



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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FINAL agenda

Environmental Quality Council

October 22-23, 2025

Room 317

Agenda times are approximate

Wed., Oct. 22

1 p.m. Call to order

- Roll call

1:05 p.m. Adoption of final work plan

- Jason Mohr, legislative environmental analyst (Legislative Environmental Policy Office)
- Committee questions, discussion

1:15 p.m. HJ62 (Study of wildfire prevention/resilience)

- Wildfire risks to communities
 - Wyatt Frampton, deputy forestry administrator (Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation)
 - Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

2:30 p.m. SJ42 (Study of noxious weed control)

- Review of related laws
 - Liz Lodman, council administrator (Montana Invasive Species Council)
 - Jasmine Chaffee, state noxious weed coordinator (Dept. of Agriculture)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

3:30 p.m. Administrative rule review

- Joe Carroll, council legal staff (Legal Services Office)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

4 p.m. Directors' report: Annual agency plan (2-12-104, MCA), annual agency performance report (2-12-105, MCA), additional topics

- Amanda Kaster, director (DNRC)
 - Public comment
- Christy Clark, director (Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks)
 - Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

5 p.m. Recess

Thurs., Oct. 23

8 a.m. Reconvene

8:05 a.m. Status of Montana Tunnels mine

- Sonja Nowakowski, director (Dept. of Environmental Quality)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

8:30 a.m. Status of remediation at Zortman-Landusky mine

- Sonia Nowakowski (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

9 a.m. Directors' reports: Annual agency plan (2-12-104, MCA), annual agency performance report (2-12-105, MCA), additional topics

- Sonja Nowakowski (DEQ)
 - Public comment

9:30 a.m. Air quality monitoring

- Bo Wilkins, Air Quality Bureau chief (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

10 a.m. Rare earth elements/critical minerals in Montana

- Matt Vincent, executive director (Montana Mining Assoc.)
 - Public comment
- John Metesh, Critical Minerals Initiatives executive director (Montana Tech)
 - Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

10:30 a.m. Wolf management: hunting season, federal court ruling, annual report (87-1-901, MCA)

- Quentin Kujala, chief of conservation policy (FWP)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

11:30 a.m. Status of FWP license providers

- Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau chief (FWP)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Reconvene

1:05 a.m. HB70 (Study of state fire suppression)

- Topic review
 - Jason Mohr (LEPO)
 - Public comment
- LFD fire tool: Add'l information
 - Alice Hecht, fiscal analyst II (Legislative Fiscal Division)
 - Public comment
- Wildfire season summary
 - Wyatt Frampton (DNRC)
 - Public comment
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

2 p.m. Solid waste management and resource recovery plan (75-10-111, MCA)

- Amy Steinmetz, Waste Management and Remediation Division administrator (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

2:30 p.m. Orphan Share funds annual report (75-10-743, MCA)

- Amy Steinmetz (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

3 p.m. Libby Asbestos Oversight Committee (75-10-1601, MCA)

- Amy Steinmetz (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

4 p.m. Sage grouse reports

- Annual report from Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (87-5-918, MCA)
 - Richard Roth, Governor's office
 - Therese Hartman, Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program manager (DNRC)
 - Public comment
- Annual report on sage grouse populations (87-1-201, MCA)
 - Ken McDonald, Wildlife Division administrator (FWP)
 - Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

4:00 p.m. Environmental indicators

- Jason Mohr (LEPO)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

4:30 p.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the EQC

4:45 p.m. Administrative work session

- Preview of January meeting
 - Jason Mohr
- Additional directions to staff

5 p.m. Adjourn

Note:

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To offer public comment via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form at <https://participate.legmt.gov> for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting.

Written public comment may be submitted either through the online form at <https://participate.legmt.gov> or by mailing the comments to the Environmental Quality Council, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

**Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

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