



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS Proposed Changes to Nevada Water Quality Standards April 3, 2012

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning (NDEP-BWQP) is proposing changes to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) concerning beneficial uses and water quality standards in NAC 445A.118 through 2234.

Workshops will be held at the following locations at the dates and times indicated. The workshops will consist of brief presentations by the NDEP-BWQP 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
<p>May 8, 2012 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Richard H. Bryan State Office Building 901 South Stewart Street Tahoe Hearing Room, 2nd Floor Carson City, Nevada 89701</p>	<p>May 9, 2012 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Clark County Library Jewel Box Theater 1401 E Flamingo Rd Las Vegas, Nevada 89119</p>	<p>May 16, 2010 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Elko County Library Meeting Room 720 Court Street Elko, Nevada 89801</p>

Following the workshops, NDEP-BWQP will incorporate any pertinent changes to the petitions and 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 (anticipated in the fall of 2012).

Five petitions will be presented and discussed at each of the workshops. Below is a brief description of each petition. Additional information for each petition is available under Water Quality Planning online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.

PETITION 1: SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR SMOKE, BRONCO, AND GRAY CREEKS

NDEP-BWQP is proposing to changes to water quality standards for Smoke Creek, NAC 445A.1286, Bronco Creek, 445A.1698, and Gray Creek, 445A.1702. Smoke, Bronco, and Gray Creeks beneficial uses and standards were reviewed in 2010 (petition R127-10). The SEC approved these changes on October 5, 2010. The changes were then sent to the EPA for approval. All of the proposed beneficial uses were approved by EPA. The numeric criteria were all approved except the Dissolved Oxygen for Gray Creek and Chloride for Smoke, Bronco, and Gray Creeks. This petition is to return the original Dissolved Oxygen standard of 7 mg/l to Gray Creek and update the Chloride numeric standard for Smoke, Bronco, and Gray Creeks to the current recommended EPA aquatic life criteria of 230/860 mg/l chronic and acute.

PETITION 2: PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES TO NAC 445A.1233

NDEP-BWQP is proposing to make administrative changes to subsection 2 in NAC 445A.1233 to replace “2008” with “2011” in reference to the Review - Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System (review). The “review” is updated and adopted by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) every three years, as required under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act. In addition, “At” will be inserted before Imperial Dam to match the language in the “review” and “Station” and “Salinity in mg/l” will be added as table headers. **No changes to the salinity criteria are proposed.**

PETITION 3: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STATEWIDE FECAL COLIFORM STANDARDS NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE NAC 445A.1256 THROUGH 2214

NDEP-BWQP is proposing to revise the indicator bacteria fecal coliform standard on most waters, statewide. Fecal coliform will be retained as a water quality standard to protect the beneficial uses other than recreation involving contact with the water (swimming). For example, the proposed fecal coliform standard of a Single Value of $\leq 1,000$ No./100 ml will protect for the uses of noncontact recreation, irrigation and livestock watering. The existing *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria water quality standard will continue to be the most restrictive standard to protect the waters for swimming and other contact recreation activities. The proposed revision is consistent with the EPA recommended water quality criteria. The water quality standards for the above mentioned waterbodies are contained in NAC 445A.1256 - 2234.

PETITION 4: THE PROPOSED REGULATION ESTABLISHES APPROPRIATE BENEFICIAL USES AND SITE-SPECIFIC WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR NORTH ANTELOPE CREEK.

North Antelope Creek is a tributary to Rock Creek in the Humboldt River Basin. North Antelope Creek does not have site-specific water quality standards, but is protected via the Tributary Rule (NAC 445A.1239) with the application of water quality standards established for Rock Creek. However, some of the beneficial uses for Rock Creek are not appropriate for North Antelope Creek, particularly municipal and domestic supply and irrigation. Beneficial uses proposed for North Antelope Creek include aquatic life, wildlife, watering of livestock, contact recreation, noncontact recreation and industrial supply. Water quality standards to protect these uses are also proposed.

PETITION 5: THE PROPOSED REGULATION UPDATES THE NUMERIC CRITERIA FOR PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC LIFE BENEFICIAL USE CONTAINED IN NAC 445A.1236 “STANDARDS FOR TOXIC MATERIALS APPLICABLE TO DESIGNATED WATERS”.

NDEP-BWQP is proposing changes to select water quality standards for toxic chemicals related to aquatic life. The proposed changes involve amending or adding aquatic life standards in NAC 445A.1236, “Standards for Toxic Materials Applicable to Designated Waters.” In addition, some modifications to the table are proposed to help with clarification of the toxic standards. The proposed revisions are based on updated criteria values that have been recommended by EPA as national recommended water quality criteria for protection of aquatic life [2009]. No changes are proposed to be made at this time to standards contained in NAC 445A.1236 related to municipal or domestic supply, irrigation, or watering of livestock.

Written comments to the proposed petitions will be accepted by NDEP until **June 8, 2012**. NDEP will incorporate any pertinent changes to the petitions and the proposed revisions to the water quality standards will then be considered for adoption by the State Environmental Commission.

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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