

INTRODUCTION

considered a hazardous waste due to the silver content under State and Federal regulations. There are also limits to the amount of silver that can be in a wastewater discharge from a business. In Northern Nevada (Reno, Sparks, and Carson City), the wastewater discharge limits are so low (typically .05 mg/l) that it does not make economic sense to recover silver on-site because traditional silver recovery equipment cannot remove silver from the wastewater to the level that makes it allowable to discharge. Most businesses generating spent fixer in Northern Nevada contract with an outside firm that hauls the spent fix away as a hazardous waste and recovers the silver in a centralized location. In Southern Nevada (City of Las Vegas, Clark County, Henderson), the silver discharge limits are less stringent (typically 2 to 5 mg/l) and most

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