



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

## NEVADA WATER OPERATOR

### CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

*Note: The NDEP has actively participated in Advisory Board meetings, but is not a member and does not speak for the Advisory Board.*

#### The NDEP's Perspective:

The Nevada Water Operator Certification Advisory Board (Advisory Board) has been in existence for many years, originally as an Advisory Board to the State Board of Health. The State Environmental Commission (SEC) re-appointed the members as advisory to the SEC following the 2005 Legislative Session in which Senate Bill 395 transferred the Safe Drinking Water regulatory program to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

Senate Bill 395 transferred the authority for implementation of NRS 445A.870 to the SEC. This Statute relates to appointment of an advisory board in matters relating to the certification of operators of community and non-community water systems. At the March 8, 2006 hearing of the SEC, the existing Advisory Board members were appointed for a two-year term, thus expiring in March 2008.

Prior to being appointed by the SEC, the Advisory Board was instrumental in the development of regulations for the Certification of Operators that the NDEP uses today. Since that time, the existence of the Advisory Board has provided a valuable mechanism by which NDEP can routinely communicate with the regulated community of water system operators and other associated interested parties. The Advisory Board had historically held formal open meetings on a quarterly schedule, which continued under the SEC.

During the fall of 2007, the NDEP believed it to be prudent to plan for the expiration of Board Member terms in March 2008 and have a plan for continuing the valuable information exchange in the event that the members were not re-appointed for an additional term. At the September 14, 2007 Advisory Board Meeting, the NDEP presented a proposal for the members to consider for possible conversion of the Advisory Board to an open Forum format. Such a Forum would continue to provide a regular mechanism for communication among the regulated community of certified operators, the American Water Works Association who provides operator training and testing, the NDEP and others.

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008 the Advisory Board is meeting to discuss and take action on the NDEP proposal for a new Nevada Certified Drinking Water Operators Forum. The NDEP anticipates that the Advisory Board could take one of three possible actions. It will vote to either: (1) accept the proposal and not seek re-appointment by the SEC; (2) seek re-appointment as an Advisory Board; or (3) take no action and allow the appointments, and other

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activities, to expire. The NDEP recognizes that the SEC will consider all relevant information in making a decision on whether or not to re-appoint the Advisory Board to another term. The NDEP will provide testimony to the SEC on March 18, 2008 regarding the action(s) taken by the Advisory Board on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Prepared by:*

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*Chief, NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water*

*March 4, 2008*

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