

FACT SHEET
(pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

GENERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT NUMBER: GNEV93001

PERMITTEE: National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office

LOCATION: The Nevada Test Site

TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS:

The Administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has made the tentative determination to re-issue the Water Pollution Control General Permit, GNEV 93001, to the National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO). The permit authorizes the NNSA/NSO and any operator under contract to them, to commission, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission sewage treatment works at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

The proposed effluent limitations on existing and new facilities or ancillaries prohibit discharge to the surface waters of the state (with allowance for extraordinary storm events) and prohibit the degradation of existing or potential underground sources of drinking water.

The proposed standard of performance for existing facilities and for new construction is prescribed by regulation and is appropriately limited to the no-discharge standard. New or modified facilities must comply with permit conditions and limitations upon commencement of sewage treatment in the new or modified facility.

The permit requires weekly monitoring on the liquid level of each basin, quarterly monitoring on the influent flow for pH (time- or flow-weighted composite) and BOD₅ (time- or flow-weighted composite). The permit requires quarterly BOD₅ (time- or flow-weighted composite) and total dissolved solids (time- or flow-weighted composite) monitoring on the influent flow, according to EPA accepted methods. In the event of accidental overflow, or catastrophic breach of a system part, NNSA/NSO will sample and analyze the spill area for the influent toxics listed in Appendix I of the permit.

All lagoons have attained full containment either through an originally-installed liner, or a newly-installed liner, or through bioaccumulation.

The NDEP staff have written a Rationale Document and placed it in the permit files. It is available for public review. The Rationale establishes the regulatory authority for the General Permit, establishes the principles for selecting monitoring parameters, lists the parameters to be monitored, and identifies the authorized facilities.

CITATION OF STANDARDS, USES AND LIMITATIONS:

The water quality standards in NAC445A.121, "Standards applicable to all waters," apply to all surface water of the state, regardless of designation or classifications, and to all groundwater.

The Nevada policy of "non-degradation of groundwater" is established by NRS445A.490, "Permits: Issuance prohibited in certain cases." No permit may be issued which authorizes the degradation of existing or potential underground sources of drinking water.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES:

Notice of the proposed action to re-issue this permit will be published in the Las Vegas Review Journal, a daily newspaper of general circulation in southern Nevada. For not less than 30 days following the date of publication, persons may submit written comments on the terms or conditions of the draft permit. All written comments will be made part of the public record and will be considered in the final determination. The 30-day period may be prolonged at the Director's discretion.

The Director or his delegate will take requests from any individual for a public hearing. If sufficient interest for a hearing is perceived by the Director, the time and place for such a hearing will be published in the Las Vegas Review Journal, not less than 30 days in advance of the published date for the hearing. The agenda of the hearing must be limited to those issues presented in the request for a public hearing.

Upon completing the public participation process, the final determination of the Director may be challenged through petition of the State Environmental Commission, in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute 445A.605.

The permittee has equal opportunity as does any other person to submit comments or make requests or attend hearings during the period for public participation.

The draft permit, the application and its supplemental information will be available for public review and comment for a period of thirty (30) days beginning June 1, 2010 and ending July 1, 2010. All interested parties may review the documents during standard business hours at:

- 1.) Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
1771 E. Flamingo Road
Suite 121-A
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-0837
tel. (702) 486-2850

- 2.) National Nuclear Security Administration
Nevada Site Office
Public Reading Facility
2621 Losee Road
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030
tel. (702) 295-1623

Table 1: Synopsis of Pertinent Information in the Permit.

Facility	Status	Type of ponds; type of waste	Characteristics
1. Area 23 Mercury lat. 36°39' 17.85620" N long. 116° 00' 43.61707" W	Active	Evaporation; sewage	max. design flow: 59,478 gal/day max. loading: 37.5 kgs/day average flow: 33,191 gal/day
2. Area 6 Yucca Lake lat. 36° 56' 28.86650" N long. 116° 2' 18.12221" W	Active	Evaporation; sewage	max. design flow: 8,943 gal/day max. loading: 8.66 kgs/day average flow: 4,996 gal/day
3. Area 23 Gate 100 lat. 36° 38' 42.86426" N long. 116° 00' 19.35953" W	Standby	Evaporation; sewage	max. design flow: 1,548 gal/day max. loading: 2.43 kgs/day average flow: 636 gal/day
4. Area 5 RWMS lat. 36° 50' 49.8949" N long. 115° 57' 07.103 " W	Standby	Evaporation; sewage	max. design flow: 875 gal/day max. loading: 0.955 kgs/day average flow: 798 gal/day
5. Area 6 DAF lat. 36° 53' 39.64485" N long. 116° 2' 18.40174" W	Standby	Evaporation, infiltration; sewage	max. design flow: 3,080 gal/day max. loading: 7.60 kgs/day average flow: 1,872 gal/day
6. Area 6 LANL lat. 36° 58' 36.1003" N long. 116° 1' 58.8113" W	Standby	Evaporation, infiltration; sewage	max. design flow: 5,070 gal/day max. loading: 5.01 kgs/day average flow: 1,285 gal/day
7. Area 12 Camp lat. 37° 11' 58.81942" N long. 116° 9' 3.15391" W	Standby	Evaporation, basins 4&5 infiltration; approved for sewage & drying portable toilet waste containing propylene glycol antifreeze.	max. design flow: 16,800 gal/day max. loading: 54.2 kgs/day average flow: 1,252 gal/day
8. Area 25 Central Support Area lat. 36° 46' 32.13788" N long. 116° 17' 44.53057" W	Standby	Evaporation, infiltration & percolation; 25 gal. cleaning chemicals/month allowed with sewage.	max. design flow: 7,989 gal/day max. loading: 7.37 kgs/day average flow: 5,036 gal/day
9. Area 25 Reactor Control Point lat. 36° 47' 53.42899" N long. 116° 16' 14.37693" W	Standby	Evaporation, infiltration & percolation; sewage.	max. design flow: 1,903 gal/day max. loading: 2.41 kgs/day average flow: 1,333 gal/day
10. Area 25 Engine Test Stand lat. 36° 49' 40.47755" N long. 116° 18' 42.95246" W	Standby	Evaporation, infiltration; Inactive for flowing sewage ; approved only for drying portable toilet waste containing propylene glycol antifreeze.	Allowable only if reactivated max. design flow: 1,428 gal/day max. loading: 2.27 kgs/day average flow: 0 gal/day