

**LCB File No. R001-99**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INTENT TO ACT UPON  
PERMANENT REGULATION**

**Nevada State Board to Review Claims  
(Petroleum Fund)**

The Nevada State Board to Review Claims (Petroleum Fund) will hold a public hearing beginning at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 30, 1999 at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Conference Room, Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada.**

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from all interested persons regarding adoption of a proposed permanent regulation to Nevada Administrative Code, **NAC 590**. If no person directly affected by the proposed action appears to request time to make an oral presentation, the State Board to Review Claims may proceed immediately to act upon any written submission.

The proposed regulation amends NAC 590.700 to 590.790 by requiring an owner or operator of a petroleum storage tank enrolled in the Petroleum Fund, to promptly notify the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in the event that a third party liability claim may be made against the fund. It is proposed that failure of an owner or operator to provide such notice, may become cause for denial of a third party liability reimbursement from the fund. It is further proposed that third party liability claims will only be authorized for reimbursement upon receipt of a court order or upon the Board's approval of a negotiated settlement.

The proposed regulation is estimated to have no immediate economic effect on business. No changes are proposed in either the fees paid to support the fund or in the total amount of coverage provided by the fund. While there have been few third party liability suits brought against petroleum storage tank owners in Nevada; the potential exists that the Petroleum Fund could be negatively impacted if several such liability claims were made. The proposed regulation may yield a long-term economic benefit to enrolled tank owners from any cost savings achieved by the notice requirement.

The proposed regulation has no anticipated adverse effect on the public, either immediate or long-term. The public may see long-term benefits associated with prevention of any large, unexpected reductions in the Petroleum Fund. The proposed regulation affects the practice of the state fund, thus there is no commensurate federal law or regulation. The proposed regulation does not overlap or duplicate any known regulations of another state or local governmental agency. There is no additional cost to the agency for enforcement and the regulation does not add a new fee, nor increase an existing fee.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed regulation may appear at the scheduled public hearing to submit oral testimony and evidence. Those wishing to testify for more than five

minutes should submit their request in writing by September 22, 1999, to the Board to Review Claims, c/o Karen Fleming, NDEP, 333 West Nye Lane, Room 138, Carson City, Nevada, 89706-0851.

Comments, data, views, or arguments may also be submitted in written form to the Board to Review Claims, c/o Mike Leigh, NDEP, 333 West Nye Lane, Room 138, Carson City, Nevada, 89706-0851. Written submissions must be received at least five days before the scheduled public hearing.

A copy of this notice and the proposed regulation amendment will be on file for inspection by members of the public during business hours at the Department of Museums, Library and Arts, 100 Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada; and the Division of Environmental Protection at 123 West Nye Lane, Room 206, Carson City, Nevada and at 555 East Washington Street, Suite 4300, Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition, copies of the notice and regulation will be available for inspection at the main public library in all counties in which an office of the agency is not maintained. Copies of this notice and the proposed regulation will also be mailed to members of the public upon request.

Pursuant to NRS 233B.0603 (c) the provisions of NRS 233B.064 (2) is hereby provided: "Upon adoption of any regulation, the agency, if requested to do so by an interested person, either before adoption or within 30 days thereafter, shall issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against its adoption, and incorporate therein its reason for overruling the consideration urged against its adoption."

**Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify, in writing, the Board to Review Claims, c/o Karen Fleming, 333 West Nye Lane, Room 138, Carson City, Nevada, 89706-0851, facsimile (702) 687-6396, or by calling (702) 687-4670, extension 3047, no later than September 22, 1999.**

This public notice has been posted at the Regional Transportation Commission in Reno, the Department of Museums, Library and Arts in Carson City, the Clark County Commission Chambers in Las Vegas, the Washoe County Commission Chambers in Reno, and at the offices of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in Carson City and Las Vegas.

## **PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD TO REVIEW CLAIMS**

AUTHORITY: NRS 590.830

**Section 1.** NAC Chapter 590.700 to 590.790 is hereby amended by adding the following: Any owner or operator against whom a third-party liability claim is made shall give written notice of the claim to the division no later than thirty days after service of summons that the claim has been filed in court or after receipt of notification of the claim. Payments of third-party claims from the fund may be denied for any owner or operator who fails to give the division notice as required herein, unless the owner or operator demonstrates good cause for the failure to comply with the deadline. Reimbursements will only be authorized upon receipt of a final court order of judgment or upon the Board's approval of a negotiated settlement. Authorization of reimbursement for any third party claim will be made to the extent warranted by the facts of the case.

## INFORMATIONAL STATEMENT

### LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF ADOPTED REGULATION AS REQUIRED BY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT, NRS 233B.066 FOR PETROLEUM FUND RESOLUTION 99-01

The following statement is submitted for adopted amendment to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 590. This temporary regulation deals with an amendment to the State Petroleum Fund practices.

**1. A description of how public comment was solicited, a summary of public responses, and an explanation how other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.**

Resolution 99-01 was noticed on July 27, 1998, as a proposed temporary regulation in the following three newspapers: the *Elko Daily Free Press*, the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, and the *Reno Gazette Journal*. Public workshops were held to discuss the proposed regulation in Elko on August 13, 1998; in Carson City on August 18, 1998; and in Las Vegas on August 20, 1998. No comments were received at the public workshops or the hearing for adoption of the regulation. The regulation was adopted on August 27, 1998 by the State Board to Review Claims. Copies of the public notices, workshop attendance, and the adopted resolution may be obtained by calling the Nevada State Petroleum Fund at (702) 687-4670 extension 3037, or by writing to the Petroleum Claims Branch, Bureau of Corrective Actions, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection at 333 W. Nye Ln., Room 138, Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851.

**2. The number persons who:**

|     |                             |           |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|
| (a) | Attended public workshops:  | <b>42</b> |
| (b) | Attended hearing:           | <b>16</b> |
| (c) | Testified at hearing:       | <b>0</b>  |
| (d) | Submitted written comments: | <b>0</b>  |

**3. A description of how comment was solicited from affected businesses, a summary of their response, and an explanation how other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.**

Comments were solicited from affected business by the notices in the newspapers as outlined in #1, and by a mass mailing on July 22, 1998 to all owner/operators enrolled in the Petroleum Fund, all Certified Environmental Managers, and all Interested Parties subscribing to the Fund's mailing list. See above statement for dates and locations of workshops and notices. No written comments were received regarding this regulation, nor was any opposing testimony presented during the public meetings. Copies of the public notices, workshop attendance, and the adopted resolution may be obtained by calling the Nevada State Petroleum Fund at (702) 687-4670 extension 3037, or by writing to the Petroleum Claims Branch, Bureau of Corrective Actions, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection at 333 W. Nye Ln., Room 138, Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851.

**4. If the regulation was adopted without changing any part of the proposed regulation, a summary of the reasons for adopting the regulation without change.**

The temporary regulation was adopted by the state Board to Review Claims on August 27, 1998 without a request for amendment.

**5. The estimated economic effect of the adopted regulation on the business which it is to regulate and on the public. These must be stated separately, and each case must include:**

- (a) Both adverse and beneficial effects; and
- (b) Both immediate and long-term effects.

The temporary regulation is estimated to have no immediate economic effect on business. No changes are proposed in either the fees paid to support the fund or in the total amount of coverage provided by the fund. While there have been few third party liability suits brought against tank owners in Nevada; the potential exists that the state fund could be negatively impacted if several such liability claims were made. The proposed regulation may yield a long-term economic benefit to enrolled tank owners from any cost savings achieved by the notice requirement.

**6. The estimated cost to the agency for enforcement of the adopted regulation.**

There will be no increased cost to the Division of Environmental Protection or the State Petroleum Fund for enforcement of this regulation.

**7. A description of any regulations of other state or government agencies which the proposed regulation overlaps or duplicates and a statement explaining why the duplication or overlapping is necessary. If the regulation overlaps or duplicates a federal regulation, the name of the regulating federal agency.**

There are no other state regulations which NRS 590 overlaps or duplicates.

**8. If the regulation includes provisions which are more stringent than a federal regulation which regulates the same activity, a summary of such provisions.**

This regulation deals with the practice of the State Board to Review Claims, hence there is no federal regulation that regulates this activity.

**9. If the regulation provides a new fee or increases an existing fee, the total annual amount the agency expects to collect and the manner in which the money will be used.**

No additional or increased fees are associated with this regulation.

**END OF FILING STATEMENT FOR PETROLEUM FUND RESOLUTION 99-01**

STATE BOARD TO REVIEW CLAIMS

MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 1998

Reno, Nevada

ITEM: IV.

SUBJECT: Public hearing for the consideration of amendment to Chapter 590 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) relating to the State Petroleum Fund.

DISCUSSION: At various 1997 State Petroleum Fund board meetings and workshops, discussion was held regarding the need for owner/operators to provide adequate notice in event that a third party liability claim may be made against the fund. This Resolution includes amended language to NAC 590 to provide a regulatory requirement for such notice.

The proposed regulation amends NAC 590.700 to 590.790 by requiring an owner or operator of a petroleum storage tank enrolled in the Petroleum Fund, to promptly notify the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in the event that a third party liability claim may be made against the fund. Additionally, it is proposed that failure of an owner or operator to provide such notice may become cause for denial of a third party liability reimbursement from the fund. It is further proposed that third party liability claims will only be authorized for reimbursement upon receipt of a court order or upon the Board's approval or a negotiated settlement.

Written notice of the proposed regulatory language, including the schedule for three public workshops to discuss the proposed regulation, was mailed to all registered owners participating in the Petroleum Fund, Certified Environmental Managers and interested parties. Public notice for the proposed regulation was also provided via announcement in newspapers and posting at multiple locations. No written comments were received by NDEP and few verbal comments were voiced during the public workshops. The limited comments focused on whether a fee increase would result due to the proposal or if such a regulation was needed since there have been no past fund problems involving their party liability. No comments in direct opposition to the proposed regulation have been received.

RECOMMENDATION: **Adoption** of Resolution No. 99-01 as proposed.

STATE BOARD TO REVIEW CLAIMS

RESOLUTION No. 99-01

Resolution to Amend NAC Chapter 590  
Adopting Required Notice for Third Party Damages

Whereas, the State Board to Review Claims (hereinafter referred to as the Board) Finds:

1. NRS 590.880 provides \$250,000 coverage for damages to a person other than this state or the operator for home heating oil tanks of 1,100 gallons or less.
2. NRS 590.890 provides \$1,000,000 for damages to any person other than this state or the operator of the tank for storage tanks other than home heating oil.
3. NAC 590.710 defines "damages" to mean any money the operator of a storage tank becomes legally obligated to pay as damages because of bodily injury or property damage to any person other than the state or the operator caused by a discharge.
4. It is in the best interest of the Petroleum Fund to be advised of any pending third party liability claims which may be brought against the fund and to have legal counsel present at any negotiated settlement for such claims.
5. Attachment "A", which is made a part of this Resolution, contains proposed amended language to NAC 590.
6. Public notices of this proposed amendment were distributed pursuant to the requirements specified by NRS 233B.0603. Notices were also published on July 27, 1998 in the *Elko Daily Free Press*, *The Las Vegas Review Journal*, and in *The Reno Gazette Journal*. A copy of the Public notice is included in Attachment "B" of this resolution.
7. Public workshops to review the proposed amendment and solicit public comments were held in Elko on August 13, 1998; in Carson City on August 18, 1998; and in Las Vegas on August 20, 1998. A copy of the Public Workshop notice is provided in Attachment "C" of this Resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board adopt the proposed amendment to NAC 590 as contained in Attachment "A" of this Resolution.

I, John Hayrack, Chairman, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Nevada State Board to Review Claims on August 27, 1998.