



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS Proposed Changes to Nevada Water Quality Standards April 22, 2010

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning (NDEP-BWQP) is proposing changes to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) concerning beneficial uses and water quality standards in NAC445A.118 through 225 (**New NAC numbers 445A.118 through 2234**).

Workshops will be held at the following locations at the dates and times indicated. The workshops will consist of brief presentations by the Division followed by a question and answer period. The purpose of the workshops is to solicit public comments on the proposed revisions to the Nevada water quality standards. No items will be voted on and no actions will be taken.

Carson City	Ely	Elko
May 13, 2010 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Richard H. Bryan State Office Building 901 South Stewart Street Tahoe Hearing Room, 2nd Floor Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249	May 20, 2010 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. White Pine County Library Meeting Room 950 Campton Street Ely, Nevada 89301	May 21, 2010 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Elko County Library Meeting Room 720 Court Street Elko, Nevada 89801

Following the workshops, the NDEP-BWQP will incorporate any pertinent changes to the petitions and the proposed revisions to the water quality standards will be considered for adoption by the State Environmental Commission at a public hearing. The date and place of that hearing will be announced at a later date (anticipated in the fall of 2010).

Four petitions will be presented and discussed at each of the workshops. Below is a brief description of each petition. Additional information for each petition is available under Water Quality Planning online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm> .

Petition 1: Administrative updates to NAC 445A.143 (445A.1233)

The NDEP-BWQP is proposing to make administrative changes to subsection 2 in NAC 445A.143 (445A.1233) to update the reference to the Review - Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System (review) to the "most current" Review. **No changes to the salinity criteria are proposed.**

Petition 2: Summary of changes to Water Quality Standards for Class D waters and removal of Nevada Administrative Code references to Tribal waters on the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation

When NDEP-BWQP updated the Class Waters to the E. Coli bacteria standard in 2008, EPA required Nevada perform an assessment of the Class D waters, which do not have contact recreation as a beneficial use, to determine if the waters would now meet the fishable/swimmable goal of the Clean Water Act. NDEP is proposing to add contact recreation and the associated bacterial water quality standard to four segments of the Class D waters.

The State of Nevada water quality regulations are not applicable to waterbodies on tribal lands. As a sovereign nation, the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes are responsible for regulating the water quality of the river within the boundaries of their land. Changes are proposed to the NAC to remove the segments of these reaches that are on tribal lands.

Petition 3: Summary of Proposed Changes to the Water Quality Standards for Smoke, Bronco, and Gray Creeks

The water quality standards for Smoke, Bronco and Gray creeks NAC 445A.180, 181 and 182 (445A.1286, 1698 and 1702) have not been reviewed since their inception in 1967 (Smoke) and 1973 (Bronco and Gray). Currently, there are no designated beneficial uses (uses) or reach descriptions assigned to these creeks. NDEP-BWQP proposes to assign uses and reach descriptions for each creek. Appropriate water quality criteria will be added based on the proposed uses for each creek.

Petition 4: Summary of Proposed Changes to Select Water Quality Standards for Nevada Waters in the Snake River Drainage Basin

The NDEP-BWQP has completed a review of the water quality standards for the Nevada waterbodies in the Snake River Drainage Basin. These waters are located in Northern Elko County and consist of the following: South Fork Owyhee River; Owyhee River; Bruneau River; Jarbidge River; East Fork Jarbidge River; Salmon Falls Creek; Shoshone Creek; and Goose Creek. Revisions to select water quality standards are proposed based on EPA recommended criteria, maintaining consistency with standards for other Nevada waterbodies, and other recommendations and information. The water quality standards for the above mentioned waterbodies are contained in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.214 - 225 (445A.1332-1362). NDEP-BWQP is also proposing to add four new tributary creeks located in the Snake River Drainage system to the Nevada water quality regulations.

The fact sheets, rationale documents, and draft petitions are available online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm> under Water Quality Planning.

Written comments to the proposed petitions will be accepted by NDEP until **June 11, 2010**. NDEP will incorporate any pertinent changes to the petitions and the proposed revisions to the water quality standards will then be considered for adoption by the State Environmental Commission.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations or assistance, or persons unable to attend these workshops, but desiring information on the regulation changes, please contact:

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