

**Summary of Minutes and Comments of the
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's (NDEP) Public Workshops on Proposed
Changes to Nevada's Administrative Code (R101-14) revising the water quality
regulations for Carson River and Lahontan Reservoir**

Two workshops were held on the following dates and at the following locations:

November 2, 2015, 2:00 PM, Bryan Building, 901 S. Stewart St., Carson City
November 4, 2015, 2:00 PM, Hillyard Hall, 2945 Ft. Churchill St., Silver Springs

Participants were notified that the workshop proceedings and comments would be recorded, and the intent of the workshop was to provide an informational overview of the proposed regulation changes to the attendees. It was explained that regulatory action on the proposed regulation changes would not occur until the proposed changes were presented to the State Environmental Commission (SEC) tentatively scheduled for February 2016.

Carson City Workshop, November 2, 2015

The meeting was attended by:

Chris Mahannah, Churchill County
Ed James, Carson Water Subconservancy District
Brian Wadsworth, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Kameron Morgan, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Walter Winder, Truckee Carson Irrigation District
Rusty Jardine, Truckee Carson Irrigation District

Introduction

Mr. John Heggeness opened the meeting at 2:05 PM and provided an explanation of some open meeting law requirements such as the need to include a comment period before and after the presentation on the proposed regulation changes, and to record the meeting proceedings.

Proposed Regulation Revisions

Beginning at 2:15 PM, Mr. Randy Pahl presented the proposed water quality standard revisions for Carson River and Lahontan Reservoir. The current standards were established in 1984 and an update was deemed appropriate. Proposed revisions include:

- Revise limits of NAC 445A.1822 from “Dayton Bridge to US Highway 95A at Weeks” to “Dayton Bridge to Lahontan Reservoir”
- Revise limits of NAC 445A.1824 from “US Highway 95A at Weeks to Lahontan Dam” to “Lahontan Reservoir: entire reservoir”
- Revise parameter name “Total Phosphates” to “Total Phosphorus”
- Revise Total Phosphorus criterion from “S.V. < 0.06 mg/l” to “Jun.-Sep. Avg. < 0.09 mg/l”. The criterion is based upon a June-September average within each basin as measured in the upper 1 meter of the water column.
- Revise Dissolved Oxygen criterion to include following footnote – “When lake is stratified, the dissolved oxygen standard applies only to the epilimnion.”
- Revise Chloride criterion from “S.V. < 250 mg/l” to “1-hour avg. < 860 mg/l; 96-hour avg. < 230 mg/l”.
- Revise Alkalinity criterion from “<25% change from natural conditions” to “S.V. > 20 mg/l”.

At the close of the presentation, workshop attendees were notified that the deadline for submission of comments, either electronically or in written format, to the Bureau of Water Quality Planning (BWQP) would be 5:00 PM, November 18, 2015. The comments submitted and BWQP’s responses to the comments would be available on the SEC website prior to the hearing.

Comments during the Meeting and Responses

Comment: When Lahontan Reservoir turns over, does this affect the proposed change to the dissolved oxygen criteria? Does it meet the standard after turnover?

BWQP Response: After the lakes turns over (August-September), it loses its thermal stratification and the dissolved oxygen levels become similar throughout the water column. Our data shows the DO standard being met following turnover.

Comment: What happens when the reservoir doesn’t meet the standards?

BWQP Response: Other than the Reservoir being placed on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, there is no regulatory action that can be taken given that the impairments are nonpoint

source pollution. Also, BWQP has no authority to dictate water quantity management or force changes to water rights.

Comment: What are the ramifications of these standards on upstream waters - either the Carson or the Truckee River?

BWQP Response: Our goal has been to establish the most appropriate water quality standards for each waterbody. The proposed total phosphorus standard of 0.09 mg/l will be slightly lower than the total phosphorus standard of 0.10 mg/l for the Carson River upstream of the reservoir. The values are very close and we don't see any ramifications for the Carson River. By virtue of the Truckee Canal, Lahontan Reservoir is affected by water quality in Truckee River. The Truckee River total phosphorus standard is 0.05 mg/l. As the Truckee standard is more restrictive, the proposed Lahontan Reservoir standard will not impact the ongoing Truckee River TMDL review.

Silver Springs Workshop, November 4, 2015

The meeting was attended by:

Stephanie Wilson, US EPA

Introduction

Mr. John Heggeness opened the meeting at 2:10 PM and provided an explanation of some open meeting law requirements such as the need to include a comment period before and after the presentation on the proposed regulation changes, and to record the meeting proceedings.

Proposed Regulation Revisions

Beginning at 2:15 PM, Mr. Randy Pahl presented the proposed water quality standard revisions for Carson River and Lahontan Reservoir. The current standards were established in 1984 and an update was deemed appropriate. See discussion under November 2, 2015 Carson City for a summary of the proposed changes.

At the close of the presentation, workshop attendees were notified that the deadline for submission of comments, either electronically or in written format, to the Bureau of Water Quality Planning (BWQP) would be 5:00 PM, November 18, 2015. The comments submitted and BWQP's responses to the comments would be available on the SEC website prior to the hearing.

Comments during the Meeting and Responses

Comment: Does the proposal involve combining the reach of the Carson River from Weeks Bridge to Lahontan Reservoir with the reach of the Carson River from Dayton Bridge to Weeks Bridge (NAC 445A.1822)?

BWQP Response: Yes, the river reach between Weeks Bridge and Lahontan Reservoir will be combined with the reach just upstream with the water quality standards being the same as the Carson River from Dayton Bridge to Weeks Bridge.