



NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEDIA ADVISORY

NDEP TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 1 REGARDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN PAHRUMP AREA

CARSON CITY—The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) will host a meeting to provide a public forum for discussion about the Pahrump area wastewater treatment status as it relates to Utilities, Inc. of Central Nevada (UICN) Plant #3 and Plant "F" at 5:30 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 1 at the Bob Ruud Community Center, Hall Room, 150 North Highway 160 in Pahrump, Nev.

"We at NDEP have been working closely with Utilities, Inc. of Central Nevada to respond to the needs of the community while meeting state environmental regulatory standards," NDEP Deputy Administrator Tom Porta said. "UICN broke ground on an expansion plant earlier this year and Plant #3 was approved by NDEP for additional capacity in May 2005 thus a plan to transport sewage by truck does not appear warranted at this time. We need to assess the current status and how the plant expansion will affect future needs before any other action is authorized."

Agenda items include a discussion of the current status of wastewater treatment, future wastewater treatment expectations and the State's role in approving and regulating wastewater treatment activities.

WHO: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Pollution Control staff

WHAT: Public meeting regarding wastewater treatment in the Pahrump area

WHERE: Bob Ruud Community Center, Hall Room
150 North Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada 89060

WHEN: 5:30 p.m., Thursday, September 1, 2005

WHY: The NDEP has a responsibility to regulate wastewater treatment facilities in Nevada to protect human health and the environment. Treatment of sewage in excess of capacity could lead to sewage overflow, property and environmental damage and risk to the health and safety of citizens. NDEP was first notified by UICN in December 2003 that average flows had exceeded 85% of permitted capacity. NDEP's regulations required that a request be sent to UICN for plans and specifications for plant expansion. Those plans were submitted in October 2004 and the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada approved the plans in March 2005. Based upon engineering calculations, NDEP worked with UICN to allow an additional 30,000 gallons per day capacity for sewage treatment to bring the total capacity to 630,000 gallons. The Administrative Order on Consent, which authorized the additional capacity, was approved in May 2005.

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