California Water Boards

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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

20 July 2018

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AMENDED NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LIMITED THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2016-0076; GOPHER HILL LANDFILL LEACHATE DISPOSAL, PLUMAS COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent on 7 September 2017 from Plumas County (hereinafter Discharger), for discharge of untreated leachate from Gopher Hill Landfill (Facility) to surface water. Based on the application packet submitted by the Discharger, staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order), Tier 1B. This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order R5-2016-0076-022 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995002.

The original 25 October 2017 NOA required sampling of several constituents upon first discharge of the season, however all required sampling was not performed. Therefore, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is amending this NOA to require sampling of total residual chlorine, chronic toxicity, Hexachlorobutadiene, and 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene. These constituents were not sampled during the initial discharge; therefore, they must be sampled during the next discharge. Further details regarding the sampling can be found in the Monitoring and Reporting section of this NOA.

The Central Valley Water Board is also amending this NOA to include monitoring of dissolved iron and dissolved manganese. The *January 2018 Priority Pollutant Sampling Results,* submitted to our office on 5 March 2018, showed total iron and manganese concentrations above the municipal beneficial use screening criteria. Although the permit does not specify an effluent limit for total iron and manganese, it does specify a limit for dissolved iron and manganese, 300 µg/L and 50 µg/L respectively. Further details regarding the monitoring can be found in the Effluent Monitoring section of this document.

Please reference your Limited Threat General Order number, **R5-2016-0076-022,** in your correspondence and submitted documents.

The enclosed Limited Threat General Order may also be viewed at the following web address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076_mod.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Limited Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring and reporting requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order.

CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Limited Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Screening levels for CTR priority pollutant constituents and other constituents of concern are found in Attachment I of the Limited Threat General Order. Review of the Discharger's effluent water quality data in comparison to the screening values showed no reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in Spanish Creek. However, the Discharger's effluent water quality data was incomplete. The Discharger failed to monitor for total residual chlorine, chronic toxicity, Hexachlorobutadiene and 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene upon their first discharge of the season. Therefore, these constituents must be screened during the next discharge as described below in the Monitoring and Reporting section of this NOA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Leachate from Gopher Hill Landfill is collected by a single curtain drain at the downslope toe of the waste cell. Water collected in the drain gravity flows to a 1.055 million gallon Class II surface impoundment located on Assessor's Parcel Number 113-101-002. A single, manually operated drain is installed in the bottom of the pond. When necessary to maintain the required 2 feet of freeboard in the pond, the Discharger opens the drain valve and the pond discharges untreated leachate through the drain pipe to Spanish Creek at latitude 39° 56' 58.9", longitude -121° 02' 14.28", immediately downstream of the Snake Lake Road bridge near the intersection of Snake Lake Road and Bucks Lake Road.

Since 2010, discharge of untreated leachate from the surface impoundment has occurred 23 times. When discharge occurs, the average discharge flow is 0.124 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 0.08 million gallons per day (mgd). Discharge is typically initiated in the morning hours and continues for 24 to 48 hours to lower the retention pond to meet the 2 feet freeboard requirement.

DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. Discharge to Spanish Creek from 15 May to 31 October is prohibited.

2. To ensure protection of the beneficial uses of Spanish Creek and to prevent degradation to the receiving water, discharge to Spanish Creek when flow in Spanish Creek provides less than 100:1 dilution is prohibited.

3. A daily discharge rate greater than 0.13 cfs, or 0.084 mgd[1], is prohibited. Daily discharge rate in mgd is defined in this NOA as the volume discharged in a 24-hour period.

4. An average daily discharge rate greater than 0.054 cfs, or 0.035 mgd[2], is prohibited. Average daily discharge rate is defined in this NOA as the total monthly flow divided by the number of days in the month.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Effluent limitations are specified in Section V. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications of the Limited Threat General Order. The following effluent limitations are applicable to this discharge and are contained in Section V. A of the Limited Threat General Order:

A. Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations

1. **pH (Section V.A.1.a).** The pH of all limited threat discharges within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (except Goose Creek) shall at all times be within the range of 6.5 and 8.5.

2. **Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chronic (Section V.A.2.a).** There shall be no chronic toxicity in the discharge.

3. **Salinity.** The salinity of all discharges within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins and within the Tulare Lake Basin shall not exceed any applicable TMDLs, Delta standards, or Basin Plan water quality objectives or numeric limits. Effluent limitations shall be established on a water-body-specific basis, as applicable and shall be as electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, and/or boron.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting requirements are contained in Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order. The Discharger is required to comply with the following specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the effluent and receiving water in accordance with Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order.

Monitoring Locations – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent and receiving water at the specified locations as follows:

Table E-1. Monitoring Station Locations

Discharge Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description

[1] The maximum daily discharge rate of 0.13 cfs (0.084 mgd) is based on the hydraulic capacity of the leachate pond's underground pipe.

[2] The average daily discharge rate, previously defined as the monthly average in past NOAs, is based on a historical estimate provided by the Discharger in a Report of Waste Discharge received by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in 1997.

001	EFF-001	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to Spanish Creek.
--	RSW-001	Spanish Creek, approximately 200 feet upstream from the point of discharge.
--	RSW-002	Spanish Creek, approximately 200 feet downstream from the point of discharge.

Effluent Monitoring – When discharging to Spanish Creek, the Discharger shall monitor the effluent at EFF-001 as follows. Note that monitoring requirements are subject to change if results from the CTR constituent screening show that the discharge to Spanish Creek has reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in the receiving water:

Table E-2. Effluent Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Total Flow	MGD	Measurement	1/Day	2
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Month	1,2
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Day	1,2
Hardness, Total (as $CaCO_3$)	mg/L	Grab	1/Month	2,3
Chronic Toxicity	--	Grab	1/Year[4]	2
Iron (dissolved)	µg/L	Grab	1/Month	2
Manganese (dissolved)	µg/L	Grab	1/Month	2
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	Grab	1/Permit Term[5]	2
Hexachlorobutadiene	µg/L	Grab	1/Permit Term[5]	2
1,2,4-trichlorobenzene	µg/L	Grab	1/Permit Term[5]	2

1 A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.

2 Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 or by methods approved by the Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.

3 Monitoring for hardness shall be performed concurrently with effluent sampling for cadmium, chromium (III), copper, lead, nickel, silver, and/or zinc if effluent sampling for any of these pollutants is required.

4 Chronic toxicity testing shall be conducted during the first discharge of the year. See the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment C) for toxicity monitoring requirements.

5 Sampling to be conducted during the first discharge of the permit term.

Receiving Water Monitoring - When discharging to Spanish Creek, the Discharger shall monitor the receiving water at RSW-001 and RSW-002 as follows:

Table E-3. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Hardness, Total (as $CaCO^3$)	mg/L	Grab	1/Year[2]	[1]
Temperature	°F	Grab	1/Year[2]	[1,3]
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Year[2]	[1,3]

[1] Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.

[2] Samples shall be collected once per year during initial discharge.

[3] A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.

In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions throughout the reach bounded by RSW-001 and RSW-002. Attention shall be given to the presence or absence of:

a. Floating or suspended matter
b. Discoloration
c. Bottom deposits
d. Aquatic life
e. Visible films, sheens, or coatings
f. Fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths
g. Potential nuisance conditions

Notes on receiving water conditions shall be summarized in the monitoring report.

Monitoring Report Submittals - Monitoring in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order shall begin upon initiation of discharge. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis, beginning with the Fourth Quarter 2017. This report shall be submitted on 1 February 2018. If monitoring samples were not obtained within 24 hours of initiation of the discharge, the Discharger must document the reasons in the corresponding monitoring report. If the there is no discharge there is no need to monitor. However, a monitoring report must be submitted stating that there has been no discharge. Table E-4, below, summarizes the monitoring report due dates required under the Limited Threat General Order. Quarterly monitoring reports must be submitted until your coverage is formally terminated in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter.

Table E-4. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

Sampling Frequency	Monitoring Period Begins On...	Quarterly Report Due Date
1/Day, 1/Week, 1/Month, 1/Quarter	<NOA Effective Date>	1 May (1 Jan – 31 Mar) 1 Aug (1 Apr – 30 Jun) 1 Nov (1 Jul – 30 Sep) 1 Feb, of following year (1 Oct – 31 Dec)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff within 24 hours of having knowledge of 1) the start of each new discharge, 2) noncompliance, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Central Valley Water Board shall be notified immediately if any effluent limit violation is observed.

Discharge of material other than what is described in the Notice of Intent is prohibited. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing when the discharge regulated by the Limited Threat General Order is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Limited Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Some effluent limitation violations are potentially subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of $3,000 per violation. In addition, late monitoring reports may be subject to MMPs or discretionary penalties of up to $1,000 per day late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly report monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly monitoring report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

COMMUNICATION

All documents, including monitoring reports, response to inspections, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order, should be submitted to the NPDES Unit, attention Michael Collins. Mr. Collins can be reached at (530) 224-4785 or Michael.Collins@waterboards.ca.gov.

We have transitioned to a paperless office, therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf) and email them to: centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov. **Please include the following information in the email:** Attention: NPDES Unit; Discharger: Plumas County; Facility: Gopher Hill Landfill Leachate Disposal; County: Plumas; and the CIWQS place ID 227633 in the body of the email. Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger must be transferred to a DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "NPDES Unit".

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day

following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

(for) Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer

MC: ch

cc: David Smith, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)
Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento (email only)
Mara Solomon, Plumas County Solid Waste Program Manager, Quincy
Wendy Johnston, VESTRA Resources, Inc., Redding