

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 88-116
AGAINST
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. Southern California Gas Company (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), Box 3249 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, California 90051, is the owner of the El Centro Towne Gas Site located on Fourth Street, El Centro, California.
2. On February 10, 1986, construction excavation activities at the site uncovered a black material with a petroleum-like odor. Said black material was found to be solid residue from prior manufactured gas production at the site, which had been discharged to three surface impoundments that have long since been buried.
3. On August 25, 1986 representatives from Southern California Gas Company met with the Regional Board staff to discuss the proper disposition of the discovered solid residue.
4. A site investigation was conducted from October 20, 1986 to October 24, 1986 by Radian Corporation, consultant for the discharger, and subcontractor Earth Technology Corporation to determine the nature and extent of potential contamination from the wastes buried at the site.
5. On February 4, 1987, the discharger submitted a report of the results of the investigation. The report indicates that contaminants present in the buried wastes were not leaching to the groundwater. However, contamination of the groundwater with petroleum hydrocarbons was discovered at one sampling location within the boundaries of the buried wastes. The type and source of the hydrocarbon contamination are not known but are suspected to be from the underground gasoline storage tanks located at the site.
6. On March 4, 1987, the Regional Board staff met with representatives of Southern California Gas Company, City of El Centro, El Centro Fire Department, and the Imperial County Health Department to discuss proper action regarding the disposition of the solid residue materials (buried wastes) and to discuss future work required regarding delineation of the petroleum hydrocarbon contaminant plume.
7. On February 4, 1987, a Remedial Investigation Survey Report prepared by Radian Corporation was received by the Regional Board. Said report included a recommendation that the buried wastes be left in place, due to the fact that the leachable materials had migrated to the groundwater and away from the site during the intervening years.

8. The Regional Board staff forwarded correspondence to the discharger on April 22, 1987 stating in essence that further study would be required before disposal in place could be considered. Said correspondence also requested further delineation of the hydrocarbon plume.
9. In correspondence to the Regional Board dated May 13, 1987 the discharger explained that the Waste Extraction Test would be conducted in June 1987, with field work beginning in August 1987. The discharger also requested an extension of the due date for submittal of the final subsurface investigation to October 31, 1987.
10. In correspondence to the Regional Board dated May 28, 1987, the Department of Health Services expressed concern over the presence of polynuclear aromatics (PNA's) at former Towne Gas Sites. Said Department also requested in said correspondence that a remedial action plan be prepared to include a detailed characterization, environmental fate analysis, risk assessment and feasibility study of the contamination.
11. The discharger has caused or permitted the discharge of waste into the waters of the State and created a condition of pollution.
12. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region identifies the beneficial uses of the groundwater in some areas of the Imperial Hydrologic Subunit as:
 - a. Municipal
 - b. Industrial
13. Contamination of the groundwater with petroleum hydrocarbon will significantly impair the beneficial uses of the groundwater.
14. This enforcement action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15308 and 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 13304 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, the discharger shall comply with the following:

1. Cleanup and abate the effects of the discharge of petroleum hydrocarbon in the soil and groundwater at the Southern California Gas Company El Centro Towne Gas Site, El Centro, California.
2. Submit to the Regional Board within 60 days of receipt of this Order a technical report showing the full vertical and lateral delineation of the groundwater contamination, and a remedial action plan for the cleanup or mitigation of the contamination.
3. Submit a report of waste discharge with the appropriate filing fee, and in advance obtain a Regional Board Order containing waste discharge requirements for discharge of any waste, from the cleanup operation other than a waste disposal facility approved to receive such waste.

4. Provide copies of appropriate manifests and receipts to the Regional Board for any wastes discharged at an approved waste disposal facility.

ORDERED BY:

Arthur Sevajian
Executive Officer

July 27, 1988
Date