
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Status of Actions January 2024 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Third Quarter 2023 groundwater data indicates that plume migration is not occurring but does reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Third Quarter 2023 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Third Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?url=jjwbp) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?url=jjwbp>) and are Figures 5-1 through 5-7 of this report.

Chromium plume maps representing previous quarters are posted on the Water Board's Hinkley website at [Water Board's Hinkley website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/projects/pge/index.shtml), at the bottom of the page under the section titled "Other Documents and Information." The Fourth Quarter 2023 plume map is due on February 10, 2024, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6V-2015-0068 Revision

Water Board staff are continuing to review the USGS professional paper *Natural and Anthropogenic (Human-Made) Hexavalent Chromium, Cr(VI), in Groundwater near a Mapped Plume, Hinkley, California* also known as the USGS Background Study and are reviewing the CAO for sections that may need revisions.

Water Board staff are looking to begin outreach efforts after preparing some initial proposals for changes to present to the community. These outreach efforts will include listening sessions, workshops, technical work group meetings, and community meetings. All are invited to participate. Comments will also be accepted via mail, e-mail, and phone. Water Board staff is Amanda Lopez, (amanda.lopez@waterboards.ca.gov), 760-241-7373.

Routine Monitoring Reports

PG&E submitted the following reports in accordance with the respective monitoring and reporting requirements. Water Board staff are reviewing these routine monitoring reports.

- 4th Quarter 2023 Hydraulic Capture Report

Non-routine Reports

PG&E has submitted the following reports for review and consideration for changes regarding their remediation strategies. These requests are part of the adaptive management of the project to optimize PG&E's remedial systems. Water Board staff are reviewing these reports.

- 2022 Groundwater Monitoring Optimization Proposal
- Request to Discontinue Monitoring Northern Disputed Plumes Area
- Request to Discontinue Western Finger Area Monitoring and Reporting

Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order R6V-2015-0068 Amendment for a Revised Proposed Area of Allowable Expansion

During the Second and Third Quarters 2022, increased In-situ Remediation Zone (IRZ) injections resulted in plume expansion along Summerset Road between Community Boulevard and Frontier Road. The 2015 CAO Requirement V.H allows for temporary plume expansion in this area during implementation of remedial action. It was observed that the plume expansion was reaching the fringes of the 2008 Area of Allowable Expansion. Similar plume expansion occurred previously in 2020 when injections were occurring, so plume expansion in this area was anticipated. PG&E decreased IRZ injections into this target treatment area in spring 2022 to stop further expansion. PG&E stopped IRZ injections altogether in August 2022, and resumed minimal operations in December 2022. PG&E is requesting a revised Area of Allowable Expansion to allow for temporary expansion to the east in order to perform IRZ injections at the rate required for remediation. The significant reduction in IRZ injections is limiting progress toward remedial timeframe targets. A 45-day public comment period began on December 5, 2023. The Independent Review Panel hosted 2 workshops to discuss the amendment with the community. Water Board staff attended the workshop held on December 21, 2023. On January 8, 2024, Water Board staff received a request from the IRP manager to extend the public comment period. Following the request, Water Board staff issued an extension of the public comment period to 5 PM, February 7, 2024.

Request to Discontinue Northern Disputed Plumes Monitoring and Reporting

On November 7, 2023, the Water Board Executive Officer found that based on the findings of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Background Study, no further remedial actions are required and the submittal of a technical report presenting a feasibility assessment for remediation and cleanup of PG&E's historical discharge is not necessary for the Northern Disputed Plumes Area, in accordance with Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R6V-2015-0068 Section V.C.2.c and Section V.C.2.d.

Following the issuance of the letter, PG&E submitted a request to Discontinue Northern Disputed Plume Monitoring based on the findings of the background study. The request identifies 86 monitoring and 7 domestic wells in the Northern Disputed Plumes Area north of Salinas Rd where monitoring and reporting are proposed to be discontinued. Water Board staff are reviewing this request.

Request to Discontinue the Western Finger Monitoring and Reporting

On December 5, 2023, the Water Board Executive Officer found based on the findings of the USGS Background Study, no further remedial activities are required for CAO R6V-2015-0068 Section V.C.1.a, Western Finger.

Following the issuance of the letter, PG&E submitted a request to Discontinue the Western Finger Monitoring and Reporting based on the findings of the background study. The request identifies 30 monitoring wells and extraction well EX-36 for removal from the monitoring program located west of Serra Road. Water Board staff are reviewing this request.

Water Board PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Webpage

Water Board staff have updated our [PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahtontan/water_issues/projects/pge/). The project webpage hosts certain documents and announcements related to PG&E's corrective actions, as well as copies of past and current plume maps to access or download and print from the webpage. Please contact Water Board staff with any questions or for assistance.

Your Water Board Staff Contacts

Water Board oversight of the PG&E Hinkley Chromium Cleanup project is provided by staff in the Water Board's Victorville office located at 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394. Your Water Board staff contacts are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of the those listed should you need assistance.

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