



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

Public Notice

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN

The Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), in Sections NAC 445A.6758 to 445A.67612, inclusive, outlines the environmental review procedures to be followed by the Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with NAC 445A.67581, NDEP has determined that the applicant has previously completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) that substantially complies with the provisions of NAC 445A.6758 to 445A.67612, inclusive.

Project Name: Tonopah Water System Improvement & Arsenic Mitigation Project
Project No.: No. 10 Year 2011 Priority List
Applicant: Town of Tonopah for the Tonopah Public Utilities
Estimated Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Assistance: \$1,060,780

Tonopah Public Utilities' (TPU's) current water supply contains an average arsenic concentration of 12 parts per billion. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the Maximum Concentration Level (MCL) for arsenic in public drinking water from 50 to 10 parts per billion. NDEP adopted the EPA arsenic MCL. In order to achieve compliance with the federal and state arsenic MCL, TPU proposes to construct two new wells approximately four miles northeast of the existing Rye Patch well field in Ralston Valley, rehabilitate four existing wells – Wells #5 - #8, and install a new 14-inch transmission line from the new wells to the existing Booster Station #1. TPU also intends to remove Booster Station #1 and make improvements on its transmission main between Booster Station #1 and Booster Station #2 to maintain system flows and to replace 60+ year old steel pipeline. The proposed project will provide an adequate, reliable water supply to the TPU service areas that is compliant with federal and state drinking water standards. The total estimated cost of this project is \$7.2M. TPU is also seeking financial assistance from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA-RD).

The new wells and pipeline to connect these wells to the existing Rye Patch field requires a right-of-way authorization from the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM required an EA be prepared to assess the potential individual and cumulative environmental and cultural impacts of this project – see DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2011-0142-EA. The EA was provided by the BLM and the Nevada State Clearinghouse for public comment through December 21, 2011. The BLM determined that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The basis for this decision includes both the BLM's evaluation of the project's impact and the responses received from state and federal agencies. The BLM has issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and a Record of Decision granting the requested right-of-way. The USDA-RD conducted their review of the EA, consulted with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and has issued a FONSI. NDEP reviewed the EA and concurs with the determinations of both the BLM and USDA-RD. No further environmental review is recommended and the project is eligible for a FONSI under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Documentation to support these conclusions is available for public examination at the office of the Division of Environmental Protection, 901 S. Stewart St., Suite 4001, Carson City, Nevada. Comments for consideration on this proposed concurrence with the BLM and USDA-RD findings must be submitted by March 9, 2012 to:

Michelle Stamates
NDEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 4001
Carson City, NV 89701-5405

Comments may be submitted by FAX to (775) 687-9510 or by e-mail to mstamate@ndep.nv.gov. Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Michelle Stamates at (775) 687-9331.