



Water Policy Interim Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

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TO: Water Policy Interim Committee
RE: May 12-13, 2014 meeting

Greetings WPIC members,

The committee convenes for two days beginning at 1 p.m. May 12 in room 172 of the Capitol.

Enclosed are meeting materials. The materials are also online at www.leg.mt.gov/water. I hope to receive additional materials that did not make our mailing deadline -- like the University of Montana Law School study of the Water Court -- which I will send via email, if possible.

Enclosures for the May packet include:

- An agenda for the May meeting.
- Draft minutes from the March WPIC meeting.
- Tab 1: Adjudication update from the Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) and the Water Court, each detailing their progress toward resolution of pre-1973 water rights claims across the Montana.
- Tab 2: Agency rulemaking update from committee attorney Helen Thigpen (Legislative Services Division).
- Tab 3: A revenue estimate profile of the Metal Mines License Tax. While a Legislative Fiscal Division analyst will present sources and uses of the tax, discussion is expected to focus on possible future uses of the portion now bound for the general fund.
- Tab 4: Two letters regarding the reopening of negotiations of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes water rights settlement.
- Tab 5: A letter from the Environmental Quality Council, requesting the WPIC consider a request from Rep. Nancy Ballance and Rep. Keith Regier. The representatives are requesting the committee conduct further analysis of the proposed CSKT water rights settlement.

Much of the committee's time will again be focused on the proposed CSKT water rights settlement. Many of the documents you have previously received -- especially those in the March 2014 agenda packet -- may be helpful for this discussion.

Please let me know if you have questions about the meeting or materials.

Sincerely,

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