

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION

Los Angeles, California
August 5, 2004
476th Regular Meeting

- ITEM: 14
- SUBJECT: WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (NON-NPDES) - United Rock Products Corporation (URP), Pit No. 2
- PURPOSE: Prescribe new waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the disposal of inert aggregate mining wastes back to mining pit
- BACKGROUND: The URP Pit No. 2 is an aggregate mining pit that includes approximately 134 acres of land in the City of Irwindale. The site has been mined for sand and gravel by the URP and its predecessors since the early 1900s. While the site is still being mined, URP intends to dispose non-saleable aggregate mine materials (mainly clay and silt) back to the pit as part of the reclamation process. Proposed discharge methods include backfilling the waste material to the pit by means of sluicing and trucking. The sluicing process involves mixing the waste materials (primarily clay and silt) with groundwater that has been used in the mining process and pumping the mixture to various locations at the pit. URP has filed a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) with this Regional Board and applied for WDRs for the proposed waste disposal operations.
- CURRENT STATUS: The site is an active aggregate quarry. As permitted by the City of Irwindale, it has been, and will continue to be, mined below the groundwater table. The bottom of the pit is occupied by groundwater that has been exposed by aggregate mining operations. Mined aggregate materials are processed in a nearby Rock Plant (also owned by URP) where water is used to wash fine material (clay and silt) off the coarse material (gravel and sand).
- KEY REQUIREMENTS: The tentative WDRs contain the following key requirements: a) wastes disposed shall be limited to inert mining wastes (native geological materials) only, b) the water used in the sluicing process must be local groundwater that has been used in the mining process, c) no chemicals or any other additives shall be added to the waste or the sluicing water, d) the water used in the sluicing process shall not contain any pollutants in concentrations exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) adopted by the California Department of Health Services pursuant to the California Safe Drinking Water Act, and d) a Monitoring and Reporting Program, including the establishment of a ground and surface water monitoring network, that will ensure that water resources at the site will not be impacted by the discharge.

DISCUSSION: The tentative Order regulates the discharge of both inert solid wastes (non-saleable clay and silt that has been mined from the pit) and wastewater (local groundwater that has been used to wash out fine materials from coarse aggregate). However, the wastewater is only used as an agent to carry (sluice) the solid waste from the rock plant to the mining pit. The wastewater itself is not an object to be discharged. Such water is normally recycled in the mining process. Because the solid waste is native geological material and the wastewater is originally local groundwater, the waste stream should not contain any significant concentrations of pollutants. Staff therefore believe that the tentative WDRs will adequately protect the groundwater quality at the site.

COMMENTS RECEIVED: No comments have been received by Board staff regarding the tentative WDRs.

RECOMMENDATION: The tentative Order be adopted

ATTACHMENTS: Discharge Requirement Summary & Monitoring Program Cost Summary
Tentative Order
Tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program