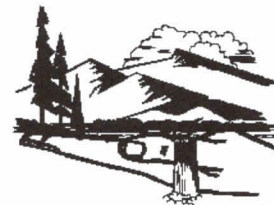




Department of Environmental Quality

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



Mark Gordon, Governor



Todd Parfitt, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Corra, Chairperson, Environmental Quality Council (EQC)

FROM: Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality *TP*

THROUGH: Kyle Wendtland, Administrator, Land Quality Division (LQD) *KW*

DATE: January 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Hearing Date Request for Coal Chapter 2, Noncoal Chapter 5, and Noncoal Chapter 10 Rule Packages

The LQD is requesting a Hearing Date for the above rule packages. Rule package materials will be sent under a separate cover memo to follow. The following Docket Numbers have already been assigned: Coal Chapter 2 – #21-4101; Noncoal Chapter 5 - #21-4102; and Noncoal Chapter 10 - #21-4103.

The proposed revisions to Coal Chapter 2 include adding rules which allow for the disposal of decommissioned wind turbine blades and towers as backfill at coal mining operations, updating the rules to meet Secretary of State formatting requirements, and correct grammatical errors throughout the chapter. The proposed revisions to Noncoal Chapter 5 include creating a new Section 1 of the rules to allow for limited exploration activities of three acres or less, allow for the sale of minerals recovered during exploration, and limiting renewals of exploration operations to two successive renewals. The proposed revisions to Noncoal Chapter 10 include revising the rules to streamline administrative procedures, removing the requirement to begin reclamation within thirty days of abandonment, and replacing that requirement with a five-year renewal period for Limited Mining Operations.

Each rule package was presented to the LQD Advisory Board on multiple occasions. All three rule packages were approved to proceed to formal rulemaking. The Governor's Office and Attorney General's Office have approved proceeding with the proposed rules and therefore the LQD is making a request for a hearing date on February 25, 2021 to present the rules to the Council.

Please contact Craig Hults (777-7066 or craig.hults@wyo.gov) if you have any questions regarding this request or rule package materials to follow. Thank you.