

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF APRIL 11 AND 12, 2001**

**Lancaster**

**ITEM:** 11

**SUBJECT:** **REVISED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS - U. S. BORAX, INC.  
AND THE MOJAVE COGENERATION COMPANY BORON FACILITY,  
SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS, KERN COUNTY**

**CHRONOLOGY:** March 11, 1993 Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Adopted (Board Order No. 6-93-17)

January 12, 1995 Amended Waste Discharge Requirements Adopted (Board Order No. 6-93-17A1)

September 5, 1996 Amended Waste Discharge Requirements Adopted (Board Order No. 6-93-17A2)

November 6, 1997 Amended Waste Discharge Requirements Adopted (Board Order No. 6-93-17A3)

**ISSUE:** None. This Order is a routine update of WDRs, incorporating requirements of previous Orders.

**DISCUSSION:** U.S. Borax, Inc. owns and operates a borate mine, refinery and boric acid plant located three miles northwest of Boron. The mined sodium borate ore undergoes crushing, dissolving, thickening centrifugation, dewatering and crystallization. Mining and industrial wastes generated include overburden (non-mineralized soil and rock), moist gangue (unprocessable mineral waste), process waste liquids, domestic waste water, cooling tower blowdown and softener effluent.

This proposed Order updates an existing permit for a mining operation to discharge wastewater to specially engineered impoundments and mine roads for dust suppression, and to store and potentially harvest dry mineral waste in former lined impoundments. The project also incorporates recent revisions to Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, permits the discharge of non-contact process effluent and Thickener No. 4 water for dust control; and consolidates the previous WDRs and Amendments into one permit.

Comments were solicited from the Discharger and interested parties. Comments were received from the Discharger and Kern County and were incorporated into the Proposed Order.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adoption of Order as proposed.

**Enclosure:** Proposed Board Order