



# Business Environmental Program

## Do You Need an Air Permit?

*Nevada Bureau of Air Pollution Control*

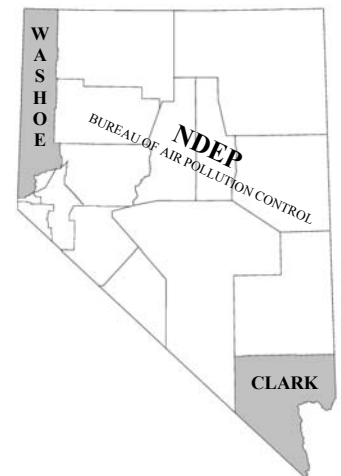
Nevada regulations require any "Stationary Source" which emits or has the potential to emit any "regulated air pollutant" to obtain an "Air Quality Operating Permit" (NAC 445B.278). This fact sheet address air quality permits issued by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Air Pollution Control (BAPC). The following steps will help you determine what permit needed:

### **Determine which agency has the permitting authority:**

There are three separate air quality management agencies in Nevada that report directly to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They issue permits as follows:

- a. *Washoe County permits* are issued by the Washoe County Air Quality Management Division (775) 784-7200.
- b. *Clark County Permits* are issued by the Clark County Department of Air Quality Management (702) 455-5942.
- c. *All other county permits* are issued by the NDEP, Bureau of Air Pollution Control.

(Permits for fossil fuel fired steam generating units located in Clark county are issued and enforced by NDEP/BAPC)



### **For NDEP/BAPC Permits:**

1. Determine if your process/activity is an emission source.
  - a. An emission source is defined as "any property, real or personal, which directly emits or may emit any air contaminant". (NRS 445B.155)
  - b. An air contaminant is "any substance discharged into the atmosphere except water vapor and droplets". (NRS 445B.110) If the only emissions are steam or water particles, then a permit is not required.
2. Do you emit a regulated air pollutant? If so, a permit is required, unless the source is subject to an exemption. The following are regulated air pollutants:
  - a. Criteria Pollutants:
    - Carbon Monoxide, CO
    - Nitrogen Dioxide, NO<sub>2</sub>
    - Sulfur Dioxide, SO<sub>2</sub>
    - Particulate Matter, PM<sub>10</sub> (refers to particles less than 10 microns in diameter)
    - Lead, Pb

**BEP Toll-Free Assistance Line (800) 882-3233 (In Nevada) or (775) 689-6688**  
**BEP Las Vegas (702) 866-5962**

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- b. Hydrogen Sulfide, H<sub>2</sub>S
  - c. Volatile Organic Compounds, VOCs
  - d. Hazardous Air Pollutants, HAPs  
EPA list of 188 chemical compounds
3. In addition, a permit is required for any stationary source subject to "New Source Performance Standards" (NSPS), "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants" (NESHAP), or a stationary source for which a "Maximum Achievable Control Technology" (MACT) standard has been established. These federal standards are developed by EPA for specific industry groups.
  4. Surface Area Disturbance (SAD): Whenever a surface area of 5 acres or more is disturbed, an air quality permit is required. Additionally, a permit is not required for agricultural activities on agricultural land; however dust control measures are still required. All surface area disturbances, even when less than 5 acres must also implement dust control measures.
  5. Exemptions from Permit Requirements: Insignificant or trivial activities are not required to be permitted. The list of these activities can be found in the regulations under NAC 445B.288 for insignificant activities. A list of insignificant activities is included in the permit application package. There is also a provision in the regulations that allows the NDEP Administrator to exempt certain stationary sources from having a permit when the potential to emit is below certain threshold levels.
  6. If an air permit is required for your facility, the next step is to determine the potential to emit in order to determine the type of permit that is required (except for SADs). Refer to BEP's fact sheet on "**How to Determine your Facility's Potential to Emit**" which is available at [www.nsbdcbeep.org](http://www.nsbdcbeep.org)

### **Who Can I Contact For More Information?**

The Business Environmental Program provides free and confidential assistance with air quality permits, and can also help you determine your potential to emit. Call (800) 882-3233 for more information and assistance. The NDEP Bureau of Air Pollution Control can be reached at 775-687-9339.

The Business Environmental Program also provides free and confidential assistance for other safety and environmental requirements. Contact the Business Environmental Program at (800) 882-3233.