

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Vincent Christian)
MEETING DATE: July 13, 2011

ITEM: **5C**

SUBJECT: **USS-POSCO Industries, Pittsburg Plant, Pittsburg, Contra Costa County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: May 2006 – NPDES Permit Reissued

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for USS-POSCO Industries (UPI) who owns and operates a 420-acre steel finishing plant. The plant finishes about one million tons per year of hot-rolled steel, but does not manufacture steel from raw materials. Wastewater from plant operations is treated at an onsite treatment plant prior to discharge into New York Slough. Most stormwater is routed to the treatment plant, but excess stormwater is occasionally discharged through a separate outfall.

UPI and the San Francisco Baykeeper submitted comments (Appendix B) on the tentative order, and we prepared responses (Appendix C) and made revisions where appropriate. All revisions are reflected in the Revised Tentative Order. The commenters' more significant comments and our responses are summarized as follows. UPI objected to effluent limits for aldrin, cadmium, and dioxin-TEQ asserting that those pollutants are not in the discharge but were detected due to false positives. Because UPI has provided no evidence supporting its claim of false positives, it is appropriate to establish limits for those pollutants in accordance with State regulations. Baykeeper commented that some production-based limits proposed violate anti-backsliding, and the stormwater limits proposed are deficient. In response, we propose in the Revised Tentative Order to retain the more stringent production-based limits from the previous permit, because UPI's discharge is currently well within those limits. Regarding stormwater limits, we made revisions to further explain their rationale.

We expect this item to remain uncontested.

CIWQS Place ID: 269601

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