

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 80- 32

CONCURRENCE WITH AN EXCEPTION TO THE THERMAL PLAN  
FOR BETHLEHEM STEEL CORPORATION, SAN FRANCISCO YARD

WHEREAS:

1. On September 18, 1975, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a revised "Water Quality Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California," hereinafter called the Thermal Plan; and
2. Bethlehem Steel Corporation, San Francisco Yard, hereinafter called the Discharger, discharges approximately 0.2 mgd of elevated temperature wastewater on an intermittent basis into San Francisco Bay; and
3. The Discharger has requested an exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 4.B.(2) of the Thermal Plan from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, as quoted below:

"(2) Thermal waste discharges having a maximum temperature greater than 4° F above the natural temperature of the receiving water are prohibited."; and
4. The Discharger has requested that the Regional Board grant a thermal exception using as authority Section 4 of the General Water Quality Provisions of the Thermal Plan, quoted below:

"Regional Boards may, in accordance with Section 316(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, and subsequent Federal regulations including 40 CFR 122, grant an exception to Specific Water Quality Objectives in this Plan. Prior to becoming effective, such exceptions and alternative less stringent requirements must receive the concurrence of the State Board."; and
5. After review of all pertinent data and testimony received at a public hearing, the Regional Board concluded that the effluent limitations adopted for the control of the intermittent thermal component of Bethlehem Steel Corporation's standby compressor discharge are more stringent than necessary to assure the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous community of shellfish, fish, and wildlife in and on the receiving waters; and
6. The Regional Board, by Resolution No. 79-16 dated October 16, 1979, requested concurrence with the exception to Specific Water Quality Objective 4.B.(2) of the Thermal Plan and proposed as an alternative that the Discharger shall comply with all provisions of the Thermal Plan;

however, for a maximum 90 days in any year, the maximum temperature of thermal waste discharges from the standby compressor can exceed the 4<sup>o</sup>F temperature differential contained in the Thermal Plan but shall not exceed the natural temperature of the receiving water by more than 15<sup>o</sup>F.

7. The evidence submitted indicates that alternative less stringent requirements proposed in Regional Board Resolution No. 79-16 will not compromise the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife within the meaning of Section 316(a) of the Clean Water Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Water Resources Control Board concurs with Resolution No. 79-16 of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, and finds that the alternative less stringent requirement to the Thermal Plan for a maximum discharge temperature of 15<sup>o</sup>F above the natural receiving water temperature for a maximum of 90 days per year recommended for Bethlehem Steel Corporation, San Francisco Yard, will not compromise the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife within the meaning of Section 316(a) of the Clean Water Act.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board on May 15, 1980.



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Clint Whitney  
Executive Director