



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

Bureau of Water Quality Planning

Proposed Changes to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Standards Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.143 (New NAC 445A.1233)

Fact Sheet
April 2010

Background

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 131 give states responsibility for setting, reviewing and revising beneficial uses and water quality standards. State of Nevada authorities are contained in Nevada Revised Statutes 445A.425, 520 and 565 and water quality standards for waters of Nevada are found in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.118 through 445A.225 (New NAC numbers 445A.118 through 2234). Water quality standards are set for a waterbody segment at a level designed to protect and ensure a continuation of the designated beneficial use(s) set for the waterbody. Standards are based on criteria, such as, physical, chemical and biological characteristics, to protect the designated beneficial use(s). Workshops are held to obtain comments on proposed beneficial uses and/or water quality standards from federal, state and local agencies and the general public. Proposed standards are presented at a public hearing to the Nevada State Environmental Commission (SEC) for review and adoption. Standards adopted by the SEC are then subject to approval by the USEPA before incorporating into the NAC.

Summary of Changes to Water Quality Standards

NDEP is proposing to make administrative changes to subsection 2 in NAC 445A.143 (NAC 445A.1233) to replace "2005" with "most current" in reference to the Review - Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System (review). The "review" is updated and adopted by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (forum) every three years, as required under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act. Changing the reference to "most current" will negate the need to revise NAC 445A.143 each time a new "review" is adopted by the "forum." **No changes to the salinity criteria are proposed.** Additionally, NDEP is proposing to replace the phrase "as presented by" with "as adopted by" to be consistent with the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum's protocol.

For questions, comments or additional information please contact:

Dave Simpson

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Water Quality Planning

901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 4001

Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone: (775) 687-9548

FAX: (775) 687-5856

dsimpson@ndep.nv.gov