



# 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

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes and/or the Clean Water Act, where applicable. The Administrator has received an application for a Groundwater Discharge , permit number NS2003501 from the following applicant:

NEVADA POWER CO DBA NV ENERGY  
6226 W SAHARA AVE, MS 30  
LAS VEGAS, NV - 89119

### Permit NS2003501, SILVERHAWK GENERATING STATION:

The Permittee, NV Energy, has applied for renewal of groundwater discharge permit NS2003501, formerly NEV2003501. NV Energy operates the Silverhawk Generating Station (Silverhawk) located approximately 20 miles northeast of Las Vegas, in the Apex industrial Park. The facility address is 15111 Apex Power Parkway, North Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada. Access to the facility is via US-93/Great Basin Hwy.

Major water uses at Silverhawk are for boiler makeup, cooling water for the auxiliary cooling tower and makeup water for evaporative coolers used to pre-cool the air entering the gas turbines. Raw water (groundwater) is supplied to the facility via an on-site well. Recycled water undergoes enhanced recovery water treatment with chemicals to control biological growth, scaling and corrosion during use in the cooling towers, inlet chillers and evaporative cooler. Some of this water is demineralized by a reverse osmosis treatment system prior to use as boiler feed water for the steam turbines and heat recovery steam generators (HSRGs). A mixture of well water and demineralized water is used as makeup water to the cooling tower, inlet chillers and evaporative cooler.

Waste streams generated at the facility are derived from the auxiliary cooling tower, evaporative coolers and small quantities of reject water from the brine concentrator. Water treatment systems in use are designed to allow the water to be recycled approximately 7 times for plant reuse. Brine concentrate is discharged into two 0.8 acre, double lined (30 mil XR-5 geomembrane) evaporation ponds equipped with leak detection, collection and recovery systems. There is also a third 0.9 acre double lined (60 mil HDPE) Brine Concentrator Surge Pond, with leak detection and collection system, intended to hold auxiliary cooling tower blowdown water and other flows when the brine concentrator is off-line for repairs. Pond B may also be used as a second surge pond. Small amounts of service water from floor drains, wash down water, and effluent from an oil-water separator are also discharged into the evaporation ponds. Stormwater is directed to an on-site conveyance system which discharges the stormwater offsite.

On the basis of preliminary review of the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes, as amended, and implementing regulations, the Administrator proposes to issue Permit NS2003501 to discharge for a five (5) year period, subject to certain effluent limitations.

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 03/02/2015 , either in person or by mail to:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Water Pollution Control  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 89701

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. All comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the formulation of final determination(s) regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. A public notice of such hearing will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the 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 applications, proposed permits, 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 Michele Reid, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, at (775) 687-9434 or at [mreid@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:mreid@ndep.nv.gov). The office facsimile number is (775) 687-4684. For further information, the fact sheet for this project can be viewed at the following website: <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.

Please bring the forgoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you know would be interested in this matter.