



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

November 16, 2006

Mr. Richard N. Cote
Deputy Base Civil Engineer
30 CES/CD
1172 Iceland Avenue
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-6011

Dear Mr. Cote:

INTENT TO ENROLL UNDER WAIVER OF GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS; SOUTH VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE POWER PLANT (SVPP), VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE (AFB), SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

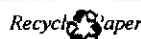
Thank you for submitting your August 24, 2006 *Application/Report of Waste Discharge General Information Form for Waste Discharge Requirements or NPDES Permit*. Activities and operations associated with the discharge of process waters from the SVPP are described as follows:

1. The SVPP is located at Coast Road, Building 525, Vandenberg AFB, Santa Barbara County.
2. The SVPP uses a demineralization process to remove particulates from potable water used for NO_x emission reduction during SVPP operation. Demineralization process wastewater is produced during the routine back flush of the demineralization water treatment system. The demineralization process includes four treatment mechanisms: carbon filtration, brine filtration, reverse osmosis, and deionization. This wastewater is discharged to an indoor lined sump (sump #2), which drains to a percolation pond outside.

The application includes analytical results for the potable water system and the demineralization discharge. Potable water results, identified in Table 1 of the application, indicate pH ranging from 8.5 to 9.0 standard units. The drinking water system is maintained with chloramines, which results in elevated pH levels base-wide. During operation of the SVPP, pH is adjusted to 7.5 standard units by using either hydrochloric acid or soda ash prior to discharge.

The demineralization discharge results, identified in Table 2 of the Discharger's application, provide results of nitrite, nitrate, chloride, sulphate, total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, ammonia, total chlorine residual, and 17 metals. Concentrations did not exceed Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives for Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Levels.

California Environmental Protection



Item No. 16, Attachment 3
February 9, 2007 Board Meeting
Rescind WDRs for STS Power
Plant, Vandenberg AFB

3. The SVPP's uses potable water to cool an air compressor. An average of 57,000 gallons per month of non-contact cooling water discharges to an indoor lined sump (sump #1). An automatic sump pump discharges the accumulated non-contact water to the outside percolation pond.
4. The SVPP is currently permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. 86-04, which allows the SVPP to discharge a maximum of 36,000 gallons per day of wastewater from the demineralization water treatment system. The permit requires monthly monitoring for effluent discharges and submittal of a semiannual report summarizing monthly data to the Central Coast Water Board.

Considering the information you have provided, we find that the discharge of demineralization process water to the outdoor percolation pond presents little threat to water quality. Staff recommends these discharges be covered under *Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2002-0115, General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges (General Waiver)*. However, SVPP coverage under WDR Order No. 86-04 remains effective until the Central Coast Water Board rescinds the Order. At the February 9, 2007 Central Coast Water Board meeting, staff will recommend that the Central Coast Water Board rescind WDR Order No. 86-04 and enroll the SVPP under the General Waiver. If you would like to attend, the meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. at the Salinas City Council Rotunda Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, California.

Upon the Central Coast Water Board's concurrence with staff's recommendations, General Waiver enrollment is conditional upon compliance with the prohibitions, recommendations, and specifications of the General Waiver Conditions (Attachment A1, Section A). Your enrollment in the General Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements will expire **February 9, 2012**. To renew enrollment, please submit another report of waste discharge by **August 15, 2011**. A copy of the General Waiver may be obtained at the Central Coast Water Board website:

Waiver Resolution:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/Permits/Waiver%20Policy/R3-2002-0115%20Resolution.pdf>

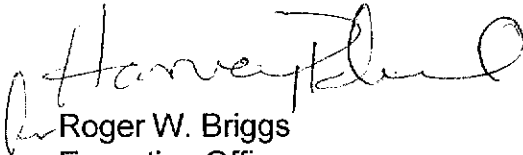
Attachment A1:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/Permits/Waiver%20Policy/R3-2002-0115%20Attachment%20A1.pdf>



If you have questions, please feel free to contact David LaCaro at (805) 549-3892 or dlacaro@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

cc w/o Enclosure:

Col. Jack Weinstein
U.S. Air Force, Vandenberg AFB
30 SW/CC, 747 Nebraska Avenue, Suite A200
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Task: 126-1
File: New General Waiver Enrollment

