



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

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 Changes to Water Quality Standards

NDEP is proposing to make administrative changes to subsection 2 in NAC 445A.1233 to replace “2008” with “2011” 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. In addition, “At” will be inserted before Imperial Dam to match the language in the “review” and “Station” and “Salinity in mg/l” will be added as table headers. **No changes to the salinity criteria are proposed.**

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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