

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF APRIL 11 AND 12, 2001**

Lancaster

**ITEM:** 16

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDED CEASE AND DESIST ORDER – IMC CHEMICALS, INC. AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, TRONA AND ARGUS OPERATIONS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

**CHRONOLOGY:** August 8, 1991 Revised Waste Discharge Requirements Adopted - Board Orders No. 6-91-909 (Argus) and 6-91-910 (Trona)

June 14, 2000 Revised Waste Discharge Requirements Board Orders No. 6-00-52 (Argus) and 6-00-53 (Trona)

April 14, 2000 Amended Waste Discharge Requirements Board Orders No. 6-00-52A1 Proposed (Argus) and 6-00-53A1 Proposed (Trona)

**ISSUES:** Should the Regional Board adopt amended Cease and Desist Order (CDO) requiring IMC Chemicals, Inc. (IMCC) to comply with effluent interim limits of compliance in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs).

**DISCUSSION:** IMCC owns and operates the two brine processing facilities (Argus and Trona facilities), located in Trona in the northern portion of San Bernardino County. The Trona and Argus facilities discharge approximately 2-2.9 million gallons per day (mgd) and 12.5-20.8 mgd, respectively. Brine is extracted from adjacent Searles Lake and processed by solvent in the two facilities. Spent brine is returned to the lake on the surface and re-injected into the subsurface.

Proposed amended WDRs issued to IMCC specify the effluent concentrations of kerosene and total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons in the depleted brine discharge to not exceed \_\_\_\_ mg/L and \_\_\_\_ mg/l (respectively).

IMCC is threatening to violate the following WDRs summarized as:  
1) violations of numerical effluent limits for kerosene and other total petroleum hydrocarbon constituents. The proposed Order requires IMCC to submit the following:

1. By **April 1, 2001** complete construction of facilities and implement any other identified source control measures.
2. By **June 30, 2001** achieve full compliance with the Cease and Desist Order and WDRs and submit a report of full compliance. This compliance date is not based on any technical assurance that the Discharger will be able to comply by that date. This compliance date will be evaluated and revised, if appropriate, when more information is available regarding the Discharger's ability to comply after construction of facilities and implementation of other source control measures are completed.

**RECOMMEND-  
ATION:**

Adoption of the Order as proposed.

Enclosure:

Proposed Amended CDO