

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Am. Sec.

VALLEA ROSE ROSIE RIGS MOBILE CAR WASH

1401 Reginald Court
Spanish Springs, Nevada 89436

(775) 742-9581 cell.
(775) 424-2025 fax
rosierigs@power.net.net

April 27, 2003

Dear

SB200 is a bill stemming from continuous rising levels of nitrates in our wells, which supply our drinking water in Spanish Springs. USGS did a study to determine where the nitrates are coming from. Because traces of antibiotics, birth control and caffeine attached to the nitrates were found in our wells USGS believes the septic tanks are polluting our states waters. In order for septic tanks to work properly they should only be installed at a rate of 99 tanks per square mile. Currently half of the 1,965 homes with septic tanks are on less than 1/2 acre.

Depending on the size of the individual lot costs vary for this project from \$14,900.00 to \$24,000.00 per homeowner. The job has been broken down into 9 phases. Senator Reid's office has secured funding of \$15,000,000.00 for the first five phases. Currently the feds have secured financial assistance, *and the homeowners are being forced to pay the rest.*

Enclosed you will find letters, maps and a color diagram of the nitrate levels in our wells in Spanish Springs affecting our drinking water. The legal limit of nitrate is 10ppm. By looking at the map enclosed you will see our wells are polluted way above the legal limit.

My hope with this bill is to secure funding for these homeowners who have bought homes unbeknownst, to them there was a problem, Washoe County was aware of the problems as was one of the biggest home developers out here who had home buyers sign a form at closing that when the sewer project came to fruition they would not fight it.

Since the Board of Washoe County Commissioners in early 1990's would not take heed to the Washoe County 's Health Department concern of the septic tanks on 1/3 acre lots or to the 1991 Regional Plan of eliminating septic tanks on smaller lots the health Department sent a letter to NDEP asking for help on this matter. Through countless public meetings the community agrees we want to protect our water and sewer is the way to accomplish this however we are just very uncomfortable with these figures and would like some financial assistance on the countys' behalf as well as the state to help bring down these costs. Personally I am concerned about people on fixed incomes whether it be due to disability or retirement.

Thank you for your time,
Vallea Rose
742-9581.

Vallea

D1 of 8

**ORIGINALS ON FILE IN THE
RESEARCH LIBRARY**

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS D1-8
DATE: 4/28/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT D
SUBMITTED BY: Vallea Rose

Com. Sec.



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

March 16, 1995

Dick Reavis, Deputy Administrator
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
333 West Nye Lane
Carson City NV 89710

**SUBJECT: Increasing Nitrate Levels in Public Water Wells
in the Spanish Springs Valley.**

Dear Mr. Reavis:

The nitrate levels in public water wells in the Spanish Springs Valley have been increasing for several years. The levels in two of the county owned wells are approaching the Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 parts per million (reported as nitrogen). There are several potential sources of Nitrates such as livestock wastes, agricultural activities, and septic system effluent. With the available data, it is difficult to determine the contribution from each of these potential sources. However, we can calculate the contribution from septic systems. There are 2129 developed or approved parcels on septic systems in the central part of the valley with an average of 3.6 people per household. Consequently, each dwelling generates approximately 64 pounds of nitrogen per year. The nitrate loading from these septic systems is over 136,000 pounds per year. About half of these parcels have been approved since 1990. The existing septic systems are contributing a significant amount of nitrates to the ground water. The nitrate loading is increasing with every new septic system.

There is an agreement being negotiated between the City of Sparks, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, and several developers to extend the sewer interceptor to La Psada Drive. It has not been finalized and approved yet. Also, funds to increase the interceptor size, and the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility capacity to serve the new and existing parcels, have not been approved. There are several agencies working to resolve these issues, and once the agreement is signed and the funding is approved, the interceptor could be on line within six months.

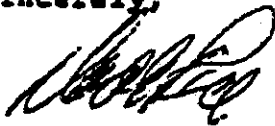
D2 of 8

March 16, 1995
Nitrate Levels
Page Two

Based on the above information, the District Health Department is requesting that NDEP not certify any final subdivision maps in the central part of Spanish Springs Valley predicated upon individual sewage disposal systems.

If you should have any questions on the foregoing, please call Doug Coulter at 328-2429.

Sincerely,

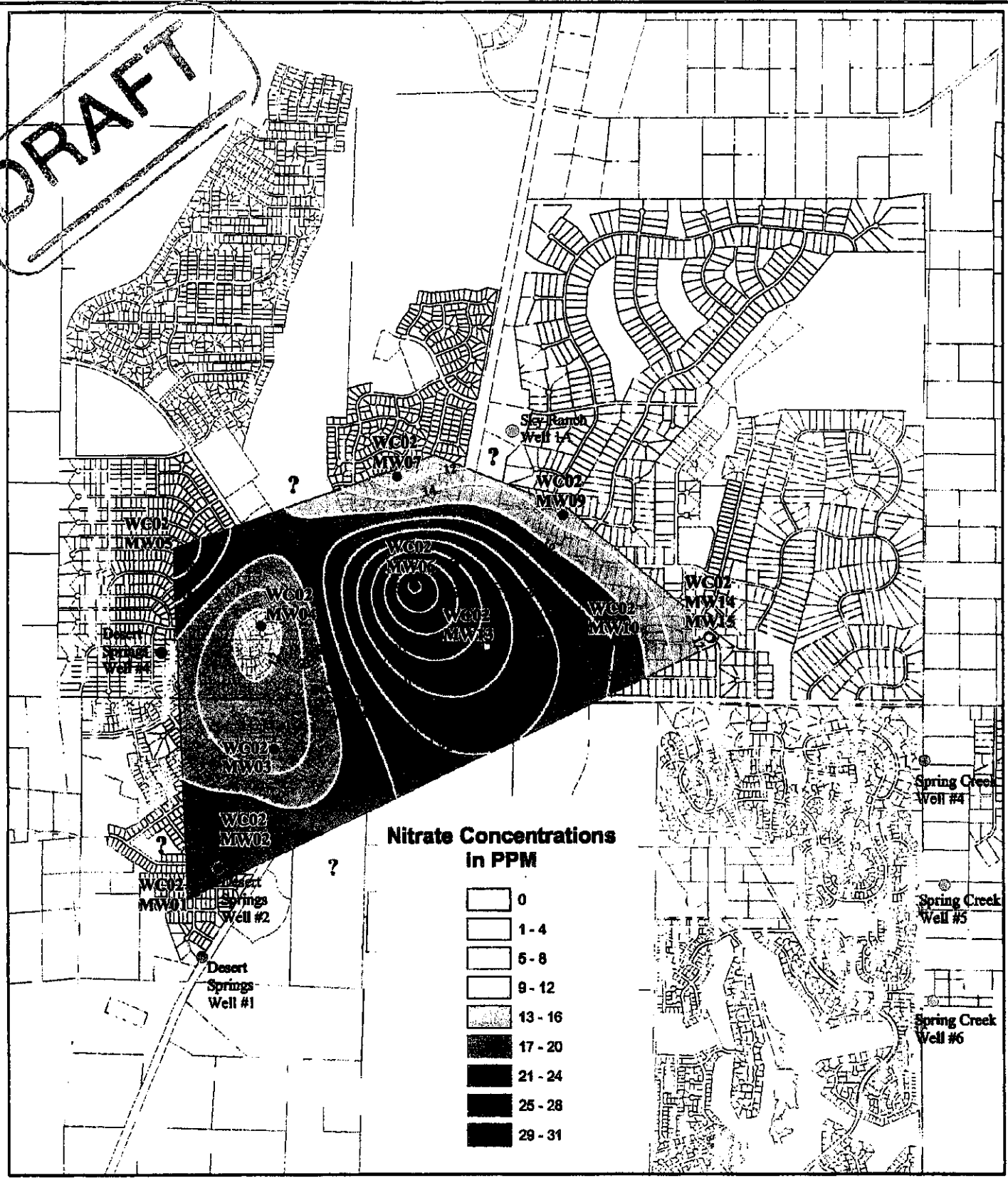


David E. Rice, M.P.H.
District Health Officer

DER:aw

Enclosure

DRAFT



**Nitrate Concentrations
in PPM**

0	0
1 - 4	1 - 4
5 - 8	5 - 8
9 - 12	9 - 12
13 - 16	13 - 16
17 - 20	17 - 20
21 - 24	21 - 24
25 - 28	25 - 28
29 - 31	29 - 31

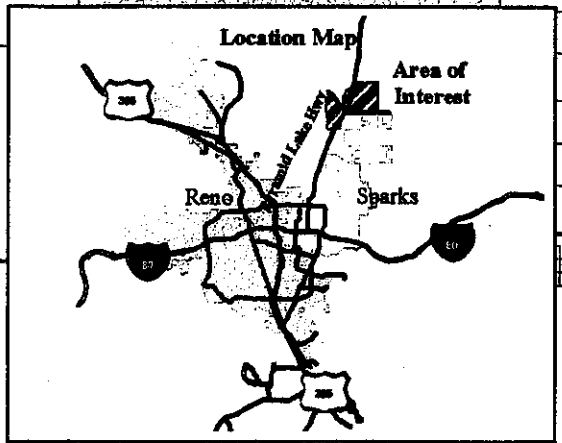
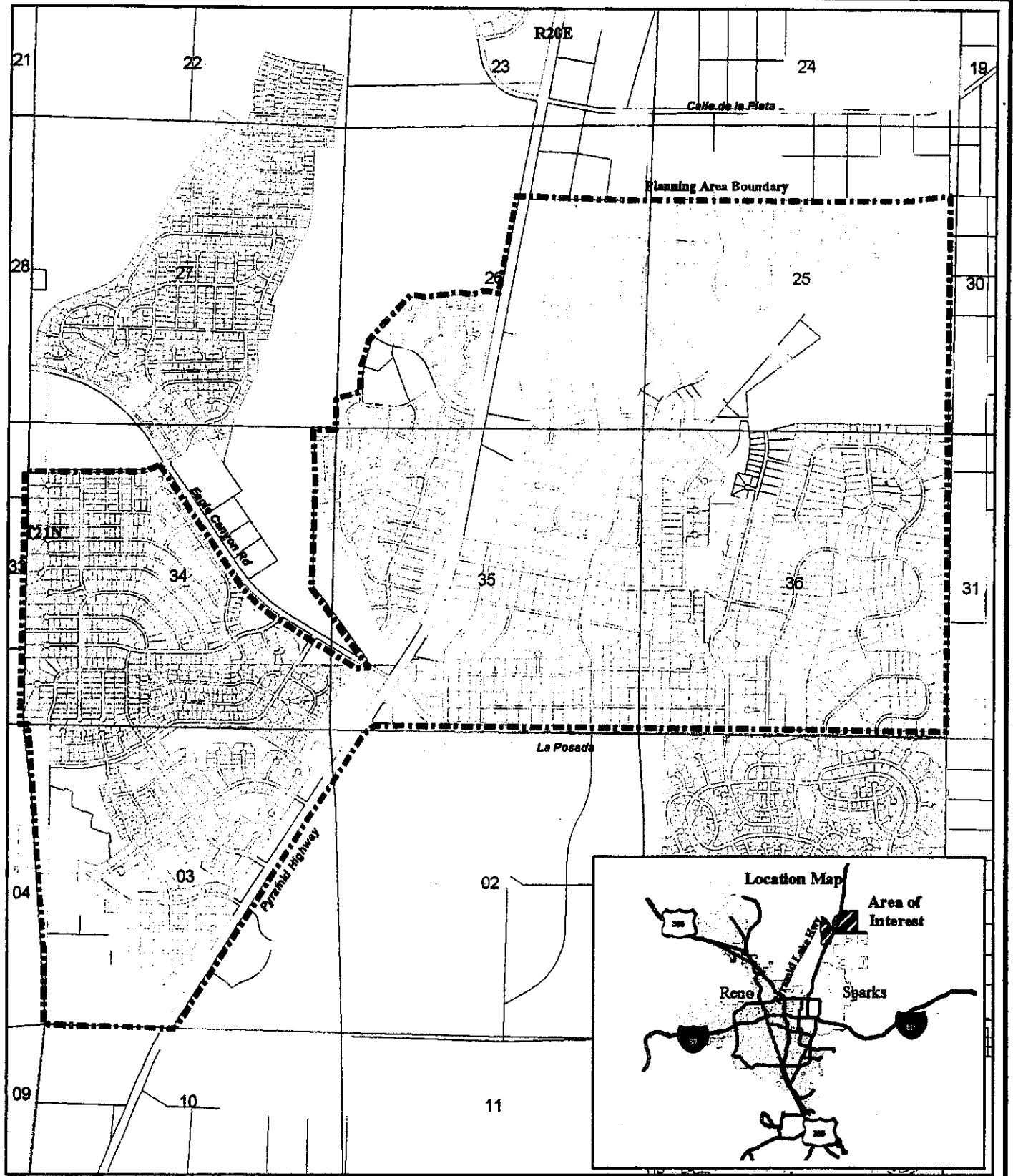
Legend

- Installed Monitoring Well
- Existing Monitoring Well
- Production Well
- Lot on Septic

**Nitrate Concentrations
in Groundwater**



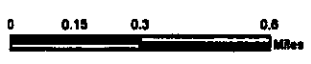
District of
 Water Resources
 Department of Water Resources
 Utility Service Division
 Washoe County
 Nevada
 630 Energy Way
 Reno, Nevada 89501
 (775) 224-4400



Legend

- Municipal Water and Sewered
- Municipal Water and Septic
- Domestic Well and Septic

Spanish Springs Nitrate Occurrence Project
Figure 1.1 - Planning Area



Department of Water Resources
 Utility Service Division
 Washoe County
 Nevada

Note: The scale and configuration of all information shown herein are approximate only and are not intended as a guide for design or survey work. Reproduction is not permitted without prior written permission from the Washoe County Department of Water Resources.
 February 2008

498 Energy Way
 Reno, Nevada 89502
 (775) 784-6200

PETER W. MORRIS, Director
L.R. DEBOSTON, Administrator
(202) 687-4670
TTY: 687-4676

Division
Air Quality Regulation and Reclamation
Water Pollution Control
Facsimile 687-5856

Address Reply to:
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

BOB MILLER
Governor



MAR 30 1995

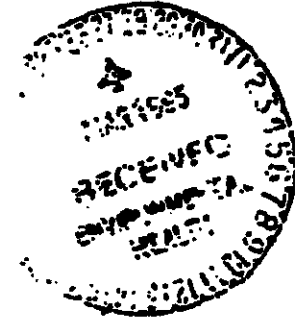
Waste Management
Corrective Actions
Federal Facilities
Facsimile 685-0868

Air Quality
Water Quality Planning
Facsimile 687-6396

Located at:
225 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89710

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
March 23, 1995



David E. Rice
District Health Officer
District Health Department
P.O. Box 11130
Reno, NV 89520

Nitrate Levels in ground water
Spanish Springs Valley

Dear Mr. Rice:

This letter is in response to your letter of March 16, 1995, which requested us to deny certification of final maps for subdivisions, served by individual sewage disposal systems, in the central part of Spanish Springs Valley.

Our policy will be to deny subdivisions on individual sewage disposal systems in sections 30 and 31 T21N; R21.E, section 6 T20N; R21E, sections 1, 2 and 3 T20N; R20E and sections 25, 26, 35 and 36 T21N; R20E. This policy is based upon the results of a preliminary water quality study, which indicated that the use of individual sewage disposal systems in this area would cause nitrate levels in the groundwater to exceed drinking water standards.

In the remainder of the Valley, we will not approve subdivisions to be served by individual sewage disposal systems where the density of lots, proposed plus existing, exceeds 118 per square mile, unless a groundwater study indicates that there will be no adverse impacts upon groundwater.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at 687-4670 ext. 3108.

Yours truly,

Richard E. Reavis
Richard E. Reavis, P.E.
Deputy Administrator
Air, Mining & Water Programs

JEWELER/asm2

Doug Coulter
John Nelson

FE, -08-2001 THU 04:23 PM

FAX NO.

P. 02

PETI NORRIS, Director

ALLEN SAGGI, Administrator

(775) 687-4470

TDD 687-4678

Administration
Water Pollution Control
Facsimile 687-5856

Mineral Regulation and Reclamation
Facsimile 684-5259

STATE OF NEVADA
KENNY C. GUINN
Governor



Waste Management
Corrective Actions
Federal Facilities

Air Quality
Water Quality Planning
Facsimile 687-6395

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

April 7, 2000

Ed Schmidt
Director
Washoe County Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 11130
Reno, Nevada 89520-0027

RE: SPANISH SPRINGS SEPTIC DENSITY AND WATER QUALITY

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) met with the Washoe County District Health Department (WCDHD) on January 20, 2000 to discuss nitrate occurrence in public water supply wells in the Spanish Springs area. It was found that there are approximately 2,000 Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS) in a four square mile area (500 per mi²). The NDEP ISDS density policy suggests a maximum of 99 per square mile.

We also discussed a recent study by Ralph Siler, U.S.G.S. entitled, "A Chemical Signature for Ground Water Contaminated by Domestic Wastewater" which indicates that the nitrate source in the area is due directly to the influence of ISDS (septic tanks and leach lines). Data received from WCDHD indicates the public water supply wells at Desert Springs Utility Co. and Spring Creek Water Co. have shown increasingly elevated nitrate levels. In fact, well # 1 at Spring Creek Water Co. has risen from 4.5 mg/l nitrate as N to 5.6 mg/l within the course of one year. Additionally, four of the eight wells tested exceeded 5 mg/l nitrate as N and two of these wells tested greater than 7 mg/l nitrate as N. The State of Nevada maximum contaminant level for nitrate as N is 10 mg/l.

NRS 445A.305.2 states, in part:

It is the policy of this state and the purpose of NRS 445A.300 to 445A.730, inclusive:

(a) To maintain the quality of the waters of the state consistent with the public health and enjoyment,.....

D 7 of 8

Ed Schmidt
Page 2

Further, NAC 445A.121.4 states in part:

Waters must be free from high temperature, biocides, organisms pathogenic to human beings, toxic, corrosive or other deleterious 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 or in amounts sufficient to interfere with any beneficial use of the water...

Because there is evidence linking ISDS to elevated levels of nitrate in drinking water in the Spanish Springs area, and there is the potential public health threat to infants and the environment, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection directs your agency to immediately begin planning to expand community sewer service to the area. A schedule must be submitted to our office for review and approval by August 1, 2000 and a plan in place within eighteen months following that.

As you are aware, nitrates are considered a pollutant and continued release to the groundwater via ISDS is not allowable where the water supply is impacted. Because continued use of ISDS in the area of Spanish Springs will further degrade the groundwater supply, relocating the drinking water supply wells will not be an option. The area must be sewerred to remove the public health and environmental threat which has emerged.

We look forward to working with Washoe County Department of Water Resources to resolve these issues. If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter please contact me at (775) 887-4670, ext. 3142.

Sincerely,

Leo Drozdoff, P.E.
Bureau Chief

cc Allen Biaggi, Administrator, NDEP

Jolaine Johnson, Deputy Administrator, NDEP

Darrell Rasner, NDEP

Morris Kanowitz, NDEP

John Collins, W.C. Dept. Water Resources, P.O. Box 11130, Reno, NV, 89520-0027

Doug Coulter, WCDHD, P.O. Box 11130, Reno, NV, 89520

D 8 of 8