



**FACTSHEET**  
**(pursuant to NAC 445A.236)**

**Permittee Name:** ELKO COUNTY  
  
540 COURT ST. SUITE 104  
ELKO, NV 89801

**Permit Number:** NS2003305

**Permit Type:** GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE

**Designation:** GROUNDWATER

**New/Existing:** EXISTING

**Location:** BEAR CREEK WATER TREATMENT PLANT, ELKO  
51 BEAR STREET, JARBIDGE, NV 89826  
LATITUDE: 41.873236, LONGITUDE: -115.438142  
TOWNSHIP: 46N, RANGE: 58E, SECTION: 17

Outfall / Well Num	Outfall / Well Name	Location Type	Well Log Num	Latitude	Longitude	Receiving Water
001	PERCOLATION TRENCH	External Outfall		41.873236	-115.438142	GROUNDWATER

**Permit History/Description of Proposed Action**

The Permittee, Elko County, operates the Bear Creek Water Treatment Plant (BCWTP), at 51 Bear Street, in Jarbidge, Nevada. The Permittee has applied to renew their groundwater discharge permit, NS2003305. The Permittee proposes to continue discharging filter backwash water from the BCWTP sand filter to an 1100-foot perforated distribution pipe for disposal via percolation. The permit authorizes BCWTP to discharge a daily maximum of 0.030 million gallons per day of filter backwash water.

This permit was first issued on January 12, 2004. The most recent permit was issued on January 1, 2015, and expired on December 31, 2020; the permit has been administratively continued since.

**Facility Overview**

The BCWTP diverts water from Bear Creek and treats the water using a combination of flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, ozonation, and disinfection. BCWTP utilizes chemical addition (Sodium Hydroxide) to promote flocculation through a static mixer. The chemically treated water is sent into a 30,000-gallon sedimentation basin for coagulation and sedimentation. The water then flows to a 30,000-gallon metal tank that is designed to allow further sedimentation. The water is then pumped to the filtration plant where it flows through a sand filter until the turbidity exceeds 0.3 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) at which point the filter is cleaned through a backwash process. The backwash water is discharged to an 1,100-foot perforated distribution pipe for disposal via percolation.

The BCWTP's Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manual was last reviewed and approved on May 4, 2016.

The Technical, Compliance, and Enforcement Branch of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control requires O&M Manuals to be updated every ten (10) years and being due on or before May 4, 2026, or within 90 days from the date of reissuance.

### **Outfall Summary**

Outfall 001: Percolation Trench an External Outfall that monitors Flow Rate in million gallons per day (MGD), Total Flow in Gallons, and Number of Events (Backwash Cycles).

### **Effluent Characterization**

The effluent is a byproduct of water that has passed through a multistage treatment process of filtration, chlorination, ozonation, and flocculation.

The averages for the reported values for 2020-2025 are listed below:

Outfall 001 (Percolation Trench):

Flow Rate: 0.001 MGD

Total Flow: 42,654.167 gallons

Number of Events: 15.6

### **Pollutants of Concern**

Pollutants of concern (POCs) are any pollutant, or parameters, that are believed to be present in the discharge and could affect or alter the physical, chemical, or biological, conditions of the receiving water. Pollutants of concern include: There are currently no POCs for the Bear Creek WTP.

### **Receiving Water**

The receiving water is groundwater of the State via percolation. The groundwater depth ranges from approximately 4 to 20 feet below the bottom of the percolation trench.

### **Compliance History**

The Permittee is currently in compliance with the permit.

### **Proposed Effluent Limitations**

The discharge shall be limited and monitored by the Permittee as specified below:

**WWTP Discharge Limitations Table for Sample Location 001 (Percolation Trench) To Be Reported Monthly**

Discharge Limitations				Monitoring Requirements			
Parameter	Base	Quantity	Concentration	Monitoring Loc	Sample Loc	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Number of Events <sup>[1]</sup>	Monthly Total	M&R Number (#)		Internal Monitoring Point	001	Monthly	CALCTD
Flow, total <sup>[2]</sup>	Monthly Total	M&R Gallons (gal)		Effluent Gross	001	Monthly	CALCTD <sup>[3]</sup>
Flow rate	30 Day Average	<= 0.030 Million Gallons per Day (Mgal/d)		Effluent Gross	001	Monthly	CALCTD

Notes (WWTP Discharge Limitations Table):

1. Number of backwash cycles.
2. Volume.
3. The total flow (volume) shall be calculated by multiplying the number of backwash cycles per month by the calculated backwash volume per cycle.

**Summary of Changes From Previous Permit**

There are no changes from the previous permit.

**Technology Based Effluent Limitations**

Technology based effluent limitations are not applicable to this permit.

**Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations**

Water quality based effluent limitations are not applicable to this permit.

**Proposed Water Quality Based Effluent Limits (monthly/weekly/daily)**

Water quality based effluent limitations are not applicable to this permit.

**Basis for Effluent Limitations**

The flow is limited to 0.03 MGD by request of the Permittee.

**Anti-backsliding**

None of the proposed permit limits were changed to a less restrictive limit compared to those in the previous permit.

**Antidegradation**

The Division has developed an antidegradation regulation that is applied on a statewide basis, and which meets the statutory requirements of Nevada’s water pollution control law found at Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 445A.520 and NRS 445A.565 and is consistent with the federal antidegradation policy found at Title 40 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 131.12. The objective of the Division’s antidegradation regulation is to prevent degradation of Nevada’s surface waters and maintain the unique attributes and special characteristics and water quality associated with high quality waters.

As this permit is for discharges to groundwater, and not surface water, the new antidegradation rule is not applicable.

**Special Conditions**

See the Special Approvals/Conditions table below.

SA – Special Approvals / Conditions Table

Item #	Description
1	On or before the 28th day of the first month of each quarter, the Permittee shall submit to the Division a log of the daily backwash cycles and volume of water discharged during each month of the previous quarter. The log shall be submitted with the quarterly discharge monitoring reports through the Bureau of Water Pollution Control's Nevada NetDMR system.

**Discharges From Future Outfalls/ Planned Facility Changes**

The Permittee does not anticipate discharges from future outfalls or changes to the facility.

**Corrective Action Sites**

There are no active Bureau of Corrective Action sites located within a one-mile radius of the discharge location.

**Wellhead Protection Program**

The outfalls are not located within a Wellhead Protection Area, which represents an approximate 10-year capture zone of a well, or within a Drinking Water Protection Area, which is defined by a 3,000-foot radius around a PWS well. There are 2 intakes located to the south upgradient and northwest downgradient of the outfall.

**Schedule of Compliance:**

SOC – Schedule of Compliance Table

Item #	Description	Due Date
1	The Permittee shall submit two copies (one hard copy and one electronic copy) of an updated Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual for review and approval by the Division. The O&M Manual shall follow the Division's guidance document, WTS2 Minimum Information Required for an Operation and Maintenance Manual for a Wastewater Treatment Plant, and be prepared and wet-stamped by a licensed, qualified Nevada Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.).	8/15/2026

**Deliverable Schedule:**

## DLV– Deliverable Schedule for Reports, Plans, and Other Submittals

Item #	Description	Interval	First Scheduled Due Date
1	Quarterly DMRs	Quarterly	7/28/2026
2	Backwash Cycle Log	Quarterly	7/28/2026
3	Annual Report	Annually	1/28/2027

**Procedures for Public Comment:**

The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to groundwater of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit, is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list and will be posted on our website at <https://ndep.nv.gov/posts>. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing until 5:00 P.M. **5/30/2026**, a period of 30 days following the date of the public notice. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX or any interested agency, person or group of persons. The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted. Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determined to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.238.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.605.

**Proposed Determination:**

The Division has made the tentative determination to issue/re-issue the proposed 5-year permit.

Prepared by: **Jason Reichelt**

Date: **3/23/2026**

Title: **Environmental Scientist 3**