



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes and/or the Clean Water Act, where applicable. The Administrator has received an application for a Groundwater Discharge, permit number NS2002500 from the following applicant:

NEVADA POWER CO DBA NV ENERGY  
6226 W SAHARA AVE, MS 30  
LAS VEGAS, NV - 89119

### **Permit NS2002500, WALTER M HIGGINS III GENERATING STATION:**

The Permittee, NV Energy, has applied for renewal of groundwater discharge permit NS2002500, formerly NEV2002500. NV Energy owns and operates the Walter M. Higgins III Generating Station (WHGS). Located in Primm, Nevada at 1275 East Primm Boulevard, the facility is situated east of the Primm Casino properties and Interstate-15. Water used for the WHGS operations is supplied from two sources. The primary source of water is treated disinfected effluent (23 CFU/100 ml Fecal Coliform) supplied by the Primm wastewater treatment plant via an effluent lift station. The Primm WWTP effluent is pumped from this lift station and then is further treated by NV Energy via sand filtration, additional disinfection, and microfiltration in a PALL system to meet an effluent quality of 2.2 CFU/100 ml Total Coliform. The treated water is then stored in a one million gallon storage tank to supply plant make-up water, service water and a fire suppression system. A secondary source of emergency use back-up water is available from an onsite production well in the event the treated effluent supply is interrupted. The onsite production well also supplies the domestic water service for the office area. Sanitary wastes are discharged to an onsite septic system. Water waste streams discharged to the evaporation pond include: reject water/brine from the high efficiency reverse osmosis (HERO) water treatment system, reject waste streams from the PALL brand microfiltration system, stormwater collected on site and any operational treated water discharges. Additionally, service water from floor drains, with a potential for oily contamination, are treated via an oil/water separator and piped to the evaporation pond. The evaporation pond is 675 x 360 feet in size, and 13.5 feet deep, including three feet of freeboard. The evaporation pond is lined with two 60-mil thick HDPE geomembrane liners with a leak detection and removal system (LDRS) installed between the two liners to detect and automatically remove leakage.

On the basis of preliminary review of the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes, as amended, and implementing regulations, the Administrator proposes to issue Permit NS2002500 to discharge for a five (5) year period, subject to certain effluent limitations.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding permit issuance, or request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control, should submit their comments or request, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the date of newspaper publication, hand delivered or postmarked no later than 5:00 P.M. on 06/13/2014, either in person or by mail to:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Pollution Control  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 89701

The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted. All comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the formulation of final determination(s) 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 (30) days prior to the hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and objections will be considered at that time.

The applications, proposed permits, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by contacting Michele Reid, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, at (775) 687-9434 or at mreid@ndep.nv.gov. The office facsimile number is (775) 687-4684. For further information, the fact sheet for this project can be viewed at the following website: <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.

Please bring the forgoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you know would be interested in this matter.