

Below are changes made to the Rationale/Petition following the public workshops and comment period.

None

Rationale To Nevada Water Quality Regulations NAC 445A.1233

Colorado River Salinity Standards



Prepared by:

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Quality Planning
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Rationale for Proposed Revisions to the Nevada Water Quality Regulations NAC 445A.1233

Colorado River Salinity Standards

INTRODUCTION

Under section 303 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 131, States have responsibility for setting, reviewing, and revising water quality standards. The following rationale discusses the review of the proposed changes to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) referencing the Colorado Salinity Standards, contained in the NAC 445A.1233. **No changes to the salinity criteria are proposed; only administrative changes will be made to NAC 445A.1233.**

BACKGROUND

In the 1960's and early 1970's, the seven Colorado River Basin states and federal representatives discussed the problem of increasing salinity levels in the lower reaches of the Colorado River. In 1972, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act, which mandated efforts to maintain water quality standards in the United States. At the same time, Mexico and the United States were discussing the increasing salinity of Colorado River water being delivered to Mexico.

In 1973, the Basin states established the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) for interstate cooperation and to provide the information needed to comply with Section 303(a) and (b) of the Clean Water Act. Governors from each of the seven Colorado River Basin states appoint representatives to the Forum. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) December 1974 regulations set forth a basin wide salinity control policy for the Colorado River Basin. The Colorado River Basin states, acting through the Forum, initially responded to this regulation by developing and submitting to the EPA a June 1975 report, *Water Quality Standards for Salinity Including Numeric Criteria and Plan of Implementation for Salinity Control - Colorado River System*.

Since the Colorado River Basin states' initial adoption, the water quality standards have been reviewed every three years (1978, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2011) as required by Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

NAC 445A.143 (NAC 445A.1233)

NDEP is proposing to make administrative changes to subsection 2 in NAC 445A.1233 to replace "2008" with "2011" in reference to the most current Review - Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System (review). The "review" is updated and adopted by the 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 proposed administrative changes are to replace the reference to "2008" with "2011" and to add "At" before Imperial Dam. The proposed updates to NAC 445A.1233 are shown below with **deletions in red and strikeout** and *additions in blue*:

NAC 445A.1233 Cooperation regarding Colorado River; salinity standards. (NRS 445A.425, 445A.520)

1. The State of Nevada will cooperate with the other Colorado River Basin states and the Federal Government to support and carry out the conclusions and recommendations adopted April 27, 1972, by the Reconvened 7th Session of the Conference in the Matter of Pollution of the Interstate Waters of the Colorado River and its Tributaries.

2. Pursuant to the "~~2008~~ *2011* Review of the Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System," as adopted by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, the flow weighted annual average concentrations for the calendar year for total dissolved solids in mg/l at the three lower main stem stations of the Colorado River are as follows:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Salinity in mg/l</u>
Below Hoover Dam	723
Below Parker Dam	747
<i>At</i> Imperial Dam	879

[Environmental Comm'n, Water Pollution Control Reg. Appendix B, eff. 5-2-78]—(NAC A 12-3-84; R017-99, 9-27-99; R159-06, 9-18-2006, R130-10, 12-16-2010)-(Substituted in revision for NAC 445a.143)

CONCLUSION

These proposed administrative changes to NAC 445A.1233 are to reference the most current Review - Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System, adopted by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum.