



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

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DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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## Bureau of Water Quality Planning

**P2012-06**

### **Proposed Changes to Water Quality Standards**

### **Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.1286, 1698 and 1702**

## Fact Sheet

June 2012

### Background

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 131 give states responsibility for setting, reviewing, and revising water quality standards. Water quality standards include criteria that provide limits on a particular pollutant or limits on a condition of a waterbody designed to protect and support a designated use. Under Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes and periodically updates water quality criteria reflecting the latest scientific data and information on the environmental effects of pollutants. The revised criteria are used by States and Tribes to update water quality standards that provide for the protection and propagation of aquatic life and wildlife; recreation in and on the water; public water supplies; and agricultural and industrial uses. State of Nevada requirements for water quality standards are contained in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 445A.425, 445A.520, and 445A.565 and water quality standards for waters of Nevada are found in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.118 through 445A.2234.

### Summary of Proposed Changes to Water Quality Standards

The proposed changes to water quality standards are for Smoke Creek, NAC 445A.1286, Bronco Creek, 445A.1698, and Gray Creek, 445A.1702. Smoke, Bronco, and Gray Creeks beneficial uses and standards were reviewed in 2010 (petition R127-10). The SEC approved these changes on October 5, 2010. The changes were then sent to the EPA for approval. All of the proposed beneficial uses were approved by EPA. The numeric criteria were all approved except the Dissolved Oxygen for Gray Creek and Chloride for Smoke, Bronco, and Gray Creeks. This petition is to return the original Dissolved Oxygen standard of 7 mg/l to Gray Creek and update the Chloride numeric standard for Smoke, Bronco, and Gray Creeks to the current recommended EPA aquatic life criteria of 230/860 mg/l chronic and acute.

The rationale document and the draft petition are available online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm> under Water Quality Planning.

For questions, comments or additional information please contact:

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