

UNCONTESTED

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Lauren Steinbaum)
MEETING DATE: April 13, 2011

ITEM: 5C

SUBJECT: **The Dow Chemical Company, Pittsburg Plant, Pittsburg, Contra Costa County—Rescission of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: May 2008—NPDES Permit Reissued with Cease and Desist Order

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would rescind the NPDES permit and Cease and Desist Order for Dow because they are no longer necessary. The permit covered the discharge of reverse osmosis reject water from Dow’s chemical manufacture facility, and the Cease and Desist Order addressed compliance issues with cyanide limits in the permit. Since 2009, the reverse osmosis facility has been decommissioned and demolished, and there is no discharge.

Dow will continue to operate and manufacture chemical products at this facility, but any remaining wastewaters will be disposed of to the sanitary sewer. In the 1970s, this facility was the largest chemical manufacturing facility west of the Rockies supplying caustic, chlorine, pesticides and fungicides, and solvents to other Bay Area industries. With shifts in production to other regions, manufacturing at this facility has declined over the years. One notable decline occurred in the early 1990s when Dow stopped manufacturing chlorine and caustic from salt. This in turn resulted in the sale of over 10,000 acres of Napa salt ponds by Cargill to the State. Work continues to restore these areas to wetlands.

We received no comments on a tentative order distributed for public review, but upon further consideration made revisions to the tentative order to reference all Board orders applicable to Dow’s former discharge. These changes are reflected in the Revised Tentative Order. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS Place ID: 263394

Appendix: A. Revised Tentative Order