

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council (EQC) will consider proposed revisions to Chapter 14 of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Land Quality Division (LQD), Coal Rules and Regulations addressing requirements for exploration of coal by drilling at a public hearing to be held on March 2, 2016 at the Herschler Building, Room 1699, 122 W 25th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming, commencing at 9:00 a.m. (MST).

The LQD, pursuant to the authority vested in it by the Environmental Quality Act, Wyoming Statutes §35-11-101 to 1803 et seq., proposes to amend and revise Chapter 14 of the LQD Coal Rules and Regulations. Coal Chapters 14 is proposed for revision to clarify plugging and sealing requirements for drill holes, provide consistency between other state agencies, clarify bond calculation requirements and codify best management practices and standards.

The EQC will begin accepting comments on the proposed revisions beginning January 11, 2016. In order for the Department to file the response to comments, written comments should be received no later than 5:00 p.m. (MST) on February 26, 2016. Written comments should be submitted to the following address: DEQ/Land Quality Division, 200 W. 17th Street. Lower Level, Cheyenne, WY 82002. Interested parties may also submit electronic comments by accessing the DEQ Public Comments Online at: <http://deq.wyoming.gov/lqd/resources/public-comments-online/>. Copies of the Proposed Rules and Statement of Principal Reasons are available for review at: <http://deq.wyoming.gov/lqd/resources/proposed-rules-regs/>. Persons may also request a copy of the proposed rules by contacting Kim Pandullo at (307) 777-7756, fax: (307) 777-5864 or email at: kim.pandullo@wyo.gov. Questions regarding the proposed rules may be directed to Craig Hults at (307) 777-7066 or email at craig.hults@wyo.gov. The entire record and the comments submitted during the comment period can be viewed at the EQC website: <https://eqc.wyo.gov/Public/Dockets.aspx> under the link titled "16-4101."

The EQC has scheduled the public hearing on March 2, 2016. The EQC will consider the proposed rules, written comments, and the analysis of comments, along with any modifications proposed by the LQD to the draft rules. At the public hearing, oral statements that focus on the written comments, the DEQ's analysis of comments and issues raised by the analysis will be accepted. The EQC will determine if the record will remain open beyond the close of the scheduled hearing. If the comment period is extended, the extension will be posted on the Land Quality website as well as the above-stated website for the EQC. The EQC may close the record and make a final decision at the conclusion of comments. Therefore, those wishing to comment on these proposed regulations should submit comments pursuant to the schedule given above.

Any person wishing to use a digital presentation during their testimony before the EQC must provide a digital copy to the EQC no less than 3 days prior to the hearing unless you contact the EQC and request an extension for good cause. Failure to submit a timely digital copy will result in the person not being allowed to use the presentation during their testimony.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternative formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.