

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)

FACT SHEET (pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

GENERAL PERMIT DESIGNATION: GNEVOSDS09, GNEVTHT09 & GNEVPHT09

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Administrator is proposing three (3) new general permits to govern the proper treatment and disposal of domestic sewage from commercial properties. The proposed general permits have the following designations:

GNEVOSDS09 - Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS) – commercial septic systems. The objective of this permit is to control and reduce pollution of Waters of the State from domestic sewage related to commercial activities. This permit would govern standard OSDS systems along with other advanced treatment units such as de-nitrification and aerobic systems. Subsurface discharges of treated wastewater to ground waters of the State via percolation would be allowed under a set of conditions specified in the permit.

GNEVTHT09 - Temporary Holding Tanks. These systems would only collect domestic sewage from temporary commercial operations such as mining and geothermal exploration; wastewater would then be transferred for treatment and disposal. The proposed permit would be valid for a period of 180 days; renewals would be granted at the Division's discretion.

GNEVPHT09 - Permanent Holding Tanks. These systems will only collect domestic sewage from permanent commercial operations where due to remote nature of the locations, standard domestic sewage treatments methods along with sub-surface disposal can not be implemented in a practical way. Wastewater would then be transferred for treatment and disposal.

Please note that all permit conditions are defined according to the intended use and are site specific. Testing, monitoring and reporting conditions may apply regarding effluent quality (OSDS systems) and pumping frequency (holding tanks). The maximum size/volume limit for this general permits is 15,000 gallons. Based on specific intended use and site conditions, the Division may require an individual permit.

THE PROPOSED GENERAL PERMITS DO NOT APPLY TO RESIDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS; THEY APPLY ONLY TO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.

GENERAL OSDS AND HOLDING TANK PROGRAMS DESCRIPTION:

The proposed **NEVOSDS09** permit is for discharges of treated waste water associated OSDS systems established for the three (3) categories described below. This general permit will be implemented to authorize discharges of treated domestic sewage related to commercial activities to ground waters of the State with a the set of conditions described below. The use of this general permit will allow NDEP to provide timely coverage for discharges, which if properly managed, will not impact public health, water quality or the environment.

a. **CATEGORY 1** – Effluent from a standard septic tank with no mechanical/aerobic systems or no recirculating system – no sample required.

b. **CATEGORY 2** – Effluent from a mechanical/aerobic system, multiple-pass filtration system (i.e. recirculating sand filters, recirculating textile filters, recirculating foam filters), single pass bed filters (i.e. sand filters, peat filters) shall be sampled and analyzed as specified in Table – 1

Table – 1: Constituents required to be sampled in Category 2

| Constituent | Discharge Limit (mg/l) | Frequency |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| BOD ₅ | 30 | Quarterly |
| TSS | 30 | Quarterly |
| Total Oil and Grease | < 20 | Quarterly |

c. **CATEGORY 3** – Effluent from a denitrification system, regardless of disposal method shall be sampled and analyzed as specified in Table - 2.

Table - 2: Constituents required to be sampled in Category 3

| Constituent | Discharge Limit (mg/l) | Frequency |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| BOD ₅ | 30 | Quarterly |
| TSS | 30 | Quarterly |
| Total Oil and Grease | < 20 | Quarterly |
| Total Nitrogen | 20 | Quarterly |

Additional monitoring requirements for all categories may be added at the Division's discretion. Surfacing of any substance from a system is strictly prohibited. The Permittee is required to implement an Operations & Maintenance (O & M) manual with operational policies that ensure proper equipment operation and compliance with the terms and conditions of this general permit.

GNEVTHT09 & GNEVPHT09 permits are proposed to govern both temporary and permanent holding tank applications. Annual reports are required from holding tank operations; these reports require information such as pumping contractor and pumping frequency. A permitted facility is also required to operate within a Division approved O & M manual. System failure due to inadequate operation, maintenance, inadequate pumping frequency or other general negligence shall be considered a violation of the permit and grounds for enforcement action.

The Permittee shall not begin construction of an OSDS systems and/or holding tanks until the Division has issued a Construction Authorization. Construction authorization will be issued in writing, upon Division approval of design plans and specifications. Construction shall conform to the plans and specifications approved by the Division in the Construction Authorization. Modifications, additions, repairs (excluding emergency repairs) shall be designed by a Professional Engineer and approved by the Division prior to any work commencing.

OSDS dischargers are required to request inclusion in this general permit by completing a Notice of Inclusion (NOI) and submitting the appropriate fee with the Division prior to the start of discharge. Certification of Completion by the design engineer, in accordance with NAC 445A, must be submitted before inclusion will be granted.

PROHIBITED DISCHARGES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Discharge of industrial waste.
- Discharge of hazardous materials.
- Discharge of untreated domestic/sanitary waste.
- Excessive amounts of fats, oil or organic load.
- Unapproved biohazardous waste.
- Reverse osmosis (RO) waste streams or filter backwash.
- Discharges that cause or contribute to exceedances of Nevada Water Quality standards (not already above background – i.e. TDS),
- Discharges from vehicle and equipment washing or vehicle maintenance, including mobile washes (car, carpet, animal, etc.) other than those approved by the Division.
- Discharges not authorized under these permits.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS & RATIONAL:

The permit requires routine sampling, implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP), O & M and reporting to ensure the site is performing at a level that minimizes water pollution and protects public health and the environment.

For discharges which are not granted coverage under this permit because the discharge contains pollutants in quantities which represent reasonable potential to cause or contribute to

violations of water quality standards, the discharger must apply for an individual NPDES permit.

Procedures for Public Comment: The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to surface waters of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit, is being sent to the **Reno Gazette-Journal, Nevada Appeal, Humboldt Sun, Las Vegas Review Journal, Pahrump Valley Times** and the **Elko Daily Free Press** for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing until 5:00 P.M. **January 16th, 2009**, a period of 30 days following the date of the public notice. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator.

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 to accordance with NAC 445A.238.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.238.

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