

IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

1143

O R D E R

ADOPTING RULES FOR WELL SPACING
AND MODIFICATION OF REGULATIONS
FOR WATER WELL AND RELATED DRILLING
(JANUARY 1998) IN A PORTION OF THE
STEPTOE VALLEY GROUND WATER BASIN
(10-179) WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA

This Order is issued pursuant to Chapter 534 of Nevada Revised Statutes which authorizes the State Engineer to prescribe and adopt rules and regulations for the administration of ground water. In accordance with statutory provisions the State Engineer gave due notice of a public hearing. The hearing was held on January 13, 1998, near Ruth, White Pine County, Nevada, to receive testimony and determine possible spacing requirements for pumping ground water relating to mine dewatering in a portion of the Steptoe Valley Ground Water Basin, Hydrographic Area 10-179. Upon full consideration of the evidence presented at the hearing and other relevant facts, the State Engineer finds that conditions warrant the adoption of spacing requirements and the modification of rules and regulations to accommodate the necessities and unique characteristics of mine dewatering within the following described area in a portion of the Steptoe Valley Ground Water Basin (10-179):

T.16N., R.62E., M.D.B.&M.

Portions of Sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15, and that portion of Sections 7, 16, 17 and 18 lying within the natural drainage basin of Steptoe Valley as delineated in Exhibit 3.

The above described area is that portion of the Steptoe Valley Ground Water Basin as described in Exhibit 3 (received into evidence at the January 13, 1998, hearing) a copy of which is attached hereto and fully incorporated herein by this reference.

Within the above-described area, the following rules shall apply:

1. The appropriations to appropriate underground water for mining, milling and dewatering purposes may be filed describing a point of diversion at or near the center of a block delineated on Exhibit 3 (received into evidence at the January 13, 1998, hearing), but not to exceed 160 acres. Upon approval of any such application, wells may be located and drilled anywhere within said block as required for mine dewatering purposes without filing for a temporary change of point of diversion. A change

application or applications shall be filed on or before January 15th of each year setting forth a more exact location(s) of each then producing well drilled within any such designated block area during that year.

2. Cumulation and rotation procedures using other permits may be utilized to allow a maximum flow rate greater than the diversion rate for any single permit in a designated block provided that the total combined diversion rate authorized under all related permits is not exceeded.
3. The following rules and regulations are modified or waived by this Order for mine dewatering permits within the area described in this Order:
 - a. NAC Section 534.300 is modified to allow for the drilling of alternate or replacement wells any where within a designated block encompassing the originally described point of diversion for an application to appropriate.
 - b. NAC Sections 534.378, 534.380, and 534.430 is hereby waived except as provided for in Paragraph 4 of this Order.
4. This Order with the aforementioned waivers or modifications will apply only during mine dewatering operations within areas actively being mined. At the time of permanent cessation of mining activity, the requirement for permanent well closure shall apply to all wells drilled pursuant to this Order as provided in NAC 534.420. Any well which is not permanently closed shall be modified, as necessary, to comply with all the applicable rules and regulations.


R. MICHAEL TURNIPSEED, P.E.
State Engineer

Dated at Carson City, Nevada, this
29th day of April, 1998.