hinkley, CA

# Meeting Ground Rules

---

*Ground Rules are designed to keep discussions on track, focus on the topic and use our time efficiently.*

- Use common courtesy. Do not interrupt another speaker. Listen to each other and respect all views.
- Turn cell phones off. If you must take a call, do so outside of the meeting room.
- Give everyone the opportunity to participate. Time limits may be imposed where needed.

# Meeting Agenda

---

- Discuss comments received on scope of Environmental Impact Report and Feasibility Study
- Provide information on upcoming review and input opportunities for the EIR
- Present results of Fall 2010 groundwater monitoring for chromium in PG&E Hinkley project area
- Answer questions

# Environmental Impact Report

---

- Water Board ordered PG&E to submit plan for comprehensive cleanup strategy (the Feasibility Study)
- Environmental Impact Report needed because cleanup will be over a bigger area and longer time period than previously approved, and may have different impacts than disclosed in prior CEQA documents
- California Environmental Quality Act requires Lead Agency (Water Board) to evaluate:
  - ✓ environmental impacts of cleanup
  - ✓ cleanup alternatives, and
  - ✓ ways to lessen impacts of cleanup
- Assistance provided by Water Board's consultant

# California Environmental Quality Act Scoping

---

**Scoping meeting held here on December 1, 2010**

- Water Board asked for input on issues to evaluate in Environmental Impact Report, and on Feasibility Study proposals
- Primary issues are cleanup levels and length of time to cleanup
- Water Board staff required PG&E to submit new alternative to shorten cleanup time

# Public Comment Categories

---

- Cleanup Levels/Background Definition
- Project Alternatives/Cleanup Time
- Water Supply
- Data Collection & Information
- Health & Safety

*Dr Robert Howd, Head of Public Health Goal Program,  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
(OEHHA)*

# Cleanup Levels/Background Definition

---

## COMMENT

- Cleanup levels lower than maximum background should be required.
- Proposed Public Health Goal should be considered.
- Background study should be revisited due to increasing Cr6 concentrations in wells in north & east.

## RESPONSE

- Project objective is to remove PG&E's waste from groundwater. Cleanup goal is average Cr6 background of 1.2 parts per billion, with no Cr6 greater than 3.1 ppb.
- Background levels are most stringent we can enforce for aquifer cleanup.
- Water Board can revisit background study.

# Project Alternatives/Cleanup Time

## COMMENT

- Proposed groundwater cleanup alternatives take too long.
- Full delineation of contamination in lower aquifer is needed.
- Potential Cr soil source at Compressor Station must be addressed.
- Consider mass of Cr3 left in soil, and its effects. Could it be converted back to Cr6?

## RESPONSE

- PG&E must present alternative that shortens time to cleanup.
- Water Board ordered PG&E to investigate chromium in lower aquifer (is in progress).
- EIR will evaluate soil remediation impacts at Compressor Station.
- EIR will estimate mass of chromium remaining in soil for all alternatives, and potential impacts, including potential for re-conversion.



# Project Alternatives

## COMMENT

- Could remediation actions cause spread of Cr or other contaminants; cause aquifer obstructions?
- Additional technologies should be considered (ion exchange, etc).
- Buying out homes hurts community.

## RESPONSE

- EIR will evaluate potential for contaminant dispersal and aquifer impacts for all alternatives.
- Proposed technologies are reasonable and will meet project goals if applied more aggressively.
- EIR will evaluate remediation impacts to land use, population and housing.

# Water Supply

## COMMENT

- PGE should install a water distribution system.
- Provide clean water for animals, irrigation, and swimming.
- If remediation results in water restrictions, provide water to offset.

## RESPONSE

- EIR will consider alternate water supply as potential mitigation measure if significant impacts to water supply due to remediation activities are identified.

# Data Collection & Information

## COMMENT

- Water Board should collect data and develop project alternatives, and PGE should fund only.
- Independent cost analysis is needed.
- What tracers are in the aquifer?
- Plume maps need more street names, information is too hard to understand.

## RESPONSE

- Actions are outside Water Board's role. PG&E required by law to use certified methods, labs, and professionals.
- Cost is not driver for alternative selection; e.g., Water Board has required PG&E to evaluate more aggressive, costly alternative.
- PG&E's permit specifies allowable tracers and additives.
- Maps include more street names. Water Board staff available to clarify information.

# Health and Safety

(Dr Robert Howd, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment)

---

## COMMENTS

- What are effects of drinking, cooking, laundry, bathing, swimming?
- Is it safe for pets to drink well water?
- Is it safe to breathe air coming from swamp coolers?
- Is it safe to play on lawns or breathe dust from lawn mowing after irrigation?

# Schedule

---

- Water Board Public Workshop to introduce Draft EIR – March 9 in Barstow
- Release of Draft EIR for 45 day comment period – early April to mid May
- Public Meeting to review Draft EIR –early May in Hinkley
- Draft Final EIR release – mid July
- Public Meeting to review Final EIR – mid August in Hinkley
- Water Board hearing to adopt EIR – September 14, 2011 in Barstow

# Thank You

---

For more information, contact

Lisa Dernbach, Lahontan Water Board Project Manager

[ldernbach@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ldernbach@waterboards.ca.gov); 530-542-5424

Anne Holden, Lahontan Water Board EIR Project Manager

[aholden@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:aholden@waterboards.ca.gov); 530-542-5450

- Lahontan Water Board website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>