

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Bureau of Water Quality Planning

**2015 Triennial Review Public Process to Solicit Comments on
Nevada's Water Quality Standards**

Section 303(c) of the federal Clean Water Act requires that states review existing water quality standards (WQS) at least once every three years. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the State Environmental Commission meet this requirement through the adoption of water quality standards into the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) on a regular basis. Recent NAC revisions include: (1) 2012 updates to Grey, Bronco and Smoke Creeks; numeric criteria for toxic compounds to protect the aquatic life beneficial use; North Antelope Creek; and fecal coliform statewide; (2) 2013 removal of waters located on Tribal lands; and (3) 2014 updates to streams in the Upper Humboldt River Basin and South Fork Reservoir.

Additionally, about once every three years, the NDEP Bureau of Water Quality Planning (BWQP) opens a public comment period and holds public workshops to solicit input on WQS issues and concerns that NDEP should evaluate during the next several year timeframe. For this current cycle, BWQP opened a comment period January 22, 2015 – March 31, 2015 and held public workshops in Carson City, Las Vegas, and Elko.

Letters submitted during the comment period with NDEP responses and the public workshop meeting notes are provided on the NDEP-BWQP website. Recordings of the workshops are available on request.

Considering comments received, NDEP expects to undertake the following water quality standards activities over the next few years: (1) revise standards for the Truckee River, Lahontan Reservoir and Lower Humboldt River Basin tributary streams; (2) update alkalinity, total suspended solids, turbidity, and color numeric criteria for most waters statewide; (3) reformat how the nitrogen species are presented in the WQS tables; (4) remove reference to the 95th percentile for the total dissolved solids beneficial use standard; (5) evaluate if it is appropriate to adopt new EPA recommended criteria for ammonia and bacteria; (6) initiate review of the Las Vegas Wash, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, and the Colorado River; (7) continue evaluation of temperature, dissolved oxygen, and copper biotic ligand model criteria.

Contact John Heggeness at (775) 687-9449 or jheggene@ndep.nv.gov with questions or comments.