



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). The Administrator has received a complete application for a new NPDES Permit NV0024201 for discharge from:

**NV Energy
6100 Neil Road
Reno, NV 89511**

The Applicant, NV Energy, provides electricity to 2.4 million customers. NV Energy owns, operates, and maintains approximately 28,000 underground electric utility vaults divided into three regions (West, East, and South) within the State of Nevada. The underground vaults occasionally accumulate water from subterranean seepage, surface water, and storm water. During routine and emergency situations the vaults must be maintained to provide reliable electrical service to customers. In order for NV Energy personnel to repair or replace equipment standing water must be removed from the affected vaults.

NV Energy conducts approximately 75 system-wide planned and unplanned discharge events from vault maintenance annually. On average the amount of water discharged from a vault is 1500-2000 gallons. Based upon this calculation, the annual amount of water discharged to waters of the state is estimated at 150,000 gallons. The maximum daily discharge will be permitted at 200,000 gallons per day to cover worst-case scenarios. The quality of the discharged water within NV Energy's vaults is considered high and is not expected to degrade waters of the state. BMPs will be required in any discharge event to minimize erosion, sediment transport and water quality degradation. Based on a review of the NPDES permit application, the Division has made the tentative determination to issue the NPDES permit for a period of five (5) years.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding permit issuance, or request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control, should submit their comments or request, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the date of newspaper publication, hand-delivered or postmarked no later than **5:00 P.M. on January 21, 2012**, either in person or by mail to:

**Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 4001
Carson City, NV 89701**

Comments and/or hearing requests received via facsimile or e-mail before **5:00 P.M. January 21, 2012** will also be accepted. All requests for hearings must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reason(s) why a hearing is warranted. All comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day comment period will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. The public notice of such hearings will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and objections will be considered at that time.

The application, proposed permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by contacting Jeryl Gardner, P.E., Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9423, or at jgardner@ndep.nv.gov. The office facsimile number is (775) 687-4684. This notice and the Fact Sheet for this facility are also available on the NDEP website at www.ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons who may be interested in this matter.