

**CHAPTER THREE
FACILITY CLOSURE**

3.0 FACILITY CLOSURE

Facility closure can be temporary or permanent. Temporary closure consists of a cessation in operations for a period of time greater than the time required for normal maintenance, including overhauls or replacements of major equipment. Potential causes for temporary closure include economic conditions or repairable damage to the plant from earthquake, fire, storm, or other such events. Permanent closure consists of a cessation in operations with no intent to restart operations. Potential causes for permanent closure include age of the plant, economic conditions, or irreparable damage to the plant. Temporary and permanent facility closures are discussed in the following sections.

3.1 TEMPORARY CLOSURE

In the event of a temporary closure, 24-hour security for the proposed facility will be maintained and the CEC will be notified. Actions taken will depend on whether the temporary closure involves a release of hazardous materials.

If there is no release or threatened release of hazardous materials, a contingency plan for the temporary cessation of operations will be implemented. The contingency plan will be conducted to ensure public health and safety; protection of the environment; and conformance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. Appropriate procedures will depend on the expected duration of the shut down. Accordingly, the contingency plan may include the draining of chemicals, water, and other fluids from storage tanks and plant equipment and various other procedures to ensure worker safety and to protect plant equipment. All hazardous and nonhazardous waste materials will be collected and disposed of as described in Section 7.12, Hazardous Materials Handling.

If there is a release or threatened release of hazardous materials, procedures set forth in a Risk Management Plan (RMP) will be implemented. The RMP to be prepared is described in Section 7.12. Procedures include methods to control releases of hazardous materials, notification of appropriate authorities and the public, training for plant personnel, and other emergency response actions and preparation. When the release of hazardous materials has been contained and cleaned up, temporary closure will proceed as in the case of a closure where there is no release of hazardous materials.

3.2 PERMANENT CLOSURE

The planned operational life of the proposed facility is 30 years. However, if the facility continues to be economically viable, it could be operated for a longer period of time. Operation beyond 30 years would defer environmental impacts resulting from the construction of replacement facilities. It is also possible that the facility could become economically noncompetitive before 30 years, forcing early decommissioning. Whether the facility is closed at the expiration of 30 years, after more than 30 years, or prior to 30 years due to economic or other reasons, procedures set forth in a decommissioning plan will be implemented. The decommissioning plan to be prepared is described below.

To ensure public health and safety; protection of the environment; and conformance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, the decommissioning plan will be submitted to the CEC for review prior to commencement of permanent facility closure measures. Such measures may range from extensive “mothballing” to removal of all equipment and appurtenances, depending on circumstances at the time. However, future conditions that would affect decommissioning decisions are largely unknown at this time. It is therefore appropriate to present decommissioning details to the CEC and other jurisdictional agencies when more information is available and the time for permanent facility closure has drawn closer.

The decommissioning plan will include the following:

- Description of the proposed decommissioning measures for the facility and for all appurtenances constructed as part of the facility.
- Description of the activities necessary to restore the site if the decommissioning plan calls for removal of all equipment and appurtenances.
- Discussion of decommissioning alternatives other than restoration of the site.
- Presentation of the costs associated with the proposed decommissioning measures and the source of funds to pay for the decommissioning.
- Discussion of conformance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards and with local and regional plans.

In general, the proposed decommissioning measures will attempt to maximize the recycling of all facility components. Unused chemicals will be sold back to the suppliers or other purchasers where practicable. All equipment will be shut down and drained so as to ensure public health and safety and protection of the environment. All hazardous and nonhazardous waste materials will be collected and disposed of as described in Sections 2.5.7 and 2.5.8. Until decommissioning activities have been completed, 24-hour security for the facility will be maintained.