



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Kenny C. Guinn, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

May 5, 2006

The Bureau of Water Quality Planning of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is proposing changes to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) concerning beneficial uses and water quality standards in NAC445A.124 through 225.

Workshops will be held at the following locations at the dates and times indicated. The workshops will consist of brief presentations of each proposal by the Division followed by a question and answer period. The purpose of the workshops is to solicit public comments on the proposed revisions to the Nevada water quality standards. No items will be voted on and no actions will be taken.

Carson City	Las Vegas	Elko
May 23, 2006 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Richard H. Bryan State Office Building 901 South Stewart Street Multi-Purpose Conference Room, 1st Floor Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249	May 25, 2006 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Division of Environmental Protection Las Vegas Office 1771 East Flamingo Road, Suite 121-A Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-0837	June 1, 2006 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Elko Convention Center Cedar Room 700 Moren Way Elko, Nevada 89801

Following the workshops, the proposed revisions to the water quality standards will be considered for adoption by the State Environmental Commission at a public hearing. The date and place of that hearing will be announced at a later date.

Three categories of changes are proposed. These include: 1) changes to the water quality standards for select inorganic toxic chemicals related to the protection of aquatic life beneficial use, 2) adjusting the Colorado River Basin Salinity Standards references and 3) adjustments to the class waters and reorganization of the water quality standards tables.

- 1) The proposed changes to the inorganic toxic chemicals involve revising and/or amending the aquatic life criteria for the metals and inorganic chemicals contained in NAC 445A.144, "Standards for toxic materials applicable to designated waters". Proposed revisions to the water quality criteria values were developed from the latest guidance provided by EPA for protection of aquatic life [May 2005]. NDEP is also proposing to adopt aquatic life water quality criteria for two new inorganic toxic chemicals: aluminum and chloride, which are currently not included in NAC 445A.144, but are parameters recommended in the latest EPA guidance.

- 2) Revising the NAC to make changes referencing the Colorado Salinity Standards, contained in subsection 2 of NAC 445A.143, and amending the associated footnotes for Lake Mead, NAC 445A.195 and Las Vegas Bay, NAC 445A.197. No changes to the salinity criteria are proposed; only administrative changes will be made to NAC 445A.143, 195, and 197.
- 3) NDEP is proposing to make two categories of changes to the Class Waters NAC 445A.124 - 127 and water quality standards tables NAC 445A.146 - 225. These include:
 - o Adjustments to the Class Waters, which include changing beneficial use terminology, removing redundant narrative standards, adding *E. Coli* and total ammonia standards, and revising references to natural conditions; and
 - o Reorganizing Water Quality Standards Tables, NAC 445A.124 through 127 and 445A.146 through 225 by reformatting the tables to show the beneficial uses associated with each parameter, eliminating the current class waters format by creating an individual table showing water quality standards for each waterbody, and renumbering and reorganizing the individual water quality standards tables by Hydrographic Region.

The fact sheets summarizing each of the proposed changes are available on request and also online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>. Written comments on the proposed revisions may be submitted to NDEP until June 16, 2006.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations or assistance, or persons unable to attend these workshops, but desiring information on the regulation changes, please contact:

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