Bureau of Water Pollution Control
Permits Branch
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Overview of Permitting Programs and Requirements

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I. Introduction

The Bureau of Water Pollution Control, Permits Branch issues and renews discharge permits, which define the quality of the discharge necessary to protect the waters of the State.

Waters of the State is defined in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS 445A.415) as "all waters situated wholly or partly within or bordering upon this State, including but not limited to:

1. All streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marshes, water courses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems and drainage systems; and
2. All bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial."

Depending upon the types of regulated discharges, the duration, and the waters that may potentially be impacted, the BWPC may issue individual, general, or temporary permits.

This document is intended for informational purposes only. It provides an overview of permit types and highlights regulations and requirements in order to help readers become familiar with the permitting process. For more information and/or guidance for specific projects, please contact the Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9418.

II. Permit Application

An appropriate permit application must be completed and submitted to NDEP with the appropriate fee before a technical review will commence.

Applications and fee schedules are available at the NDEP website. (or http://www.nedp.nv.gov/bwpc/forms.htm)

III. Permit Terms

The reporting requirements and permit limitations will be listed in the discharge permit. Unless otherwised noted (e.g., temporary permits), permits are effective for five years and require submittal of quarterly reports to NDEP. Applicants/design engineers are encouraged to consult with the permit writer to discuss the draft permit conditions so that there is no misunderstanding on the final permit. There is a minimum of 30 days provided for comments on the draft permit by the permittee and the public.

Typical permit requirements include flow monitoring of the effluent via an acceptable measuring device (flume, weir, magnetic meter, etc.) and sampling of the effluent.

Additional constituent monitoring may be required at the Division's discretion. Commonly monitored constituents include, but are not limited to:

- **Biochemical oxygen demand**, or BOD, measures the amount of oxygen consumed by microorganisms in decomposing organic matter in stream water. BOD also measures the chemical oxidation of inorganic matter (i.e., the extraction of oxygen from water via chemical reaction). A test is used to measure the amount of oxygen consumed by these organisms during a specified period of time (usually 5 days at 20° C). The rate of oxygen consumption in a stream is affected by a number of variables: temperature, pH, the presence of certain kinds of microorganisms, and the types of organic and inorganic material in the water. BOD directly affects the amount of dissolved oxygen in rivers and streams. The greater the BOD, the more rapidly oxygen is depleted in the stream. This means less oxygen is available to higher forms of aquatic life. Releasing high BOD effluent to the environment would result in a decrease in the oxygen supply in water, causing aquatic organisms to become stressed, suffocate, and die.

- The concentration of **total suspended solids** (TSS) is important to both river and lake ecosystems for ecological and water quality reasons. Inorganic suspended solids attenuate light, primarily through the process of scattering. High concentrations of suspended solids degrade optical water quality by reducing water clarity and decreasing light available to support photosynthesis. Suspended solids have been shown to alter predator-prey relationships (for example, turbid water might make it difficult for fish to see their prey (e.g., insects)). Suspended solids also influence metabolic activity and provide surface area for the sorption and transport of an array of constituents. Deposited solids alter streambed properties and aquatic habitat for fish, macrophytes, and benthic organisms. Deposited sediment may be available for resuspension and subsequent transport during periods of increased stream discharge. Suspended solids in most freshwater systems originate from watershed sources, pollutant point sources, and sediment resuspension. More rarely other sources, such as hydrogeologic structures, can be important. High stream total suspended solids can impact water quality and deposition in downstream lakes and reservoirs.

- **Total Nitrogen** (TN) is a measurement of all forms of nitrogen in a water sample. It is important for scientists to know how much Total Nitrogen is in the water and to see whether or not the levels and forms of nitrogen are changing over time. Too much nitrogen in the water can lead to excessive plant growth, and nitrogen in certain forms can be harmful or even toxic to aquatic life.

IV. Permit Types

A. Individual Permits

Individual permits are issued by the Bureau of Water Pollution Control, Permits Branch, considering the waters that may be impacted. The types of individual permits issued include, but are not limited to:

- Discharges to surface water bodies are permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program pursuant to Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act as amended and the State of Nevada Water Pollution Control Law, Chapter 445A of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS 445A.300-445A.730).
- Discharges that may impact subsurface waters, and other waters of the State that are not covered under the NPDES permits, are permitted pursuant to Water Pollution Control Law and referred to as the State's Water Pollution Control (WPC) Permits.
- Injections into underground sources of drinking waters, as authorized pursuant to Section 1422 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the State Water Pollution Control Law, are permitted under the Underground Injection Control Program.

The following sections show an overview of the requirements for different types of individual permits based on the types and sources of discharges:

1. Discharges from Independent Package Plants

Package Treatment Plants: As listed under NRS 445A.380, a package treatment plant means a plant that consists of units or modules designed for construction, assembly, connection, and installation at the site for treatment of wastewater. These units are privately owned and are to be operated to treat wastewater from a limited area with a minimum design flow of 5,000 gallons per day (gpd). These units are generally supplied by a specified manufacturer and are designed to achieve a minimum of secondary treatment. NDEP does not endorse or approve any specific package treatment plant. Each submittal must be wet stamped by a Nevada Registered Professional Engineer and shall include plan drawings and technical specifications.

A Package Plant must be permitted through the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Water Pollution Control and must comply with Package Treatment Plant law, if applicable.

Prior to selection of a particular package plant, the design engineers should contact NDEP to determine the effluent disposal options and associated effluent criteria.

The owner of a package treatment plant will be issued a state groundwater discharge permit if the effluent is discharged to RIBs, reuse, leach fields, or any other non-surface water discharge. These permits are administered solely by NDEP and there are no federal reporting requirements.

Statutory Authority: NRS 445A.380 "Package plant for sewage treatment" is defined as:

1. "Package plant for sewage treatment" means any plant which:
   (a) Consists of units or modules designed for construction, assembly, connection and installation at the site for treatment of sewage; and
   (b) Is privately owned and will be operated to treat wastewater and sewage for a limited area.
2. The term does not include:
   (a) A plant for the treatment of domestic sewage whose capacity is less than 5,000 gallons per day;
   (b) Septic systems comprised of single or multiple septic tanks and leach fields; or
   (c) Systems operated for the pretreatment of industrial wastewater before disposal to a publicly owned treatment plant.

Package Treatment Plant Law
http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-445A.html#NRS445ASec535

Specific guidance can be found through our website. Please reference Water Technical Sheet WTS-41.

a. Statutory Requirements for Package Plants

NRS 445A.540 lists the conditions for issuing a permit for a package treatment plant. The role of the local governing body (Town, City, or County) is paramount in these statutes. They have authority to approve/deny a package treatment plant independently of NDEP and can require the plant to be abandoned should public sewer become available in the future.

b. Local Governing Body Role

Prior to issuing a permit for a package treatment plant, NDEP must have assurance from the local government that it has accepted the package plant and that the requirements listed under NRS 445A.540 have been met. These include:

- Acceptance by the local government that it will assume operation and maintenance of the plant should the developer default for any reason.

- Signing of a declaration of covenants, conditions, and restrictions with the owner of the lands to be served by the package plant, which will provide for the assessment of fees for the operation of the plant by the county in the event that they have to operate the plant.

- Receipt of a surety from the developer to the county for the continued operation of the plant for five years following start-up.

2. Pretreatment Program

Publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) collect wastewater from homes, commercial buildings, and industrial facilities and transport it via a series of pipes, known as a collection system, to the treatment plant. Here, the POTW removes harmful organisms and other contaminants from the sewage so it can be discharged safely into the receiving stream. Generally, POTWs are designed to treat domestic sewage only. However, POTWs also receive wastewater from industrial (non-domestic) users. Pretreatment may be required from non-domestic dischargers. Pretreatment Standards are intended to control pollutants from industrial users which may pass through or interfere with POTW treatment processes or which may contaminate sewage sludge.

The Pretreatment Program is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and not the NDEP.

3. Discharges to waters of the State – Water Pollution Control Permits

For discharges to groundwaters of the State, Water Pollution Control Discharge permits are issued.

Statutory Authority: "NRS 445A.465 Injection of fluids through well or discharge of pollutant without permit prohibited; regulations.

1. Except as authorized by a permit issued by the Department pursuant to the provisions of NRS 445A.300 to 445A.730, inclusive, and regulations adopted by the Commission, it is unlawful for any person to:
   (a) Discharge from any point source any pollutant into any waters of the State or any treatment works.
   (b) Inject fluids through a well into any waters of the State.
   (c) Discharge from a point source a pollutant or inject fluids through a well that could be carried into the waters of the State by any means.
   (d) Allow a pollutant discharged from a point source or fluids injected through a well to remain in a place where the pollutant or fluids could be carried into the waters of the State by any means…"

a. Discharge to Groundwater or Pond Discharge

Information from the items listed below shall be presented as a minimum in an application prepared by a Nevada Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) for a lined holding pond (surface impoundment) that contains wastewater regulated and permitted by the BWPC. Surface impoundments storing and/or treating wastewater require a discharge permit to be issued from BWPC prior to commencement of construction and operation.

BWPC does not permit the storage of any wastewater that is classified as a hazardous waste.

Also, please note that the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR), phone: (775) 684-2800, must approve any basin with a depth greater than 20 feet or a storage capacity of more than 20 acre-feet (AF).

Specific guidance can be found through our website. Please reference Water Technical Sheet WTS-37.

b. Rapid Infiltration Basins

Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) allow land treatment and disposal of wastewater.

Applied wastewater percolates through the soil and the treated effluent drains via hydraulic pathways to groundwater.

Specific guidance can be found through our website. Please reference Water Technical Sheet WTS-3.

c. Re-Use

Pursuant to NAC 445A.275, NDEP must issue a discharge permit for the use of reclaimed water. Prior to issuing this permit, the Division must conduct a complete review of the plans for the reclaimed water use project. The NDEP requires that the plans be prepared and stamped by a qualified Nevada Registered Professional Engineer.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) must be contacted whenever the use of reclaimed water is planned in order to determine the appropriate discharge permit and assist the applicant in preparing the design for submittal to the Division. The plans shall be prepared and stamped by a Nevada Registered Professional Engineer with comprehensive knowledge of the project.

Specific guidance can be found through our website. Please reference Water Technical Sheet WTS-1A.

Also, the Nevada Division of Water Resources, (775) 687-4380, must be notified of the plan to use reclaimed water in order to address requirements for secondary water rights. The NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, (775) 687-9521, should also be consulted to ensure the use of reclaimed water is consistent with all water supply protection requirements. Finally, please be aware that the local government and water purveyor may have additional rules on reclaimed water usage and should be consulted.

As part of the permitting process, NAC 445A.275.1 (a) states that an Effluent Management Plan (EMP) must be submitted and approved prior to the use of reclaimed water. Guidance was prepared to assist the permittee in preparing a satisfactory EMP. Please be aware that the extent of information and content for each individual EMP will vary for the different types of reclaimed water use, so not all portions of the guidance may apply to a particular EMP. Specific guidance can be found through our Website. Please reference WTS-1B.

4. Discharges to Surface Waters of the United States

For discharges into a water of the United States (i.e., streams, rivers or lakes), a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will be issued. This EPA federal permit is administered by NDEP and will require quarterly reporting at a minimum.

Statutory Authority: "NRS 445A.450 **Powers of Director.** The Director may:

1. Perform any acts consistent with the requirements of state and federal legislation concerning the control of the injection of fluids through a well and the control of water pollution and conditions thereof relating to participation in and administration by this State of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System;…."

a. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permits

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is a law enacted by Congress and signed by the President that establishes environmental programs, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, to protect the Nation's waters and directs EPA to develop, implement, and enforce regulations consistent with this law.
Specifically, the CWA prohibits anybody from discharging "pollutants" through a "point source" into a "water of the United States" unless they have an NPDES permit. The permit will contain limits on what can be discharged, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other provisions to ensure that the discharge does not impact water quality or people's health. In essence, the permit translates general requirements of the Clean Water Act into specific provisions tailored to the operations of each permittee discharging pollutants.

The NPDES permitting program, including specific permit requirements, is the result of enactment of laws by Congress and development and implementation of federal regulations based on the authorities vested to EPA through those laws. Any new or modified regulations must go through a rulemaking process that includes a proposal and public comment and culminates in a final rule that must then be implemented and enforced.

EPA issues a final rule taking those public comments into account. Final rules contain a preamble and the text of the final rule. The preamble or introduction typically discusses changes that were made from the proposed rule, what must be done to comply with the final rule, and why EPA chose this approach. EPA publishes final rules in the Federal Register.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) includes all the rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government and the text of all existing regulations, including any rules issued through July 1 of that year.

The primary regulations developed by EPA to implement and administer the NPDES Permit Program are found in Title 40 of the CFR at Part 122 - EPA Administered Permit Programs: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

With respect to definitions there are three keys terms: point source, water of the United States, and pollutant.

1. The term point source is defined very broadly in the Clean Water Act. It means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, such as a pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, discrete fissure, or container. It also includes vessels or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. By law, the term "point source" also includes concentrated animal feeding operations. By law, agricultural stormwater discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture are not "point sources".

2. The term “water of the United States" is defined very broadly in the Clean Water Act as navigable waters, tributaries to navigable waters, interstate waters, the oceans out to 200 miles, and intrastate waters which are used by interstate travelers for recreation or other purposes, as a source of fish or shellfish sold in interstate commerce, or for industrial purposes by industries engaged in interstate commerce.

3. The term pollutant is defined very broadly in the Clean Water Act and includes any type of industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water. Some examples are dredged soil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, and cellar dirt. By law, sewage, discharges incidental to the normal operation of an Armed Forces vessel, or water, gas, or other material injected into an oil and gas production well are not pollutants.

NPDES permits are issued by states that have obtained EPA approval to issue permits or by EPA Regions in states without such approval. In this respect, Nevada is the Delegated Authority by the EPA.

Specifically, NPDES permits are issued by the NDEP Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC). These NPDES permits will generally specify an acceptable level of a pollutant or pollutant parameter in a discharge (for example, a certain level of bacteria). The permittee may choose which technologies to use to achieve that level. Some permits, however, do contain certain 'best management practices' (such as installing a screen over the pipe to keep debris out of the waterway). NPDES permits make sure that a state's mandatory standards for clean water and the federal minimums are being met.

In addition to Clean Water Act requirements, Nevada's responsibility is more comprehensive. Specifically, Chapter 445A of the Nevada Revised Statutes provides that it is unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from any point source into any waters of the State or any treatment works; inject fluids through a well into any waters of the State; discharge a pollutant from a point source or inject fluids through a well that could be carried into the waters of the State by any means; or allow a pollutant discharged from a point source or fluids injected through a well to remain in a place where the pollutant or fluids could be carried into the waters of the State by any means.

It is important to note that Nevada's Statute uses the term "waters of the State". In NRS 445A.415, "waters of state" is defined as all waters situated wholly or partly within or bordering upon this State, including but not limited to all streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marshes, water courses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems and drainage systems; and all bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial. This definition goes beyond the scope of the NPDES and Clean Water Act jurisdiction. Nevada's Statutes are protective of both surface and groundwaters.

Permitting requirements for Nevada's Water Pollution Control Law are defined in Chapter 445A of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code.

5. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permits are required for certain activities by the U.S. EPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 412. In compliance with these regulations, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) requires that CAFOs seek coverage under the appropriate permit type.

The NPDES program regulates the discharge of pollutants from point sources to waters of the United States. CAFOs are point sources as defined by CWA Section

502(14). To be considered a CAFO, a facility must first be defined as an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO).

AFOs are agricultural operations where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. AFOs generally congregate animals, feed, manure, dead animals, and production operations on a small land area. Feed is brought to the animals rather than the animals grazing or otherwise seeking feed in pastures. Animal waste and wastewater can enter water bodies from spills or breaks of waste storage structures (due to accidents or excessive rain) and non-agricultural application of manure to crop land.

An AFO is a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met:

- Animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and
- Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

AFOs that meet the regulatory definition of a CAFO may be regulated under the NPDES permitting program. Previous EPA regulations based the definition of CAFOs on the number of "animal units" confined. EPA no longer uses the term "animal unit," but instead refers to the actual number of animals at the operation to define a CAFO.
In part, Nevada Administrative Code 445A.228 states that a permit is required for:
"…

(1) Discharges from facilities in which crops, vegetation, forage growth or postharvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season and that confine animals if the facilities contain, or at any time during the previous 12 months contained, for a total of 30 days or more, any of the following types of animals at or in excess of the number listed for each type of animal:

(I) Cattle, veal calves or a pair consisting of a cow and a calf, 1,000;
(II) Mature dairy cattle (whether milkers or dry cows), 700;
(III) Swine weighing over 55 pounds, 2,500;
(IV) Swine weighing 55 pounds or less, 10,000;
(IV) Horses, 500;
(V) Sheep or lambs, 10,000;
(VI) Turkeys, 55,000;
(VII) Chickens, if the animal confinement facility has a liquid manure handling system, 30,000;
(IX) Chickens, other than laying hens, if the animal confinement facility does not have a liquid manure handling system, 125,000;

(X) Laying hens, if the animal confinement facility does not have a liquid manure handling system, 82,000;
(XI) Ducks, if the animal confinement facility has a liquid manure handling system, 5,000; or
(XII) Ducks, if the animal confinement facility does not have a liquid manure handling system, 30,000…"

For detailed information on the CAFO Program please reference our website at: http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/cafo.htm.

6. Underground Injection Control (UIC)

The Nevada Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program is intended to prevent degradation of all potential and current underground sources of drinking water due to underground injection practices.

Except as otherwise provided in NAC 445A.8491 to 445A.8499, inclusive, an applicant for a permit to inject fluids must satisfy the Director that the underground injection will not endanger any source of drinking water. An application for a permit must be filed within (no less than) 180 days prior to the operation of an injection well which does not already have a permit.

Nevada has divided injection wells into five classes pursuant to federal regulations. Class I and Class IV wells are prohibited in the State UIC regulations. One of the major differences between the federal and State of Nevada UIC regulations is that a permit is required in Nevada for all injection activities, regardless of well class. State UIC and Division of Health regulations prohibit cesspools and injection wells associated with septic tanks, and injection of any hazardous waste through a well.

Classes of Injection Well
I. Wells injecting hazardous or non-hazardous waste below the lowermost underground sources of drinking water (USDW) , excluding certain municipal wastes
II. Wells disposing of brines associated with oil and gas production
III. Wells used to enable mineral extraction
IV. Wells injecting hazardous fluids above or into USDWs
V. All other well types, including large capacity septic systems, motor vehicle waste disposal wells, and geothermal production wells

http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/uic01.htm

7. Onsite Disposal Systems

Commercial Septic Systems - Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS)

This permit controls and reduces pollution to groundwaters of the State from domestic sewage related to commercial activities. It governs standard OSDS systems along with other advanced treatment units such as de-nitrification and aerobic systems.

OSDS Website

Specific guidance can be found through our website. Please reference our OSDS Engineering Design Manual.

Nevada Administrative Code for OSDS

B. General Permits

A general permit is an "umbrella" permit for a specific, defined type of discharge. The conditions of the permit and the monitoring requirements are the same or similar for all entitities covered under the general permit.

Statutory Authority: "NRS 445A.475 Permits: Issuance of general permits. A general permit may be issued for a category of discharges or injections of fluids through a well which:

1. Corresponds with an existing geographical or political boundary;
2. Involves the same or similar types of discharge or injection;
3. Requires the same limitations or conditions in a permit;
4. Requires the same or similar monitoring; or
5. In the opinion of the Department, is more appropriately regulated by a general permit rather than an individual permit.

(Added to NRS by 1991, 1741)"

Entities desiring inclusion in the general permit submit a "Notice of Intent" (NOI) to the Bureau for review. General permits may be revoked, and the Administrator of the Division may require someone with a general permit to obtain an individual permit, as allowed for under NRS 445A.480.

The Bureau of Water Pollution Control, Permits Branch, has issued the following General Permits to address discharges to surface waters and groundwaters of the State:

1. Stormwater General Permits

Stormwater discharge permits are required for certain activities by U.S. EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 122.26(b)(14). In compliance with this regulation, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has issued several General Permits for stormwater discharges. They include:

General Stormwater Permit at Construction Sites (NVR100000) applies to projects disturbing at least one acre, or that will disturb less than one (1) acre but are part of a larger common plan for development or sale that will ultimately disturb one (1) or more acres.

General Industrial Stormwater Permit (NVR050000) applies to stormwater discharges associated with eleven (11) industrial categories covered under federal regulations 40 CFR 122.26 (b)(14)(i)- (xi). These categories are:

i. facilities with stormwater effluent limitations guidelines, new source performance standards, or toxic pollutant effluent standards under 40 CFR subchapter N;
ii. facilities classified as Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 24 (except 2434), 26 9except 265 and 267), 28 (except 283), 29, 31l, 32 (except 323), 33, 344l, and 373;
iii. mineral industry;
iv. hazardous waste, storage, or disposal facilities;
v. landfills;
vi. recycling facilities;
vii. steam electric plants;
viii. transportation facilities;
ix. treatment works treating domestic sewage and/or sludge;
x. construction; and
xi. light industry.

General Mining Stormwater permit (NVR300000) authorizes stormwater discharges associated with Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 10 as derived from Category iii (shown above), defined under 40 CFR §122.26(b)(14) and all construction-related activities as defined by 40 CFR § 122.26 (b)(14)(x) and (b)(15) at mine sites (including exploration, development and reclamation activities).

General Permit for Discharge from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (NVS040000) authorizes stormwater discharges to waters of the U.S. (surface waters) from designated small MS4s, which are MS4s that are not addressed in Stormwater Phase I MS4 permitting as medium or large MS4s.

2. General Pesticide Application Discharge Permit

General Permit NVG870001 authorizes the application of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, rodenticides and insecticides to waters of the U.S. (surface waters) for the following purposes:

a. Mosquito and other flying insect pest control
b. Weed and algae control
c. Nuisance animal control
d. Forest canopy pest control

3. General De minimis Discharge Permit

General De minimus Discharge Permit NVG201000 authorizes De minimus clean water discharges to waters of the U.S. from five (5) discharge categories:

a. Category 1: public water system emergency discharges which pose an immediate risk to health, life, property or the environment;
b. Category 2: water supply system discharges relating to the construction, maintenance, and testing of the system;
c. Category 3: well testing and maintenance, aquifer testing, water quality testing associated with drilling of new water or geothermal wells, rehabilitation or maintenance of geothermal wells, piezometers and boreholes, etc.;
d. Category 4: subsurface water discharges of **uncontaminated** water from dewatering activities;
e. Category 5: utility vault water discharges.

4. General Holding Tank Permits

The Bureau of Water Pollution Control issued two general permits to allow for the construction and operation of tempory holding tanks and permanent holding tanks to collect and hold domestic sewage at commercial operations. Holding tanks may be approved for limited duration events for construction projects, or a holding tank under the control of a city or other legal entity may be approved for temporary use. Holding tanks may not be used to service a permanent dwelling, permanent structure or recreational vehicles (RV). Other uses may be considered on a site specific, case–by-case basis.

General Temporary Holding Tanks Permit (GNEVTHT09) for holding tanks that will only collect domestic sewage from temporary commercial operations such as mining and geothermal exploration; wastewater would then be transferred for treatment and disposal. The permit would be valid for a period of 180 days; renewals would be granted at the Division's discretion.

General Permanent Holding Tanks Permit (GNEVPHT09) for holding tanks will only collect domestic sewage from permanent commercial operations where, due to the remote nature of the locations, standard domestic sewage treatment methods along with sub-subsurface disposal can not be implemented in a practical way. Wastewater would then be transferred for treatment and disposal.

5. General Onsite Sewage Disposal System (OSDS)

General OSDS Permit GNEVOSDS09 authorizes the discharges of treated domestic sewage to groundwaters (waters of the State) associated with new or existing commercial activities (i.e. restaurants, mobile home parks, hotels and motels). Examples of these systems include septic tanks, aeration tanks, denitrification tanks, etc.; disposal methods include disposal fields, leach fields, sand filters, mound systems, etc.

C. Temporary Permits

Pursuant to NRS 445A.485, NDEP may issue temporary permits for the discharge of pollutants or the injection of fluids through a well.

Temporary permits are issued by NDEP when the discharges are expected to last between 48 hours and six months (180 days).

Two types of temporary permits are issued by NDEP's Bureau of Water Pollution Control:

- **Temperory Discharge to Waters of the State Permit** covers discharges from remediation and disinfection activities, well pump testing, aquifer drawdown testing, dewatering, underground injection of fluids, and other discharges of a temporary nature and requiring immediate action. This permit is required prior to any discharge that may directly or indirectly affect waters of the State.

- **Working in Waterways Temporary Permit** covers temporary working or routine maintenance in surface waters of the State such as channel clearing and minor repairs to intake structures.This permit is required before operating earthmoving equipment in any body of water.