



State of Utah

Department of
Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE

November 30, 2010

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Director, Division of Water Quality

60-day Public Comment Begins

Jordan Valley Draft Permit Ready for Public Review

Salt Lake City, Utah – Water quality officials have completed an extensive review of Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's (JVWCD) plan to turn once-contaminated groundwater into drinking water and dispose of the concentrated salts into the Great Salt Lake.

Now it is the public's turn to comment on a draft permit that would allow the project to move forward.

The 60-day public comment period begins December 1 and ends on February 1. A public hearing is scheduled at 5 p.m. Jan. 4, 2011 in the Department of Environmental Quality's board room, located on the first floor of the Multi-Agency State Office Building, 195 North 1950 West.

The project involves extracting groundwater out of wells, running it through a reverse osmosis treatment plant that will eventually supply up to 14 million gallons of drinking water a day to Salt Lake County residents. The District then plans to pump the byproducts of treated water – made up mostly of dissolved solids (salts), including trace amounts of selenium – through a 21-mile pipeline into Gilbert Bay of the Great Salt Lake.

An original proposal to pump the reverse osmosis byproduct water into the Jordan River was withdrawn by the District because of concerns over adding selenium into the river and the downstream wetlands. The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) then embarked on a 4-year, \$2.4 million study that established a selenium standard for the Great Salt Lake.

“The permit limits for this discharge will be protective of Great Salt Lake and the waterfowl that depend on that important ecosystem.” said Water Quality Director Walt Baker.

For more information on the project, visit:

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/hottopics/swjvgwtp/swjvgwtp.htm>. Written comments may be directed to: Kim Shelley, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by email at: kshelley@utah.gov.

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