
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Status of Actions October 2024 PG&E Hinkley Chromium Contamination

Chromium Plume Boundary

In general, the Second Quarter 2024 groundwater data indicates that plume migration is not occurring but does reflect natural fluctuations of groundwater concentrations as remediation progresses. The Second Quarter 2024 chromium plume maps can be viewed on GeoTracker at [Second Quarter 2024 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Domestic Well Sampling Results](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=8d7d3) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=8d7d3>) and are Figures 5-1 through 5-6 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 Third Quarter 2024 plume map is due on November 10, 2024, consistent with the reporting due dates contained in Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R6V-2015-0068.

Proposed Investigation of the Influence of Agricultural Treatment Units on Uranium Concentrations in Groundwater

On August 7, 2024, PG&E submitted a workplan to investigate the influence of the Agricultural Treatment Units (ATUs) on uranium concentrations in groundwater. PG&E monitors groundwater and plant tissue for uranium and this investigation will provide more information on conditions at the site. Uranium is considered a byproduct of PG&E's remediation.

On August 30, 2024, the Independent Review Panel submitted comments on the workplan. On September 25, 2024, PG&E provided responses to the IRP comments and the IRP concurred with the responses with no further questions on September 27, 2024. Water Board staff accepted the workplan on October 1, 2024. Work is scheduled to begin on November 4, 2024.

Monitoring Well MW-67A Hexavalent Chromium Concentrations

Monitoring Well MW-67A had an increase in hexavalent chromium concentrations during the Second Quarter 2024. PG&E is providing bottled water to a nearby resident in accordance with the Environmental Impact Report mitigation measure WTR-MM-2A. PG&E will continue monthly sampling and providing bottled water. PG&E will be

conducting further investigation in the area around MW-67A/B to better understand the site conditions and the potential cause of the increased concentrations.

Water Board staff do not consider the elevated concentration of hexavalent chromium at MW-67A a loss of hydraulic control or expansion of the chromium plume because data between the 3.1 parts per billion plume boundary and MW-67A continue to have low to non-detect concentrations in the wells.

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

Water Board staff will begin working with PG&E, the IRP, and the public to determine cleanup goals for this project. On February 20, 2024, the Water Board requested PG&E submit a proposal evaluating the application of the background hexavalent chromium values, as determined in the United States Geological Survey Background Study as a cleanup level(s) for groundwater. On May 15, 2024, PG&E submitted the Hexavalent Chromium Background Value Evaluation to the Water Board. Water Board staff and PG&E will be evaluating values to consider for the cleanup level(s) based on information gained through the USGS Background Study and time to cleanup to background levels.

Water Board staff plan to begin outreach efforts after preparing some initial proposed changes to the CAO to present to the community for input. Revisions to the CAO may include establishing a cleanup level(s), revising remedial timeframes, reviewing the monitoring network, and updating monitoring and reporting requirements. Community outreach is tentatively expected to begin between late 2024 and early 2025. These outreach efforts may include listening sessions, workshops, and community meetings. All are invited to participate. Comments will also be accepted via mail, e-mail, and phone. Water Board staff contact 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.

- None

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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