



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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June 28, 2012

To: EQC members  
From: EQC staff  
Re: July permitting discussion

To prepare for the upcoming EQC meeting, you are receiving a copy of the "Montana Index of Environmental Permits." EQC staff recently updated the document for its 2012 publication. An overview of the index was provided to the Select Committee on Efficiency in Government earlier this year. A similar overview was requested for the EQC.

The index, first published in 1976, is prepared each interim by EQC staff and executive branch natural resource agencies to provide a complete list of the permits and licenses needed to conduct activities that may affect the state's environment. The index lists the required permits, the permitting agencies, and the statutes and rules that regulate each permit.

It is noteworthy that in the context of the index, permit includes any action that requires the approval of an executive agency and has the potential to affect natural resources. Permits then encompass actions ranging from air quality permits and geothermal leases on state lands to hunting licenses and bee keeping registrations.

Staff will provide you with additional information about the index during the July meeting.

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