

LCB File No. R227-03

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE STATE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Petition 2003-10

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-8, NRS 233B.050 and 445B.210.

Section 1. Chapter 445B of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this regulation.

Sec. 2. *1. The Commission may, upon its motion or a motion by a party, order briefs to be filed before or after a hearing and shall prescribe the period during which the briefs must be filed.*

2. Each brief must be accompanied by an acknowledgment of service or a certificate of mailing for all parties.

Sec. 3. *1. A person, other than a party to a proceeding, who believes that he may be directly and substantially affected by the proceeding may request an order to intervene in the proceeding by filing a written petition for leave to intervene with the Commission.*

2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Commission not later than 10 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Commission. The petitioner shall serve a notice of a petition for leave to intervene upon each party to the proceeding. A party may file a response to the petition within 7 days after receipt of the petition or by the date of the hearing, which ever occurs earliest. If a petitioner files a petition for leave to intervene with the Commission after the period prescribed in this subsection, the petition must set forth the reason for the delay in filing the petition. The petition for leave to intervene must:

(a) Identify the proceeding in which the petitioner requests leave to intervene;

(b) Set forth the name and address of the petitioner and, if the petitioner is represented by an attorney or other authorized person, the name, address and telephone number of the attorney or other authorized person;

(c) Contain a clear and concise statement of the direct and substantial interest of the petitioner in the proceeding;

(d) Set forth the manner in which the petitioner will be affected by the proceeding; and

(e) Include a statement whether or not the petitioner intends to present evidence in the proceeding.

3. If a petition for leave to intervene demonstrates a direct and substantial interest in the subject matter of the proceeding or any part of the proceeding and does not unreasonably broaden the issues or prejudice any party to the proceeding, the Commission may grant leave to intervene or otherwise appear and participate in the proceeding with respect to the matters set forth in the petition.

4. If it appears during a proceeding that an intervener has no direct or substantial interest in the proceeding or that the public interest does not require his participation in the proceeding, the Commission may dismiss the intervener from the proceeding.

Sec. 4. *1. The Commission may consolidate two or more proceedings if it appears that the issues are substantially the same and the rights of the parties will not be prejudiced by the consolidation.*

2. At a consolidated hearing, the Commission will determine the order in which the parties introduce evidence and present testimony.

3. If two or more parties have substantially similar interests and positions, the Commission may, at any time during the hearing, limit the number of witnesses who will be allowed to testify.

Sec. 5. NAC 445B.890 is hereby amended as follows:

NAC 445B.890 Request for hearing. Any person requesting a hearing before the Commission concerning a final decision of the Department ~~[pursuant to chapter 445B of NRS]~~ may do so by filing a request, within 10 days after notice of the action of the Department, on form 3* with the State Environmental Commission, 333 West Nye Lane, Room 138, Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851. *(See adopting agency for form.)

Sec. 6. NAC 445B.895 is hereby amended as follows:

NAC 445B.895 Conduct of hearing.

1. The parties may appear in person and may be represented by counsel. All testimony must be given under oath and recorded verbatim by human or electronic means. ~~[The matter must then be heard in the following manner:~~

~~—(a) Prior to testifying, the witness must state his name, address, and business, employment, or position. Subsequent comments and testimony may be preceded by name only;~~

~~—(b) Opening statement and presentation of the State's evidence followed by cross-examination by appellant;~~

~~—(c) Opening statement and presentation of evidence by appellant followed by cross-examination by the State;~~

~~—(d) The parties may then respectively offer rebutting testimony only, unless the Commission, in its discretion, permits additional evidence. In the exercise of its discretion, the Commission will consider the relevance and necessity of the new matter expected to be brought out by the additional testimony; and~~

~~—(e) Closing argument of the State, closing argument of appellant and rebuttal by the State.]~~

2. The Chairman of the hearing will determine the order of the presentation of evidence.

3. The Commission may limit the time and scope of the examination of witnesses and disallow repetitive testimony.

4. A person who appears in a proceeding shall conform to the recognized standards of ethical and courteous conduct as determined by the Commission. All parties to a hearing, their counsel and the spectators shall conduct themselves in a respectful manner.

5. The Commission may take any action which it determines is necessary to maintain order during a hearing, including, without limitation:

(a) Excluding a party or his attorney or authorized representative from the hearing;

(b) Excluding a witness from the hearing; and

(c) Limiting the taking of testimony and presentation of evidence during the hearing.

~~[2.]~~ 6. Hearings are open to the public until such time as confidential information, within the meaning of chapter 445B of NRS or applicable sections of this chapter or chapter 445A of NAC, is admitted to the record, at which time the hearing will be closed.

Sec. 7. NAC 445B.896 is hereby amended as follows:

NAC 445B.896 Findings of Commission.

1. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission ~~[will]~~ may take the case under submission and will notify the appellant ~~[by certified mail]~~ *and any other party to the hearing* of its findings and recommendations in writing within 30 days after the date of the hearing.

2. Final recommendations will be in writing and will separately state findings of fact and conclusions of law. Findings of fact and recommendations will be based upon substantial evidence. Findings of fact will include a concise statement of the evidentiary facts supporting the findings.

Sec. 8. NAC 445B.897 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 445B.897 ~~[Transcripts will be furnished to any party upon payment of the fees prescribed by the Commission.]~~

1. Each hearing must be recorded electronically. An electronic recording of the hearing must be made available for inspection or copying. A party who requests a copy of an electronic recording shall pay the cost to copy the recording.

2. A party may request that a hearing be recorded by a court reporter who is certified pursuant to chapter 656 of NRS. The party shall pay the costs relating to the services of the court reporter, including the cost charged by the court reporter for providing a transcript of the hearing.