Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
Regulations and Standards
Washington, DC 20460
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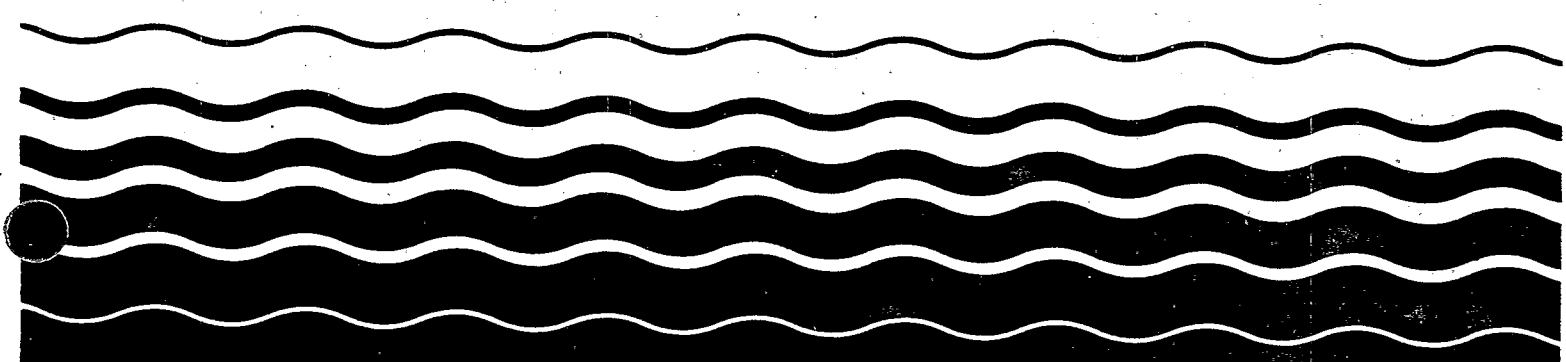
Water

State Water Quality Standards Summary: Nevada



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The reader should consult the water quality standards of a particular State for exact regulatory language applicable to that State. Copies of State water quality standards may be obtained from the State's Water Pollution Control Agency or its equivalent.

Additional information may also be obtained from the:

Standards Branch
Criteria and Standards Division (WH-585)
Office of Water Regulations and Standards
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460
202-475-7315

This document may be obtained only from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at the following address:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Front Royal Road
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NEVADA

Responsible Agency:

Nevada State Environmental Commission
201 S. Fall St.

Carson City, NV 89710
702-885-4670

State Contact:

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Division of Environmental Protection
201 South Fall Street

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201 South Fall Street

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702-885-4670 Fee: no Mailing List: yes

State Contact:

State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

1. Any surface waters of the state whose quality is higher than the applicable standards of water quality as of the date when those standards become effective must be maintained in their higher quality. No discharges of waste may be made which will result in lowering the quality of these waters unless it has been demonstrated to the commission that the lower quality is justifiable because of economic or social considerations. This subsection does not apply to normal agricultural rotation, improvement or farming practices.
2. Any person who plans to discharge waste from any public or private project or development which would constitute a new or increased source of pollution to waters of the state whose quality is high shall, as a part of the initial design of the project or development, provide;
(a) If the discharge will be from a point source, the highest and best degree of waste treatment available under the existing technology, consistent with best practice in the particular field under the conditions applicable, and reasonably consistent with the economic capability of the project or development.
(b) If the discharge will be from a diffuse source, such measures, methods of operation or practices as are reasonably calculated or designed to prevent, eliminate or reduce water pollution from the source, under the circumstances pertaining to the particular place, in order to achieve control over water pollution which is reasonably consistent with the economic capability of project or development.
3. This section does not limit a municipal sewage treatment plant in disposing of its solid sludge on land if the sludge is properly spread and incorporated into the soil.

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

Waters must be free from toxic substances attributable to domestic or industrial waste or other controllable sources at levels or combinations sufficient to be toxic to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life in amounts sufficient to interfere with any beneficial use of the water.
The presence of toxic materials in a water must be evaluated by use of a 96-hour bioassay. Survival of test organisms must not be less than that in control tests which utilize appropriate control water. The test organisms and control water must be specified by the department. In addition, acute bioassays may be required to determine effluent limitations and the exact test method to be used must be defined by the department. Failure to determine presence of toxic materials by these methods shall not preclude determination of excessive levels of toxic materials on the basis of other criteria or methods.
Wastes from municipal, industrial, or other controllable sources containing arsenic, barium, born, cadmium, chromium, cyanide, fluoride, lead, selenium, silver, copper and zinc that are reasonably amenable to treatment or control must not be discharged untreated or uncontrolled into the waters of Nevada (including the Colorado River System). In addition, the limits for concentrations of the chemical constituents must provide water quality consistent with the mandatory requirements of the 1962 Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

Waters must be free from the following substances or materials attributable to domestic or industrial waste or other controllable sources in amounts sufficient to interfere with any beneficial use of the water:
A. Substances that will settle to form sludge or bottom deposits in amounts sufficient to be unsightly,

putrescent or odorous;
B. Floating debris, oil, grease, scum and other floating materials in amounts sufficient to be unsightly;
C. Materials in amounts sufficient to produce taste or odor in the water or detectable off-flavor in the flesh of fish or in amounts sufficient to change the existing color, turbidity or other conditions in the receiving stream to such a degree as to create a public nuisance;
D. High temperature, biocides, organisms pathogenic to human beings, toxic, corrosive or other deleterious substances at levels or combinations sufficient to be toxic to human, animal, plant or aquatic life.
E. The presence of toxic materials in a water must be evaluated by use of a 96-hour bioassay.
F. Radioactive materials attributable to municipal, industrial or other controllable sources must be the minimum concentrations which are physically and economically feasible to achieve. The concentrations in water must not result in accumulation of radioactivity in plants or animals that result in a hazard to humans.
G. Waste from municipal, industrial, or other controllable sources containing substances that are reasonably amenable to treatment of control must not be discharged untreated or uncontrolled into the waters of Nevada.
H. The specified standards are not considered violated when the natural conditions of the receiving water are outside the established limits, including periods of extreme high or low flow. Where effluents are discharged to such waters, the discharges are not considered a contributor to substandard conditions provided maximum treatment in compliance with permit requirements is maintained.

State Narrative Language For: Low Flow

The specified standards are not considered violated when the natural conditions of the receiving water are outside the established limit, including periods of extreme high or low flow. Where effluents are discharged to such waters, the discharges are not considered a contributor to substandard conditions provided maximum treatment in compliance with permit requirements is maintained.

Classifications:

Class A

Class A waters include waters or portions of waters located in areas of little human habitation, no industrial development or intensive agriculture, and where the watershed is relatively undisturbed by man's activity.
Beneficial Uses: Drinking water supply with treatment by disinfection only, aquatic life habitat, wildlife propagation, agricultural use, recreation, boating and aesthetics.

Class B

Class B waters include waters or portions of waters which are located in areas of light or moderate human habitation, little industrial development, light-to-moderate agricultural development and where the watershed is only moderately influenced by man's activity.
Beneficial uses: Drinking water supply with treatment by disinfection and filtration only, for agricultural use, aquatic life and wildlife propagation, recreation, industrial supply and aesthetics.

Class C

Class C waters include waters or portions of waters which are located in areas of moderate-to-urban human habitation, industrial developments present in moderate amounts, agricultural practices are intensive and where the watershed is considerably altered by man's activity.
Beneficial Uses: Domestic water supply following complete treatment, agricultural use, aquatic life, wildlife propagation, recreation, aesthetics, and industrial supply.

Class D

This classification includes waters or portions of waters located in areas of urban development, highly industrialized or intensively used for agriculture or combination of all the above and where effluent sources include a multiplicity of waste discharges from the highly altered watershed.
Beneficial Uses: Boating and aesthetics, aquatic life, wildlife propagation, agricultural use and industrial supply except for food processing purposes.

NEVADA

	All Classes		Class A		Class B		Class C	
Physical								
pH								
Upper Value			8.5		8.5		8.5	
Lower Value			6.5		6.5		6.5	
Dissolved Oxygen								
Lower Value			6.0	mg/L	6.0	mg/L	6.0	mg/L
Temperature								
Upper Value			20	C	20	C	20	C
Secondary Upper Limit				C	24	C	34	C
Temperature Change								
Upper Value			Narr.		Narr.		3	C
Turbidity								
Upper Value	10	Jackson					10	NTU
Total Dissolved Solids								
Upper Value			500	mg/L	500	mg/L	500	mg/L
Nutrients								
Total Nitrogen								
Upper Value	Narr.							
Ammonia								
Upper Value	0.016	mg/L						
Nitrate								
Upper Value	Narr.							
Nitrite								
Upper Value	Narr.							
Phosphates								
Upper Value			0.15	mg/L	0.3	mg/L		
Toxic Metals								
Arsenic								
Upper Value	0.05	mg/L						
Cadmium								
Upper Value	0.0004	mg/L						
Chromium - Total								
Upper Value	0.05	mg/L						
Copper								
Upper Value	0.01	mg/L						
Cyanide								
Upper Value	0.005	mg/L						
Iron								
Upper Value	0.3	mg/L						
Secondary Upper Limit	1.0	mg/L						
Lead								
Upper Value	0.05	mg/L						
Mercury								
Upper Value	.00005	mg/L						
Zinc								
Upper Value	0.0009	mg/L						
Barium								
Upper Value	1.0	mg/L						

	All Classes	Class A	Class B	Class C
Beryllium				
Upper Value	0.011 mg/L			
Boron				
Upper Value	1.0 mg/L			
Manganese				
Upper Value	0.05 mg/L			
Secondary Upper Limit	0.20 mg/L			
Nickel				
Upper Value	0.1 mg/L			
Selenium				
Upper Value	0.01 mg/L			
Silver				
Upper Value	0.05 mg/L			
Pesticides				
Aldrin				
Upper Value	0.003 ug/L			
Dieldrin				
Upper Value	0.003 ug/L			
Chlordane				
Upper Value	0.01 ug/L			
2,4 D				
Upper Value	100 ug/L			
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)				
Upper Value	10 ug/L			
DDT				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Demeton				
Upper Value	0.1 ug/L			
Endosulfan				
Upper Value	0.003 ug/L			
Endrin				
Upper Value	0.004 ug/L			
Guthion				
Upper Value	0.01 ug/L			
Heptachlor				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Lindane				
Upper Value	0.01 ug/L			
Malathion				
Upper Value	0.1 ug/L			
Methoxychlor				
Upper Value	0.03 ug/L			
Mirex				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Parathion				
Upper Value	0.004 ug/L			
Toxaphene				
Upper Value	0.005 ug/L			
Organics				

	All Classes	Class A	Class B	Class C
Phenolics				
Upper Value	0.001 mg/L			
Phthalate Esters				
Upper Value	0.003 mg/L			
PCBs				
Upper Value	0.001 ug/L			
Bacteria				
Fecal Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	Narr.

	Class D	
Physical		
pH		
Upper Value	9.0	
Lower Value	6.0	
Dissolved Oxygen		
Lower Value	3.0	mg/L
Turbidity		
Upper Value	10	NTU
Nutrients		
Toxic Metals		
Pesticides		
Organics		
Bacteria		