



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE - Data Request **Water Quality Data and Information for the 2008 - 2010 Integrated Report** **and Surface Water Quality Assessment (303(d)/305(b))**

In 1972, Congress passed Public Law 92-500, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly known as the Clean Water Act. The goal of this act was to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) implements the Clean Water Act in Nevada, with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Every two years, Nevada is required by the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to conduct a comprehensive analysis of water quality data associated with Nevada's surface waters to determine whether state surface water quality standards are being met and designated uses are being supported. These reports are submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval. Once approved this information is used to guide water resource management decisions.

Past waterbody assessments resulted in two products: The Section 303(d) list and the Section 305(b) report. Section 305(b) reporting often allowed for greater flexibility in regards to data age and quantity whereas, the Section 303(d) lists only reported known beneficial use impairments based on high quality data of sufficient quantity to make confident assessments and decisions. Although the programs overlapped, interpretations and comparisons between the two assessments may have been misleading and not afforded water quality managers the ability to accurately describe the status of a single waterbody or the State's overall water quality.

For these reasons, EPA has encouraged State's to adopt the integrated reporting process. The use of a single report will create consistency in the beneficial use assessments and determinations of whether a waterbody is "impaired" or "supported" for assigned beneficial uses.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have agreed that Nevada need not develop a 2008 303(d) Integrated Report, but can combine the 2008 and 2010 303(d) Integrated Reports. In support of the State's 2008-2010 Integrated Report efforts, NDEP is soliciting the public for data and information pertaining to the water quality conditions of surface waters in Nevada.

Data and information may be submitted by anyone, including private citizens, public agencies, state and federal governmental agencies, non-profit organization, and businesses, and may include: documentation describing the current water quality condition of a waterbody; and/or data pertaining to the physical, chemical and/or biological conditions of waterbodies, sediment and fish tissue. NDEP staff will evaluate all submissions on a case by case basis to determine whether the information and data are applicable and useful for identifying impaired waterbodies as required by CWA.

All submittals should meet the following requirements:

- The name of the organization or person providing the information must be included, along with the name and telephone number or email address for a contact person that can answer questions about the submitted information.
- Data should reflect water quality conditions during the time period **October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2009**.
- Numeric data is preferred to be in electronic form (spreadsheet, database or ASCII format) including at a minimum:
 - site location id;
 - waterbody name;
 - location description;
 - latitude and longitude (or other geographic coordinate description);
 - sample date;
 - sample time;
 - sample depth; and
 - parameter, with units.

Please include whether metals data fraction is total or dissolved metals and also the speciation of the nutrients. While electronic data is preferred, this information can be submitted in hardcopy format.

- Numeric chemical, physical and biological data must be accompanied by documentation of the quality assurance methods used collecting, analyzing, and reporting the data.
- All data and information are to have been collected and developed in a scientifically sound and defensible manner.
- Sampling locations must be accurately described. If possible, maps showing sampling location(s) should be included.

All submittals will be accepted until **November 15, 2009**. It is suggested that anyone wishing to submit data and information first contact us to verify that the data are suitable for the Integrated Report process.

Submittals as well as questions or comments should be directed to:

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