

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Vincent Christian)
MEETING DATE: September 10, 2008

ITEM: 6A

SUBJECT: **GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC, Vallecitos Nuclear Center, Sunol, Alameda County** – Rescission of NPDES Permit and Issuance of New Waste Discharge Requirements

CHRONOLOGY: June 2003 – NPDES Permit Reissued

DISCUSSION: This item would rescind the existing NPDES permit and issue new Waste Discharge Requirements to cover the discharge of sanitary and industrial wastewater from Vallecitos Nuclear Center near the town of Sunol. The Discharger owns and operates a nuclear test reactor for research and the production of radio-isotopes for medical and other uses. It produces about 2,900 gallons per day of sanitary wastewater from its employees and about 20,000 gallons per day of non-contact cooling water primarily from its nuclear test reactor. Historically, wastewater was discharged to a tributary of Vallecitos Creek, but the Discharger has discontinued this method of disposal. Wastewater is now discharged to land onsite via sprinkler irrigation. Therefore, the discharge no longer requires an NPDES permit.

This order would prohibit surface water discharges, set a new limit for nitrate, and require the installation of a groundwater monitoring well network. GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC submitted comments (Appendix B) on the draft tentative order. Most of its comments requested minor changes for clarification. It also requested that we remove the nitrate effluent limit. As explained in our response to comments (Appendix C), the Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would grant all of the requested changes but retain the nitrate limit to protect groundwater quality. GE-Hitachi is satisfied with the changes, and we expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

File Number: 2199.9018 (vc)

Appendices: A. Revised Tentative Order
B. Correspondence
C. Response to Comments