

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Joe Lombardo, *Governor*James A. Settelmeyer, *Director*Jennifer L. Carr, *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 NS2025512 from the following applicant:

KIEWIT POWER CONSTRUCTORS 8900 RENNER BLVD. LENEXA, KS - 66219

## Permit NS2025512, SIERRA SOLAR PHASE I:

This is a new permit. The Permittee, Kiewit Power Constructors, proposes to construct and operate the Sierra Solar Project. Phase I will consist of a 600-megawatt direct current (MWdc) solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant and an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility. Water for dust suppression during construction will be supplied from three (3) onsite non-potable groundwater wells. Construction activities will involve the operation of heavy construction equipment within the project site.

Working in waterways will include grading access roads across an ephemeral stream and trenching underground electrical cables below the ephemeral stream channel. The project is located within a valley between two mountain ranges, with an ephemeral wash centrally located within the project limits. The entire project footprint drains to this centrally located ephemeral wash, which is non-jurisdictional under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and ultimately drains south to the Fernley Sink. This wash, depicted on the attached figure, is associated with a 100-year floodplain.

Access road construction across the ephemeral wash will be performed using heavy equipment such as excavators, bulldozers, skid steers, haul trucks, and graders to install low-water crossings constructed of native rock and soil material. Electrical cable subgrade installation within the ephemeral wash will be performed using excavators, cable plows, and bulldozers.

The site has previously been authorized under two temporary groundwater discharge permits (TNS-54739 and TNS-55323), issued primarily for early site mobilization and as a secondary source for dust control. In addition, two temporary Working in Waterways permits (NVW-55325 and NVW-54447) were issued for access road construction and waterway crossings. The Permittee now seeks an individual permit to cover the full three-year duration of the project. During the early phases of construction, prior to the development of onsite wells, the Permittee obtained authorization for use of an off-site non-potable groundwater supply well for dust control. This well was located approximately 18 miles southwest of the project area in the Brady's Hot Spring Watershed.

The Sierra Solar Project site encompasses approximately 2,879 acres. This permit will also authorize work in waterways occurring within the project boundary.

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 NS2025512 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 11/25/2025, 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 Lior Singer P.E. M.Sc., Bureau of Water Pollution Control, at (775) 687-9431 or at lsinger@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.