



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Deborah O. Raphael, Director
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Sent Via Electronic Mail

February 4, 2013

Ms. Yvonne J. Meeks
Portfolio Manager – Site Remediation
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
4325 South Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL HISTORIC OFFSITE DISPOSAL OF
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES FROM THE PG&E TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION
(CAT080011729)**

Dear Ms. Meeks:

On December 11, 12 and 13, 2012, the State of California Department of Toxic Substances (DSTC) held public scoping meetings for the draft Environmental Impact Report that is being prepared for the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Topock Compressor Station Soil Investigation Work Plan. The public scoping meetings were held in Golden Shores, Arizona on December 11, 2012, Needles, California on December 12, 2012, and Yuma, Arizona on December 13, 2012. The meetings were attended by the general public, representatives from various federal, state (California and Arizona) and local government agencies, members of the press, various stakeholders and Native American Tribes currently associated with the PG&E Topock project, as well as representatives from PG&E. As requested by PG&E, the official transcripts of the three scoping meetings were provided to you by DTSC on January 8, 2013.

During the scoping meetings, members of the public alleged that PG&E historically disposed of potentially hazardous substances in the vicinity of Golden Shores and Needles communities beyond the existing boundaries of the PG&E Topock investigation. Specifically, members of the Golden Shores community indicate that PG&E disposed truckloads of wastes and/or contaminated soils in the vicinity of their community (pages 25, 26 and 35 of the Golden Shores transcripts), and a member of the Needles community indicated that trucks may have historically disposed of waste into the community's manholes (pages 30 and 31 of the Needles transcripts). At the Golden Shores scoping meeting, members of the public also indicated that PG&E activities may have released potentially hazardous substances into the environment.

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Specifically, pages 18 and 19 of the Golden Shores transcripts indicate that debris and ash emanating from PG&E's burning activities may have been released and deposited around the compressor station, including areas in Arizona. Additionally, page 28 of the Golden Shores transcripts indicate that debris associated with PG&E pipes may be present in the Colorado River.

Pursuant to Section 3007 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and Section 25358.1 of the California Health and Safety Code, DTSC requests that PG&E disclose any information it may have regarding these items, as well as information regarding PG&E Topock Compressor Station's historic offsite disposal of waste or hazardous substances to areas or locations in the vicinity of Golden Shores, Arizona; Needles, California; and in the general surrounding vicinity and communities around the PG&E Topock Compressor Station (including both California and Arizona). DTSC also requests that PG&E provide any additional information regarding station operations and practices that may contribute to the public's perceptions of wide spread aerial material release, including pressure release or venting during maintenance events or flaring of gas. When submitting this information, DTSC requests PG&E to provide information on the material that was disposed or released, the location of these activities, the approximate quantity (if known), and the time frame which they occurred.

Please submit the requested information by March 8, 2013. We look forward to receiving the information PG&E has on these matters. If you have any questions, please contact me at (714) 484-5439 or at aaron.yue@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Aaron Yue
Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control

aky: 020113B

cc: Ms. Danielle Taber
Project Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Ms. Pamela Innis
PG&E Topock Remedial Project Manager, U.S. Department of the Interior

Ms. Karen Baker, PG, CHG, CEG
DTSC Branch Chief – Geological Services Branch

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Mr. Jose Marcos, PG
Engineering Geologist

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