



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 NS0087034 from the following applicant:

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - ELY STATE PRISON
5500 SNYDER AVENUE, BLDG. 89
CARSON CITY, NV - 89701

Permit NS0087034, ELY STATE PRISON:

The Permittee, State of Nevada Department of Corrections – Ely State Prison (ESP), has applied for the renewal of Permit NS0087034 for their wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), located at 4569 North State Route 490, approximately 16 miles northwest of Ely, within White Pine County, Nevada. The Permittee proposes to continue discharging treated wastewater to rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) located onsite.

The facility at the Ely Maximum State Prison, run by the Nevada Department of Corrections, uses a submerged fixed-film reactor to treat wastewater from approximately 1,750 inmates and staff. The submerged fixed-film reactor has separate aerobic (nitrification) and anoxic (denitrification) zones to provide treatment to reduce total nitrogen levels, total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand. The former treatment ponds will be used as polishing ponds to settle microbial growth that sloughs off the fixed-film media. Lysimeters, serving as monitoring wells, were installed in the RIBs to demonstrate denitrification below 10 mg/L. Alternate loading and drying cycles are used at the RIBs to further reduce nitrogen in the soil strata prior to groundwater percolation. Two down-gradient monitoring wells are sampled to demonstrate compliance with State groundwater requirements.

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 NS0087034 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 should submit their comments or request, in writing, hand delivered or postmarked no later than 5:00 P.M. on 03/26/2026, 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.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX or any interested agency, person or group of persons. 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. Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determined to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.238.

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 Melissa Hanson, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, at (775) 687-9315 or at mhanson@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: <https://ndep.nv.gov/posts/category/water>.

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