



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Proposed Changes to the Statewide Fecal Coliform Standards **Nevada Administrative Code NAC 445A.1254 through 2234**

Fact Sheet
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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

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is proposing to revise the indicator bacteria fecal coliform standard on most waters, statewide. Fecal coliform will be retained as a water quality standard to protect the beneficial uses other than recreation involving contact with the water (swimming). For example, the proposed fecal coliform standard of a Single Value of $\leq 1,000$ No./100 ml will protect for the uses of noncontact recreation, irrigation and livestock watering. The existing *E. coli* bacteria water quality standard will continue to be the most restrictive standard to protect the waters for swimming and other water contact recreation activities. The proposed revision is consistent with the EPA recommended water quality criteria. The water quality standards for the above mentioned waterbodies are contained in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.1256 - 2234.

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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