

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Vincent Christian)
MEETING DATE: May 14, 2008

ITEM: 8A and 8B

SUBJECT: **Dow Chemical Company, Pittsburg Plant, Pittsburg, Contra Costa County–**
Reissuance of NPDES Permit (8A) and Issuance of Cease and Desist Order (8B)

CHRONOLOGY: November 2001 – NPDES Permit Reissued

DISCUSSION: This item would reissue the NPDES permit that covers Dow Chemical Company's industrial wastewater discharge. Dow currently discharges about 13,000 gallons per day of reverse osmosis reject (brine) from its process water treatment system into New York Slough, near the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers.

The reissued permit would establish more stringent effluent limits for cyanide, with which Dow cannot immediately comply. To address these threatened violations, we have developed a Cease and Desist Order for consideration in conjunction with the permit. The Cease and Desist Order would establish tasks and time schedules for Dow to address the threatened violations.

Dow submitted comments on the Tentative Permit (Appendix C). We responded to these comments (Appendix D), and made appropriate changes, which are reflected in the Revised Tentative Permit (Appendix A). No comments were received on the Tentative Cease and Desist Order (Appendix B).

We expect this item to be uncontested.

File Number: 2119.1017 (vc)

Appendices:
A. Revised Tentative Permit
B. Tentative Cease and Desist Order
C. Comments
D. Response to Comments