

Draft Environmental Quality Council Work Plan Decision Matrix						
Topic	Why is this a topic?	Option A Banquet	Option B Cheeseburger	Option C Fries	Option D Fasting	Resources Allocated
The following topics are either study bills or legislative study resolution requests that may be assigned by the Legislative Council to the EQC. Staff has identified issues that are likely to be assigned to the EQC -- this list may change.						
Split Estates and Oil and Gas Production Coal Bed Methane Reclamation and Bonding  Poll Rank: N/A	HB 790	<b>1.0 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of Option B</li> <li>Include Federal land ownership and management and mineral ownership</li> <li>Evaluate court cases and any environmental impact statements</li> <li>Address each of the 13 elements identified in HB 790 in detail with a specific recommendation in the final report to address each issue.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft legislation to implement recommendations</li> <li>Final report with recommendations and alternatives</li> <li>Issue papers and summaries</li> </ul>	<b>.5 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish EQC subcommittee</li> <li>Complete all of tasks in Option C</li> <li>Hold at least one subcommittee meeting in the major areas of development</li> <li>Tour production areas - both current and reclaimed</li> <li>Identify similarities and differences between conventional and CBM development</li> <li>Address all 13 issues identified in HB 790 at least at a minimum level.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential legislation</li> <li>Final report with recommendations</li> <li>Issue papers and summaries</li> </ul>	<b>.25 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No subcommittee established</li> <li>Summary of other states laws regarding issues identified in HB 790</li> <li>Panel discussion from industry, surface owner, subsurface owner of coal bed methane and conventional oil and gas</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff white paper</li> <li>Issue papers</li> </ul>	No Action	
Study contract timber harvesting  Poll Rank: #7	HJR 33			<b>.02 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorize DNRC to establish working group.</li> <li>DNRC and working group members periodically report to the EQC.</li> <li>DNRC and working group members present findings and policy recommendations to EQC.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief summary of working group findings and recommendations.</li> <li>EQC requested legislation</li> </ul>	No Action	
Study wildland fire suppression laws  Poll Rank: #8	HJR10	<b>.25 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study statutes, policies of other western states.</li> <li>Analyze federal statutes, polices.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim report</li> <li>Legislation</li> </ul>	<b>.15-.2 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study statutes, policies of other western states.</li> <li>Analyze federal statutes, polices.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper</li> </ul>	<b>.1 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study statutes, policies of other western states.</li> <li>Analyze federal statutes, polices.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief summary</li> </ul>	No Action	
Study impacts of superfund sites on Montana Communities  Poll Rank: #16	HJR 34		<b>.15- .2 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign study to the EQC Agency Oversight Subcommittee (if any).</li> <li>Facilitate panel discussions on study issues.</li> <li>Analyze issues.</li> <li>Generate community informational guide.</li> <li>Generate Subcommittee summary report with findings and recommendations.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee summary report</li> <li>Community guide</li> </ul>	<b>.1 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign study to staff.</li> <li>Staff generate a white paper that includes findings and recommendations.</li> <li>EQC review and approval of the white paper.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff white paper</li> </ul>	No Action	

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<b>The following topics are statutory duties or obligations of the EQC</b>						
<b>Water Policy</b>	Statute	<b>.5-.75 FTE Active EQC Subcommittee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All mandatory duties.</li> <li>Significant commitment to water issues.</li> <li>Public involvement.</li> <li>Review and discuss applicability of statutory responsibilities related to water policy issues.</li> <li>Update water rights handbook.</li> <li>Thorough report to Legislature.</li> <li>Potential legislation to address statutory responsibilities</li> <li>Extensive involvement and oversight on water adjudication program - DNRC and the Water Court.</li> </ul>	<b>.25-.5 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All mandatory duties.</li> <li>Selected water issues.</li> <li>Public involvement through EQC meetings.</li> <li>Review and discuss applicability of statutory responsibilities related to water policy issues.</li> <li>Update water rights handbook.</li> <li>Brief report to Legislature.</li> <li>Potential legislation to address statutory responsibilities</li> <li>Basic involvement and oversight on water adjudication program - DNRC and the Water Court.</li> </ul>	<b>.1 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory duties only.</li> <li>Public involvement through EQC meetings.</li> <li>Review and discuss applicability of statutory responsibilities related to water policy issues.</li> <li>Very brief report to Legislature.</li> <li>Potential legislation to address statutory responsibilities</li> <li>Minimal involvement and oversight on water adjudication program - DNRC and the Water Court.</li> </ul>		
<b>EQC Statutory Duties</b>	Statute	<b>1.0 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulfill all statutory requirements.</li> <li>Participate in all mandatory meetings and other environmental policy meetings (e.g. Board of Environmental Review, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission, etc.)</li> <li>Rewrite and reprint <i>Our Montana Environment</i> or similar effort.</li> <li>Establish MEPA training and training schedule for state employees and others.</li> <li>Notify/solicit permit applicants to present MEPA concerns to EQC.</li> <li>Review and comment on certain agency MEPA documents for compliance and consistency.</li> <li>Review and comment as a Council on environmental reviews for selected controversial projects. (e.g. MEPA air quality debate over Holcim cement plant tire burning proposal.)</li> </ul>	<b>.3-.5 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulfill selected statutory requirements in greater detail.</li> <li>Accept reports and select some for EQC review, analysis, and comment.</li> <li>Select topics for further analysis or presentation.</li> <li>Request trend information for each topic reviewed by EQC.</li> <li>Rewrite selected segments of EQC trends publication, <i>Our Montana Environment</i>, and post on EQC website.</li> <li>Provide training to state agencies on as requested basis.</li> <li>Provide MEPA Handbooks to agencies and others as requested.</li> <li>Provide updated web access to database.</li> <li>Review selected controversial MEPA documents/projects.</li> <li>Track MEPA litigation during interim.</li> </ul>	<b>.05 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solicit and accept reports as required.</li> <li>Fulfill statutory requirements at minimal level of effort.</li> <li>Select oversight topics and issues for presentation and review at EQC meetings on an ad hoc basis.</li> <li>Maintain MEPA database.</li> <li>Participate in meetings as necessary.</li> <li>Identify and describe trends in EQC interim study work.</li> <li>Update MEPA handbook as needed.</li> <li>Inventory and evaluate continued need for the specific statutory duties.</li> </ul>		
<b>EQC Publications</b>	Optional (see above)	<b>.12 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to Option B, update the Permit Index.</li> </ul>	<b>.04 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update publications that require minimal effort.</li> <li>Have the EQC review and approve updates</li> </ul>	<b>No Action.</b>	<b>No Action</b>	

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Agency rule oversight	Statute	.20 - .30 FTE <b>Active EQC Involvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option B intensified!</li> <li>Consistent EQC involvement encompassing a broad range of oversight issues.</li> <li>In depth systematic review of a larger number of state agency programs than in Option B.</li> <li>Possible report and recommendations/legislation for changes in implementation of state policy.</li> <li>Active EQC review of rules and legislation.</li> </ul>	.15 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Systematic oversight.</li> <li>In addition to Option C, systematically evaluate and monitor a specific number of state agency programs.</li> <li>More intensive review of administrative rules than Option C (Council Attorney provides synopses of significant and controversial proposed rules).</li> <li>Review draft agency legislation.</li> <li>Receive and comment on the compliance and enforcement report required pursuant to 75-1-314, MCA.</li> <li>Systematic oversight for targeted programs.</li> <li>Active EQC review of rules and legislation.</li> <li>Possible EQC recommendations to the next Legislature.</li> </ul>	.05 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize oversight issues before the EQC on an as requested basis.</li> <li>Council members receive copies of rule notices of proposed adoption of rules. Council members responsible for notifying staff or the Council Chair if they want more information.</li> <li>Review draft agency legislation.</li> <li>Receive and comment on the compliance and enforcement report required pursuant to 75-1-314, MCA.</li> <li>Oversight on an as needed basis.</li> <li>Possible EQC recommendations to next Legislature.</li> </ul>		
<b>The following environmental policy topics have been suggested by EQC council members for evaluation and study</b>						
DNRC funding to administer state trust lands	Member defined issue  DNRC gets funds from trust land earnings to administer the program. The legality of these assessments has been questioned.			.02 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorize DNRC, University System, OPI to establish working group.</li> <li>DNRC and working group members periodically report to the EQC.</li> <li>DNRC and working group members present findings and policy recommendations to EQC.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief summary of working group findings and recommendations.</li> <li>EQC requested legislation</li> </ul>	No Action	
Effluent from coal plants	Member defined issue  Study regulations, oversight, cleanup, neighbor notification for leaks			.01 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study laws, rules and policies in Montana, other states</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary</li> </ul>	No Action	
Review public involvement in FWP bison hunt decision	Member defined issue			.005 FTE ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review public record</li> <li>Review applicable statutes, policies</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary</li> </ul>	No Action	
Review public involvement in Holcim EIS process	Member defined issue  Study how process related to MEPA			.005 FTE ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review public record</li> <li>Review applicable statutes, policies</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary</li> </ul>	No Action	

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Examine role EQC may play in determining roadless land inventory	Member defined issue.	<b>.75 FTE ?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop areas for inclusion, possibly addressing ways to protect public health and safety, reduce wildfire risks to communities and critical wildlife habitat, maintain critical infrastructure, and ensure that citizens have access to private property.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report</li> <li>Recommendations</li> </ul>	<b>.25 FTE ?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist state agencies in developing areas for inclusion.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide input for report.</li> </ul>	<b>.025 FTE ?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EQC oversight of proposed roadless petition.</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide proposed EQC revisions</li> </ul>	No Action	
<b>Total Available Resources</b>						<b>2.37</b>

**FTE Equivalents**

1 Interim FTE = 16 months = 2720 hrs.

.05 FTE = 136 hrs = 17 days

0.1 FTE = 272 hrs = 34 days

.25 FTE = 680 hrs = 85 days

.50 FTE = 1360 hrs = 170 days

.75 FTE = 1530 hrs = 191 days

1 FTE = 2720 hrs = 340 days