

# National Pollutant Elimination System Tracer Dye General Permit

## FACT SHEET (pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

<b>Permit Name:</b>	General Permit for “Tracer Dye Discharges to Waters of the State of Nevada that meet the Definition of Waters of the United States”
<b>Permit Number:</b>	NVG000001
<b>Location:</b>	This general permit covers the State of Nevada except for Tribal Lands. USEPA Region 9 is the permitting authority for National Pollutant Elimination System (NPDES) discharges on Tribal Lands.
<b>Description of Discharge:</b>	Discharge of tracer dye during hydrologic studies and other water tracing activities.
<b>Receiving Water Characteristics:</b>	Variable depending on project location.
<b>Purpose:</b>	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is proposing to issue a tracer dye general permit.

### I. Background

The Clean Water Act provides that the discharge of pollutants to Waters of the United States (WoUS) from any point source is prohibited, unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES permit. Federal regulations allow authorized states to issue either General Permits or individual permits to regulate discharges of pollutants to WoUS.

The objective of this permit is to control and reduce pollution to Waters of the State of Nevada that meet the definition of WoUS from discharges associated with the use of tracer dyes. Tracer dye is any colored dye that is discharged into a waterbody and is used to track flow within that waterbody. Tracer dye is often used for various hydrologic time travel and water tracing studies.

### II. Permit Coverage and Authorization

Application Requirements: Parts 1 and 2 of the Tracer Dye General Permit detail the requirements that must be met to obtain coverage under the permit. Part 2.3 of the permit specifies that Notice of Intent (NOI) forms must be submitted using NDEP’s electronic NOI system. The NOI application and renewal application may be accessed via the NDEP website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/>. Dischargers seeking authorization for tracer dye discharges under this general permit shall submit an NOI and filing fee with NDEP no later than 14 days prior to the start of the permitted activity. Following receipt of the NOI Certification Page, the pre-project

report, and applicable Application Fee, NDEP will determine whether the NOI is complete and confirm coverage by providing an Authorization to Discharge with a site authorization number. If NDEP determines the NOI is incomplete, coverage may not be authorized until a completed NOI is submitted. NDEP will notify an applicant of an incomplete application.

Termination Requirements: To terminate coverage, the Permittee shall submit a completed hard-copy NOT form, available at <http://ndep.nv.gov/>, to the address listed on the form and in Part 5.23 of this permit. The submitted form shall include a wet signature; copies will not be accepted. The Permittee's authorization to discharge will expire at midnight of the day that a complete NOT form is received by NDEP. Until the authorization to discharge is terminated, the Permittee is responsible for meeting the terms and conditions of this permit.

### **III. Permit Requirements and Reporting**

This permit is in response to requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and implementation of federal regulations, and is based on the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The discharge of tracer dye, as authorized by this permit, cannot cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard, and the concentration of tracer dye cannot exceed any USEPA or National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) standard at a water-user withdrawal point. In accordance with Part 1.4.3, when tracer dye discharges are proposed to water quality-impaired waters that are contained in the current 303(d) *Impaired Water Body* listing issued by NDEP Bureau of Water Quality Planning, the Permittee shall demonstrate how the discharge will not further degrade the waterbody of concern. Information for 303(d) listed waters can be found on the following NDEP website: <http://ndep.nv.gov/>. If a Permittee discharges into a waterbody with an established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the Permittee shall comply with all applicable TMDL requirements. The Permittee shall control discharges to surface waters, as necessary, to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard. If at any time the Permittee becomes aware, or NDEP determines, that the discharge causes or contributes to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standard, the Permittee shall cease discharge and notify NDEP and the potentially affected water withdrawal user within 24 hours of becoming aware of the exceedance.

The Permittee shall notify the Division, the public, and downstream beneficial users at least 7 days prior to the commencement of tracer dye use in Surface Waters of the State of Nevada. During tracer dye discharges, the Permittee shall take at least 1 water sample per hour, during the 5 hour window in which the maximum tracer dye concentration is expected at the intake for each water-withdrawal user listed in the NOI submittal. The water samples shall be taken within 200 feet of the intake, or as close as safely reasonable. The concentration of the tracer dye shall not exceed 10 µg/L at the sample point closest to each water intake. In the event that the tracer dye concentration limit of 10 µg/L is exceeded, the Permittee shall notify NDEP and the potentially affected water withdrawal user within 24 hours of becoming aware of the exceedance. Additional details concerning effluent limitations and standards can be found in Part 3 of this general permit.

A Quarterly Report shall be submitted to the Division, by the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the end of each quarter, and include the following information about each tracer dye discharge event: location of tracer dye injection site(s); volume of tracer dye used; time of discharge; method of discharge; location of any sampling sites; photographic documentation that depicts the discharge activities, the scope of operations, monitoring location(s), discharge point(s), and any relevant activity related to the discharge; and concentration and location (latitude and longitude) of the tracer dye at the closest sampling point, reasonably close to the intake

