



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PO BOX 201704
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1704
(406) 444-3742

GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER
DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE VOLESKY

HOUSE MEMBERS
CAROL LAMBERT--Vice Chair
NORMA BIXBY
SUE DICKENSON
JULIE FRENCH
CHAS VINCENT
CRAIG WITTE

SENATE MEMBERS
DAVID WANZENRIED--Chair
BOB HAWKS
CHRISTINE KAUFMANN
DANIEL MCGEE
JIM SHOCKLEY
ROBERT STORY JR

PUBLIC MEMBERS
JEFF PATTISON
BRIAN CEBULL
DIANE CONRADI
DOUG MCRAE

COUNCIL STAFF
TODD EVERTS, Lead Staff
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
SONJA NOWAKOWSKI, Research Analyst
HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst
CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary

June 30, 2008

TO: Council Members

FR: Todd Everts, EQC Staff

RE: The upcoming July 14 and 15, 2008, EQC meeting and other matters

MEETING MATERIALS

Enclosed you will find the following July EQC meeting materials, including:

- ⇒ EQC meeting agenda
- ⇒ EQC Agency Oversight subcommittee meeting agenda
- ⇒ EQC/WPIC subcommittee meeting agenda
- ⇒ EQC requested Climate Change draft report
- ⇒ LC 6000 - LC 6011 climate change bill drafts with background memo and attachments
- ⇒ EQC/LFC Petro Board Subcommittee draft report
- ⇒ Public comment on HJR 57 Conservation Easement draft report
- ⇒ Opencut performance audit
- ⇒ Superfund performance audit
- ⇒ Water quality assessment performance audit
- ⇒ Land banking report
- ⇒ DEQ and DNRC legislative proposals

The EQC summary May meeting minutes will be sent in a later mailing.

AGENCY BILL DRAFT PROPOSALS

In order to facilitate the orderly drafting of executive branch bill drafts and to allow legislative oversight of agency bill draft proposals, each agency assigned to the EQC for oversight purposes is required to present descriptions of proposed legislation to the EQC. At a predetermined EQC meeting, each agency presents the descriptions of their proposed legislation. The EQC reviews and discusses the legislative proposals and then makes a formal decision as to whether the proposed legislation should be requested for drafting purposes only. The EQC's decision to "request" on behalf of the agency that a bill be drafted does not mean

that the EQC necessarily endorses the bill draft, nor does it mean that the bills are "by request of the EQC." It simply gets the requests into the bill drafting system so that the bill drafts can be drafted and pre-introduced prior to the legislative session. The agency will be responsible for finding a legislator to actually carry the bill during the session. This does not mean that the EQC has to request that all of an agency's bill draft proposals be drafted. In the past, the EQC has occasionally made the decision not to request that an agency proposal be drafted. This is a golden opportunity for the EQC to provide comments and constructive criticism regarding agency policy proposals.

On the afternoon of July 15th you will be hearing from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Included in this mailing are the agency requested bill draft proposals that each agency would like you to consider for drafting purposes. These are the proposals that have been approved by the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP).

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me (406 444-3747), Joe Kolman (406 444-9280), Sonja Nowakowski (406 444-3078), or Hope Stockwell (406 444-1640).