

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FACT SHEET

(pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

Permittee Name: Tonopah Public Utilities (TPU)
P.O. Box 151
Tonopah, NV 89049

Permit Number: NEV00026

Location: Tonopah Wastewater Treatment Facility
Cemetery Road
Approximately 1.75 miles NW of Tonopah, NV.
Township 3N, Range 42E, Section 34
Esmeralda County

Latitude: 38° 04.34' N

Longitude: 117° 16.06' W

Flow: 30-Day Average: 0.0499 MGD
Daily Maximum: Monitor and Report

Wellhead Protection

The subject facility is not within an established public water supply wellhead protection zone, nor is it within a 7000 foot buffer zone of any water supply well.

General:

The Applicant (TPU) has requested a renewal and modification of the existing groundwater discharge permit for disposal of treated municipal wastewater effluent. Currently, domestic and light commercial municipal wastewater is discharged to the TPU facility via a gravity sewer line from approximately 1,300 service connections in Tonopah, NV.

TPU has submitted and received NDEP approval for construction and operation of a new wastewater treatment facility, known as an Advanced Integrated Wastewater Pond System (AIWPS). The system head-works will consist of a self-cleaning spiral screen, followed by a Parshall flume/flowmeter assembly. The facility will utilize initial anaerobic treatment (clarification/digestion) in a lined 0.4 acre up-flow basin, followed by aeration in a series of three (3) 1.1 acre lined treatment ponds. Effluent will be discharged from the final treatment pond to eight (8) existing rapid infiltration basins (RIBs), totaling 14.6 acres. Waste sludge will be placed in four (4) on-site sludge drying beds.

Effluent from the new facility will be required to meet secondary treatment standards.

Receiving Water Characteristics:

Recent well drilling activities indicate groundwater below the site is not encountered within 200 feet below ground surface (bgs). Previously, a spring approximately one (1) mile downgradient from the RIBs was included in the monitoring schedule as a presumed indicator of groundwater quality.

Proposed Effluent Limitations and Special Conditions

Until the new facility is operational, the current permit limitations and requirements shall remain in place. The permit limitations are listed in Table 1 and 2 below

Table 1 – Old Plant Influent & Effluent Monitoring

PARAMETER	DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	30 - Day Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow (measured at head works)	0.95 MGD	0.95 MGD	Continuous	Recorder
Influent BOD ₅	Monitor & Report		Once/month	Daily Composite
Effluent BOD ₅	Monitor & Report		Once/month	Daily Composite
% BOD ₅ Removal	Calculate & Report (minimum removal of 20% required)		Once/month	Calculation
Influent TSS	Monitor & Report		Once/month	Daily Composite
Effluent TSS	Monitor & Report		Once/month	Daily Composite
% TSS Removal	Calculate & Report (minimum removal of 50% required)		Once/month	Calculation

Table 2 – Spring Monitoring

PARAMETER	DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	30 - Day Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
pH	Monitor & Report		Once/quarter	Discrete
Chloride	Monitor & Report		Once/quarter	Discrete
Nitrate (NO ₃ -N)	Monitor & Report		Once/quarter	Discrete
TDS	Monitor & Report		Once/quarter	Discrete
Fecal Coliform	Monitor & Report		Once/quarter	Discrete
Metals Analysis (see Attachment A of permit)	Monitor & Report		Once/year (during the 2 nd quarter)	Discrete

When the new AIWPS facility is constructed and operational, the following permit limitations and requirements shall apply:

Table 3 – AIWPS Facility Influent & Effluent Monitoring

PARAMETER		DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
		30 - Day Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Influent	Flow (MGD)	0.0499	Monitor & Report	Continuous	Recorder
	BOD ₅ (mg/l)	Monitor & Report	---	Monthly	Composite
	TSS (mg/l)	Monitor & Report	---	Monthly	Composite
Effluent	BOD ₅ (mg/l)	30	45	Monthly	Composite
	TSS (mg/l)	---	90	Monthly	Composite
Pond Freeboard (Ponds 1 thru 4) (feet)		2		Weekly	Discrete

Because no groundwater is encountered within 200 feet below ground surface, there will be no groundwater monitoring associated with the permitting of the AIWPS.

Schedule of Compliance

- a. The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the Schedule of Compliance after approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications that the Administrator may make in approving the Schedule of Compliance.
- b. **Within thirty (30) days of permit issuance**, the Permittee shall submit a construction schedule for the AIWPS, and a plan for decommissioning of the current facility shall be submitted to NDEP for review and approval.
- c. **Within forty-five (45) days of completion of the AIWPS**, the Permittee shall submit, for review and approval, an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual for the new facility, wet stamped by a Nevada registered Professional Engineer (P.E.).
- d. **Within ninety (90) days of completion of the AIWPS**, the Permittee shall submit, as-built drawings of the facility, wet stamped by a Nevada registered Professional Engineer (P.E.).

Rationale for Permit Requirements

The monitoring proposed by this permit is consistent with current facility practices and existing permit limitations. Monitoring of the downgradient spring was included in the monitoring schedule as a presumed indicator of groundwater quality. The new facility shall be required to meet secondary treatment standards.

Procedures for Public Comment:

The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to groundwaters of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit is being sent to the **Tonopah Times-Bonanza & Goldfield News** and the **Reno Gazette-Journal** for publication. The notice is also being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of 30 days following the date of the public notice. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator. The deadline at the Division for the receipt of all comments pertaining to this public notice period is **5:00 PM, April 3, 2006**.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator or any interested agency, person or group of persons. 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.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determines to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.238.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.605.

Proposed Determination

The Division has made the tentative determination to renew and modify the proposed permit for a period of five (5) years.

Prepared by: Janine O. Hartley
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