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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

June 16, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the authority of the Nevada Revised Statutes, the Nevada Administrative Code, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Administrator has received an application for a major modification to the Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit, which has been drafted for public comment. A major modification to Permit # **UNEV2003210** has been applied for by the following applicant:

Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Office
1210 E Basin Road, Suite 6
Pahrump, Nevada 89060

The applicant will be conducting tracer-testing activities in the groundwater at a site on the Nevada Test Site 1.5 miles west of Lathrop Wells Road, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township 14S, Range 49E, Nye County. The major modification is for two new tracers and two approved tracers. Two separate tracer tests will be performed: (1) a cross-hole test and (2) a natural gradient test. The cross-hole test involves injection of sodium perrhenate and sodium iodide into one well and recovery from a downgradient well. The natural gradient test involves injection of sodium bromide and pentafluorobenzoate into one well and recovery from two downgradient wells. All tracers are commonly used and recognized in the scientific community for ground-water testing purposes. Sodium Perrhenate is not considered to be a radioactive tracer. However, the permittee has documented that it is a very slightly radioactive beta emitter due to the presence of rhenium-187. The amount of rhenium-187 injected will be less than the federal maximum Derived Concentration Guidance (DCG) level of 9000 pCi/L (equivalent to 308.5 parts per million (ppm)). The permit will require monitoring of the injected tracer solutions and the pumped groundwater, and will require recovery of the tracers to the maximum extent possible.

On the basis of preliminary review of the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes, the Nevada Administrative Code, and the Safe Drinking Water Act, and implementing regulations, the Administrator proposes to issue the major modification to Permit #UNEV2003210 as stated above.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding permit issuance or to request a hearing pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control, should submit their comments or request in writing by July 22, 2005 either in person or by mail to:

Attn: [Becky E. Linvill](#)
Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
333 West Nye Lane, Room 129
Carson City, NV 89706-0851

All comments or objections received within thirty days of newspaper publication will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. A public notice of such hearing will be issued not less than thirty days prior to the hearing date.

The application, draft permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied at the office of the Division of Environmental Protection, or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by calling Becky Linvill of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9503. Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you know would be interested in this matter.