



Matthew H. Mead, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Todd Parfitt, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Matthew H. Mead, Governor
FROM: Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
 [Agency Contact: Craig Hults, phone 777-7066, email craig.hults@wyo.gov]
SUBJECT: Proposed Rule Package, Chapter 14
 Coal Rules and Regulations, Land Quality Division
DATE: December 16, 2015
PRIORITY: HIGH – Deadline for response is **December 30, 2015**
SUMMARY: Notice of Agency Rulemaking

RECEIVED

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

The Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division (LQD) is proposing to amend its Coal Rules and Regulations. The proposed changes are intended to add current best management practices and standards and provide consistency between the Land Quality Division, Water Quality Division and State Engineers Office. The following is a brief summary of the proposed rule changes in Chapter 14.

- Updated drill hole abandonment procedures and methodologies.
- Added reclamation bond calculation requirements in lieu of the flat \$10,000 reclamation bond because that amount was often times insufficient to cover the cost of reclamation.
- Split out surface reclamation requirements in to a new section.
- Provided drill hole plugging “recipes” for filling drill holes.

The proposed rules were heard by the LQD Advisory Board on October 26, 2015. The Board recommended the rules proceed to the Environmental Quality Council with minor revision. The proposed changes are not expected to be controversial as no comments were received during the Advisory Board Meeting. The proposed rules will meet Federal requirements imposed by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The Attorney General’s Office has reviewed the rules for statutory authority and agreed they could proceed. The LQD is requesting to proceed with formal rulemaking with this rule package.

GOVERNORS RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- Agency may proceed.
 Delay Public Comment and Set Up Meeting w/ _____

Michael Barnett 12-28-15
 Signature: Governor’s Counsel



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