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\begin{aligned}
& \text { BEFORE THE LAND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD } \\
& \text { STATE OF WYOMING }
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IN RE: LQD MEETING


TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING PROCEEDINGS

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    PURSUANT TO NOTICE duly given to all parties
in interest, this matter came on for meeting
on the 19th day of August, 2021, at the hour of
10:00 a.m., at 200 West 17th Street, Conference Room 211,
Cheyenne, Wyoming, before the Land Quality Advisory Board,
Chairman Jim Gampetro presiding, with Mr. Gene Legerski,
Ms. Natalia Macker, Mr. John Hines and Mr. Blake Jones,
advisory board members, all present by videoconference,
and Mr. MacKenzie Williams and Mr. James Peters from the
Attorney General's Office
    Mr. Matthew VanWormer, Wyoming Attorney
General's Office, for the Board; Mr. Craig Hults, LQD
Natural Resource Program Principal, attending in person.
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A P P E A R A N C E S MS. SHANNON ANDERSON MS. LAURA ACKERMANN (By videoconference)

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Also Present:
    (By videoconference)
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        P R O C E E D I N G S
            (Meeting proceedings commenced
            10:00 a.m., August 19, 2021.)
            CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: I'm going to declare
the meeting is now open, and we'll -- if Natalia checks in,
we'll know.
    MR. HULTS: There she is.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: She's there?
    MR. HULTS: Yep.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Okay. We have
everybody. I'm going to simply ask everyone to introduce
themselves as we go around. And I'm Jim Gampetro, chairman
of the Land Quality Advisory Board, public representative
from Buffalo, Wyoming.
        MR. LEGERSKI: I'm Gene Legerski, public
representative from Sweetwater County.
    BOARD MEMBER MACKER: I'm Natalia Macker,
and I'm a public representative from Teton County.
    BOARD MEMBER JONES: I'm Blake Jones. I'm
industry rep from Gillette, Wyoming.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Hey, John, are you out
there?
    BOARD MEMBER HINES: Yes.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: You want to introduce
yourself?
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BOARD MEMBER HINES: This is John Hines, but I'm not working it right.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Craig, do you want to introduce the other attendees?

MR. HULTS: Sure. Here in Cheyenne, this is Craig Hults from the Land Quality Division. And also with us is Kathy Kendrick from Wyoming Reporting and Matt VanWormer from the Wyoming Attorney General's Office.

I'm also seeing MacKenzie Williams from the Wyoming Attorney General's Office. He's standing in today for representation for the advisory board.

I'm also seeing Shannon Anderson from Powder

River Basin Resource Council. And I believe Laura

Ackermann is also on the line.

MS. ACKERMANN: Yes, I am. I'm from NTEC, just kind of listening in, back into Wyoming a little bit.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Okay. I would like to welcome you all to the meeting. And our first order of business here is to get approval of the June 24 th meeting minutes.

Would anyone like to propose that?

BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the June 24 th meeting minutes.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Is there a second?

BOARD MEMBER LEGERSKI: I'll second. This

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is Gene.
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            CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Okay. All those in
favor of approving the minutes from the June 24th meeting,
please signify by saying aye.
            BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Aye.
            BOARD MEMBER BLAKE: Aye.
            BOARD MEMBER LEGERSKI: Aye.
            CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Any opposed, please
indicate so. Seeing no opposed, the minutes are approved.
    I am now going to turn this over to Mr. Hults,
who is going to guide us through what we're doing today.
    Go ahead, Craig.
            MR. HULTS: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
    Today we have before you two rule packages. I
had to split them apart due to the fact that the impact to
separate programs, our Coal and Noncoal programs. I could
have presented them to you in one package, but later on
down the line I'm going to be constrained to have to split
them apart, so just getting ahead of the game a little bit.
    We have before us -- the changes that we have are
in Response 1 to statutory changes that were made to
Wyoming Statute 35-11-406. We introduced that last meeting
the changes that were made to that statute, but it impacts
the procedures for objections on permitting actions and
some of the timelines to the decision-making process on
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those permitting actions.
    Also, in Noncoal chapters, I think it's only one,
Noncoal Chapter 9, there was a legislative change in 2021
under House Bill 49 that increased the fees for some
permitting actions. I noticed that while I was going
through Chapter 9. That seems to be really the only
reference to fees in our -- the chapters that I've noticed.
But I've included those changes as well.
    And then in Noncoal Chapter 11, we received
comments from the Attorney General's Office during their
statutory review, and we've incorporated a number of those
changes. That's kind of our biggest chapter. It looks
like a lot of changes, but, realistically, it's grammatical
and organizational and not substantive in nature.
    What I would like to do is just start you off
easy. I can go through the Coal Statement of Reasons. You
should all have those files. If not, they're posted up on
the LQD's website on the proposed rules page.
    If that sounds amenable, Mr. Chairman, I'd jump
into the Coal Statement of Reasons.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Sounds good. Let's
talk about the coal.
    MR. HULTS: All right. So like I said,
these changes were in response to the legislative change
made in 2020 that was in Senate File 44. Again, that
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impacted the procedures for the decision making on
permitting actions.
    In Coal Chapter 10, we revised one section to
make some corrections to the statutory citations, and also
included some references to statutes that were repealed, so
we made those corrections.
    And then in Coal Chapter 13, a similar thing. We
revised Section 3(b) to correct the statutory citations.
And also it was in Section 4 we had to make some changes
because the decision-making process was detailed a little
more in the chapter. So we've updated those to comply with
the legislative changes.
    So what I'll do is jump into Coal Chapter 10.
And this is on page 1 of the Coal Exploration chapter in
the Statement of Reasons. The first change I made was to
edit the chapter header. That is so it conforms to the
statute -- Secretary of State's rules on rules. So I just
deleted the Department of Environmental Quality and the
Division reference.
    And then moving to Section 3, the change here --
this is in 3(b). Again, we made one correction to conform
to rules on rules. Whenever you reference a statute in the
rules the first instance, the Wyoming statute should be
spelled out. We made that correction.
    The other change was that we had a reference to a
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repealed section in the statute that has been replaced with
the current section. And that's (p).
    And the final correction was we had a reference
to, if there were no objections, the Administrator shall
promptly approve. I wanted to make that a little bit more
specific, and the decision-making process is spelled out in
Wyoming Statute 35-11-406(p). So we've included that
reference in Section 3(b). Those are the only changes to
Chapter 10.
    And then in Coal Chapter 13, this one had a
little bit more revision. This spells out the procedures
a little bit more in rule. Chapter 13 is our Coal
permit revisions chapter. So in Section 3(b), we had a
reference -- and I'm noticing this now. I missed a
reference to the repealed section of the statute in the
first line of that section. So I would propose that I will
change that, update that to section (p) instead of (k),
which it currently references.
    The second change was in the second sentence,
there was a reference to the public hearing. Currently, as
the process is written, if we do receive objections and
there's a request for an informal conference, that
conference will be then held instead of the public hearing.
And that, again, is in conformity with Wyoming statute
35-11-406(p). And there was a reference to the Council
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issuing findings of fact and make a decision within
6 0 \text { days. That doesn't match the procedures that are}
currently in statute, so that reference was deleted.
    Then moving on to Section 4. Here, again, this
is the Administrator's and Director's decision. Here the
changes we made -- there is reference if notice is
required. Not all revisions require public notice and a
comment period. When that does occur, in (ii)(A), made a
correction -- a grammatical correction, basically. The
original language was that if somebody protested, the
statutory language refers to objections. So we made that
change.
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In (b), we also had that same issue, protest
versus object. We made that change. We also included the
informal conference process within the rule. Again, there
is a reference to the hearing. The only time there would
be a hearing now is if an objector or the applicant
appealed the Director's decision. So that reference was
removed.
And then, finally, the last sentences that were
inserted in the Section $B$, this is more of the procedure.
It's basically replacing the sentence that was deleted
above. And it spells out that the objector or the
applicant may appeal the decision, and spells out the
timelines for a hearing, if one is held.

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And that concludes the revisions to Chapter 10 and 13 for the Coal program.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Any comments or questions, suggestions on that section?

Okay. Hearing none, can we move on?

MR. HULTS: Sure. So now I'm going to jump into the one that's going to test your ability to stay awake maybe a little bit. This chapter -- or this rule package for the Noncoal. Chapter 11's a rather lengthy chapter, but $I$ will try and move through this as quickly as possible and bearing with Kathy, so I don't talk too fast.

But this one $I$ sent out this morning a revised Statement of Reasons that includes Chapter 7, which, again, is our Revisions chapter, but this is for Noncoal. That's the file I'm going to be working off of. It's very similar to the original one I sent out, except that there's an extra two pages. We included Noncoal Chapter 7.

I was working on another project yesterday and realized that there was language that dealt with the 35-11-406 changes. So I've included that in this package. Those were the changes in Chapter 7 that we were working on.

In Chapter 9, which is our small mine permit
application requirements. This one, again, was revised to
incorporate the changes to 35-11-406. And Chapter 9 also

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had a section on the fees --
            (Board Member Hines leaves
            the meeting.)
            MR. HULTS: -- that was changed. Those
were the changes in House Bill 49 that were made in 2021.
So we've updated the fee amounts.
    The fee amounts, when we were originally
researching this, I found out that the fees haven't changed
since our program was initially stood up back in the late
'70s. So seems like they were ripe for change. So those
changes are included as well.
    And then in Chapter 11, the In Situ Mining
chapter, again, we made revisions to conform with the
35-11-406 changes. And this chapter also was originally
proposed -- you had seen this language -- to insert a
sentence I had deleted inadvertently when I filed the final
rules with the Secretary of State. It also added some
corrections to statutory references that were suggested by
the Legislative Service Office. We made those corrections
as well.
    And then, finally, we included the proposed
changes from the Attorney General's Office. Again, most of
those are grammatical or organizational in nature, but I'll
try and point those out as I go along.
    So what I'd like to do is jump into, starting on
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page 1, the Chapter 7 revisions. So in Chapter 7, this is
the Noncoal mine permit or research and development testing
license revisions. Did not propose any changes to sections
1 or 2. And then in Section 3 -- again, this is Section
3(b), we made a reference again to a public hearing if
objections were filed. That's no longer the procedure.
And also had a description of the Environmental Quality
Council issuing findings of fact. Again, that requirement
is changed, and so those sections -- or those two sentences
were deleted.
    In Section 4, this one, again, it details the
decision-making process. In (a), there is a revision to
mirror the language in 35-11-406. And then in (a) (ii),
again, the same kind of language where it was protested
versus objected. We made that similar change.
    And then in (b), we spelled out the procedure a
little bit more accurately. It looks like that got cut off
possibly. Hmm. So this will mirror -- and I apologize. I
just did this on the fly this morning. This will mirror
what the language is in 406(q). And I will add the rest of
that sentence as soon as I can. Oh, here it is. Never
mind. I just flipped a page. My apologies.
    So the remainder of the section includes the
language on the close of the comment period. We also again
deleted when it was protested to, there was a 15-day
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requirement. And that's actually been removed from
the statute and new timelines were put in place. And
that was why we added a new (c) that spells out how the
decision-making process will go, and also describes that
the objector or an applicant may appeal the Director's
decision in accordance with 35-11-406(q) (iii). And those
are the only changes to Chapter 7.
    Moving on to Chapter 9. This is our small mine
permit application requirements. Again, this one hasn't
been revised since the secretary of state changed the rules
on rules. So we've removed part of the section header.
The requirements are that you just list the chapter number
and the title. So we've removed that language. Again, in
Section 1, we made a change to the reference in the Wyoming
statute. Again, this is the first instance where a
statute's referenced, so we spelled out the word.
    And then in Section 2, this is a section that had
the fees discussed. The previous filing fee for a small
mine permit was $100 plus $10 for each additional acre.
That's been raised to $200 with a maximum not to exceed
$2,000. So we've updated that.
    There is a reference to permit amendments. The
statutes didn't change that, so that language has remained
the same.
    And then in (b), this is the notification of
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publication requirements. It had some outdated references
to the statute after the revisions were made. We've made
those corrections in (b).
    And then, finally, in Section 7, this was dealing
with the conversion of a small mine permit to a regular
mine permit. Again, there was reference to statutory
section that has been repealed. We've added (q), which
replaced the previously repealed subsection. So we've
updated that reference.
    And those are the only changes to subsection --
or Chapter 9. And I will say both our Coal chapters and --
Chapters 9 and 7 still will be going through a review by
the Attorney General's Office for statutory authority. And
that also includes some of the organizational and
grammatical corrections we've received on Chapter 11. So
there is a possibility you may see these rules again if we
feel like we're outside the scope of the public notice and
the changes are bigger than we anticipate. Most of these
chapters are pretty small, so we're hopeful that it won't
require much.
    So moving into Chapter 11. This is a long
chapter, but, like I said, I'll try and walk through this,
but if anybody has questions, feel free to interrupt me
along the way or if you need to pause for a minute to catch
up.
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In Section 1 , which is the definitions section of Chapter 11, which deals with the in situ mining, we deleted a bunch of statutory -- or definitions that were listed within the definitions section. And the reason for the deletion was we were merely referencing the statute. That was a suggestion from the Attorney General's, and it fits with what other agencies are doing. Those definitions are available. If you see the terms in the chapter, they can be looked up within the statutory language. So we've deleted quite a few of those.

Also, based on that, as you can see in Chapter -on page 5 of the document I'm working on, because we are deleting those definitions, the subsection headers had to be updated throughout the chapter. So Beyond Excursion, that was the last one that was deleted as we're moving through this section, just because it was a statutory reference.

Then we move to Exempted Aquifer. Here a grammatical change was made.

Then moving on to Fact Sheet. This one was revised to strike some language that was better suited for later in the chapter. So we've shortened the definition and beginning with the "administrator shall" language and then the romanette subsections beyond that, those have been moved to later portion of the chapter.

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    And then moving down again, mostly on page 7 of
the document I'm working from. Again, just updating the
section headers. In situ mining definition was just a
statutory reference that's been removed.
    Then we move to the definition for mechanical
integrity testing. This definition was revised, one, to
update the reference. We don't use the acronym anywhere in
the chapter.
    And then the final sentence was removed. Mining
Permit, that definition was also deleted. Moving down to
production well, this was updated to include a full
reference to the Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality. That was the first instance where the term
Department was used within the chapter.
    Two more definitions were removed, as they were
statutory references. And then moving to sealing, the
definition for sealing, we removed the final sentence that
included a definition for sealant materials. That
definition was deleted as that's covered by Chapter 8 of
the Noncoal rules and spells out greater detail of what
sealant materials are. So the definition is now just
dealing with sealing.
    Moving on to the next section. We updated the
Division definition and made that conform to the changes we
made in reference to the Department.
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The topsoil definition, again, was just a statutory reference, so that's been removed. Some grammatical changes were made to the Underground Source of Water definition.

Again, Waters of the state was removed, as that was just a statutory reference. And then the final three definitions, just updates to the section headers for those chapters.

That takes us to Section 2. This section is General Requirements. In (a), we added the subsection, just the section header. This was initially just an opening paragraph within the chapter. It seems suited that it should be a subsection of its own. The first sentence was struck. This requirement about the submission of the application in accordance with our regulations, that's already spelled out in statute.

Then in (b), made some minor revisions to the grammar. One of these you'll see throughout is when we referred to the rules and regulations, it was suggested by the Attorney General's Office that we just say "rules" and not "and regulations." So we made that correction throughout the chapter. And also changed an "and" to an -or an "or" to an "and," just to make a grammatical correction.
(c), again, references the rules and regulations

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as updated. We also deleted the reference to the date of
the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules. That's
consistent with what's been suggested by the Attorney
General's Office and practice of other divisions. So we're
removing those references to dates like that.
    In (d), again, this was a section that was
revised to remove language that's already in statute. And
then there was a final revision to the last sentence to
remove some redundant language.
    Subsection -- or former (d) was removed to delete
language that's already in statute. And then the final
sentence of that section is moved to a new subsection later
in the chapter. A new subsection (e) was added. And this
is the language that was removed from the Facts Sheet
definition. It fits better in this location, so we've
added it here.
    And then in (f), (g) and (h), those were just
revised to update the headers to conform to -- or addition
of the earlier subsection.
    Also, we made a grammatical change to the
definition -- or the reference to a responsible corporate
officer and made that change.
    Also, included an updated reference to the United
States EPA. A similar revision was made to the reference
to the duly authorized representative in (ii), with the
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grammatical change there.
Moving on to (c) of (ii), we made a change from a
reference to the Director, to the Division. Typically when
things that are submitted in relationship to permit
applications, they don't go directly to the Director. They
would go to our Division. So we've updated that reference.
Also, we made in (iii) a revision to the section
designation, because we were changing all of the headers to
those, we had to update those based on our previous changes
within the section.

And that would move us to Section 3. This is the Application Content Requirements. We made some grammatical changes to subsection (a). We had referenced to Chapter 1,
which just contains the definitions in the Noncoal rules.
And to say that -- that the permit application must contain
those definitions didn't make sense, so we removed that
section -- or reference to Chapter 1 and updated some of
the language in the other references to further
subsections.
And, finally, made a change to the rules and
regulations to become just rules.
Moving on, we added a new (b). This was added
from language that we struck previously within the chapter.
It just seemed to fit better here.
And moving on to Section 4. Again, we made some

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similar revisions to subsection (a) that we had just
discussed in the previous section. There were some
updated -- I'm on page 15. Kind of moving along.
    There was a reference to a (x) that seemed to fit
better under (ix), so we've designated that section as (C).
The same goes for (D), (E) and (F). So that was just
reorganization.
    Moving on to Section 5. Again, (a) was revised
to remove the Chapter 1 references and we updated the
statutory reference there.
    Then in (ii) of (a), made a grammatical change to
(B).
    And then moving on to (iv), which is on page 17.
We struck the acronym for the State Engineer's Office. We
don't use that term later in the chapter, so that's
unnecessary to have that there.
    And then we also spelled out Nuclear Regulatory
Commission instead of the acronym that was referenced.
This is the first instance, and we don't use it again later
in the chapter, so there wasn't need to keep the acronym in
there.
    And then in (ix), we had a -- the language was a
description of a location within the permit where
underground injection is -- the language is originally
authorized. We replaced that with the term "planned." The
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reasoning behind that is this is describing a permanent
application process, so they wouldn't necessarily have
authorization at that point. So we made that grammatical
change.
Moving to the bottom of page 18. We had a
reference to Sections 16 and 15. We just flipped them so
it made numerical order and removed the term "respectively"
at the end of the chapter -- or at the end of the sentence.
    And then the final correction in this section is
under (xxii). The way this sentence was structured
originally was it said "a maintenance plan to ensure," and
then (E) was "spill response and reporting plan." We just
updated that to make the language work better. So now it
reads a maintenance plan to ensure effective spill response
and reporting.
    Then moving on to Section 6. We updated, again,
the statutory reference in (a) and removed the reference to
the Chapter 1 definitions.
    We made a grammatical change in (i)(b).
    In (ii), we made another grammatical correction
to that subsection.
    Then in (II), we made some more grammatical
changes. There was a reference to animals. However, the
next term in that sentence was "wildlife." We changed the
term "animals" to "livestock." That seems to fit how these
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terms are usually referenced in statute.
    And then we also corrected a typo where it said
"aquatic like," we changed that to "aquatic life."
    Moving on to page 21. And this is in (D).
Again, we removed the date in the reference to the EPA
regulations. And then also we made a change to (E). We
added the language that was in the subsections in (I) and
(II) below, and just brought that into the rest of (E).
    In romanette -- or in (F), we just updated -- we
had the figure number 1. We replaced that with the word.
    In (iv), we removed the term "time." The
sentence read "a proposed time schedule." We removed the
word "time." I think that's implied when you talk about a
schedule, that you're dealing with time.
    And that takes us to Section 7. This one was
revised to make the grammatical corrections, and then also
provide consistency with the other subsections that we
revised those opening paragraphs. I'm not seeing any
further changes within Section 7.
    So Section 8 is our Well Construction
Requirements. This section was revised -- we added the
language in the introductory paragraph and placed it as a
new opening paragraph. The language that's here was taken
from language that will be struck -- or was struck in
previous sections. So it's not all new language that was
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here in the chapter already. We just placed it at the
beginning of the Section 8.
    And then on the next page, that's where you see
(iii) and (iv) were struck to create the previous paragraph
I was just talking about. A grammatical change was made to
(B). We added the "and" term so that it fit grammatically.
    Moving on to page 25, (iv). Again, we updated
the reference to the rules and regulations to Noncoal
Rules. There were some further -- it's kind of hard to see
within there, but we also made some grammatical corrections
to the punctuation within the chapter -- or within the
section.
    And moving down on the next page to (f) -- or
(h). I'm sorry. This was revised, again, to create -- or
correct some grammatical errors.
    And on page 27, the next page, you'll notice here
there's some redline text. I left that in there. This was
one of the original sections that we were proposing for
revision. This particular sentence was deleted when I
filed the final rules the last time we revised this. I had
deleted that sentence, and the EPA pointed that out to us
and we've stuck that back in. But I just wanted to
highlight that was one of the original reasons, and you,
the advisory board, have already seen that language. But I
just wanted to designate that a little bit differently.
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    Then moving on to Section 9. This is the
Mechanical Integrity Testing section. We made some
revisions. We -- just capitalization change in (a).
    Moving on to page 29. Again, in (iii), this,
again, is just a grammatical change. Then in (iv), you'll
notice again there's some redline text. This was another
term that was mistakenly left out of the final version of
Chapter 11. That was actually approved by the Board in
that version and by the EQC, so we've added that back in.
    And then in (vi) or (vi), again, grammatical
corrections and changed how we were referencing mechanical
integrity to be consistent throughout the chapter.
    Moving on to Section 10. In (b), we again
updated the way the rules and regulations were referenced
in (c), made some grammatical changes to the section.
    Moving on to (e). We updated how the references
to later sections was initially put into this chapter,
provides consistency with the way we usually do it.
    Then in (f), in -- or (I), we reorganized that.
It seemed like there was some missing language to the list
that followed, so we've added the language "The operator
shall log," and then the list that follows.
    Let's see. There were a couple of punctuations
that were updated. And then in (g), we updated the
capitalization for Underground Sources of Water. We also
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added in (h) some introductory language so that it
corrected the grammar again. We added "The operator
shall," and then that follows with the two subsections. We
wanted to ensure that the operator knows that that's his
responsibility or their responsibility.
    And then in (j), again, that same kind of thing
where we've added "the operator shall report," again, to
make it clear that that's the operator's responsibility.
    Then in subsection 11 -- or Section 11, this is
our Aquifer Classification Exemption section. Again, made
updates to how we referred to the Department and the
Division and the rules and regulations. Updated an EPA
reference. At the bottom of the page on 32, again, rules
and regulations change to just say rules.
    And then finally at the bottom of the section in
(c), again, we updated a reference to the Water Quality
Division. And, again, removed date in reference to EPA
regulations.
    Which takes us to Section 12. (a), again, was
revised to improve the organization and correct some
grammatical errors within that paragraph. No changes were
proposed on page 34, that I can see, unless there's a
grammar change, but it doesn't look like it.
    That takes us to page 35. We did make a
correction to (B) at the top of the page. This was a
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grammatical correction, again.
    (ix), this also was updated to make a grammatical
correction. In (C) of (ix), we've updated the reference to
the mechanical integrity again. In (x), we added the
term -- or the word "and" between (A) and (B), to make it
clear that both applied.
    And that takes us to Section 13. Here, again,
you'll see a bit of redline text. This was actually put in
at the suggestion of the Legislative Service Office when
they reviewed our chapter when we had last submitted it.
They just wanted us to update how we were referencing
statutes. So we've added that language.
    (c) of 13, this was proposed for deletion to
remove the redundant statutory language and requirements.
There isn't any reason to state something again that's just
in statute.
    That moves us to Section 14. (a), again, was
revised grammatically. We removed subsection -- or (i) and
reorganized this section. Mostly this is grammar and
organization that seems to read better in this format.
Again, we removed -- or reorganized that section so that
entailed us updating the organization for the remainder of
this section. So we've updated the section headers on
those.
    We also deleted the final sentence of what was
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(ii) that -- this was based on comments from the Attorney
General's Office that nonsubstantive revisions are not
subject to the notice and comment. So we weren't sure why
that was in there initially.
    Then in (c), again, this is revised to more
clearly state the duties of the operator, so we revised the
grammar of that section. Same with (d). In (i) of (d),
we've made additional grammatical changes and incorporated
what was (A) into subsection -- or (i).
    We also reorganized the remaining romanettes in
that section. And -- or subsection. And also made a
grammatical change to (v). There were -- finally, on the
bottom of the page on 38, we made another grammatical
correction.
    Moving to (e) on page 39. Again, we were
removing redundant language here. The sentence that we
struck had stated in the case that a portion of the permit
is in violation of the law, that portion of the permit
shall be open for review. That's already spelled out in
statute or certainly implied.
    Section 15 was revised on page 40 in (iv).
Again, what we've done here is remove the subsection
language and just incorporated it into that sentence to
improve the organization, and actually shortens the chapter
a little bit. We also made some corrections to (B), just
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to improve the grammar.
    In (c), we updated that subsection to remove the
"and" that was in (i), and moved it down later into (ii),
just to follows the structure of that section.
    (Mr. Peters joins the meeting.)
    MR. HULTS: There were also on page 41 some
more grammatical changes. Again, we had to remove the term
"and." We moved it down one subsection.
    And then, finally, in (ii) of (e), we added the
term "other" just to improve the clarity of that section
and sentence. And then also added "of" in between "depth
the well" to correct a typo.
    In Section 16, this is our Monitoring
Requirements, made it clear in (a) we had a reference to
"the permit" only. This also applies to research and
development license, so we added "or license." Then in
(i)(a), we removed some redundant language.
    Moving on to page 42. Again, added the term
"and" between the subparagraphs. In (ii)(A), we removed
the language "with sufficient frequency," and just made it
clear that an operator was responsible to monitor the
nature of the injected fluids at least monthly instead of
the language with sufficient frequency.
    And then we also removed (c). And this language
was actually placed elsewhere within the chapter, so it
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isn't deleted per se, just moved.
    Moving on to page 43. This is where you see the
language that was previously indicated as deleted. It's
just been moved to the bottom of the section. And we also
updated the (b) -- it used to be (v) -- just to improve the
organization of that section.
    In Section 17, which is our Maintenance and
Retention of Records section, (C) was revised to change
some of the grammatical language there and update some of
the following sections. (ii) was updated to -- for
consistency with how we referred to section references
within the chapter. And then also updated the second to
last sentence in (ii) to improve the clarity of that
subsection and to make clear that the records must be
retained no less than three years.
    Moving on to Section 18. We made a grammatical
correction in (A) and then in (ii), again another
grammatical correction in the way referred to the different
divisions. Our division -- I guess in this case -- yeah,
it's our division as well.
    And that takes us to the bottom of that page.
Again, at the very end of Section 18, you'll notice there's
a slight bit of red text in the reference to Section 18.
That, again, was pointed out -- I believe this was by the
Legislative Services Office that we had an incorrect
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reference, so we've updated that.
    In subsection -- or Section 19, we revised the
language of the confirmation, just to update the grammar of
that. And also in (i), again, you'll see a little bit of
red language. This, again, was suggested by the LSo to
improve the clarity of our reference. And the same is --
occurs in (ii) below. So, again, were recommended by the
LSO, so we updated that.
    In (b) (ii), we deleted the final sentence and
improved the clarity of that section by changing the
references as we did in previous sections.
    Moving on to page 46. (iii), we just made some
grammatical changes. We did -- I still kind of chuckle
about this one. Somehow we had left the "operator will"
language in there, which is a rule writing no-no.
Surprised nobody caught it along the way. But the "will"
has been replaced with "shall."
    And, finally, just one grammatical change to the
very bottom of the section to include the "and" to make it
clear that (i), (ii) and (iii) all apply.
    In Section 20, we, again, made an organizational
change here with the subsections of (a) to just make it one
sentence instead of many subsections. And that change
required us on page 47 to update the section headers again
and update the organization of the following -- or the
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subsections that followed that. A subsection was proposed
as (c) at the bottom of the page, again was updated for
grammar and consistency with previous sections when we
refer to permits and licenses. We consistently updated
that throughout the chapter, so this section follows that
format.
    And then the rest of the subsections, again, had
to be updated to organize the full section properly. And
one correction was made again where we had the figure 3
that's been replaced with the word "three."
    In subsection 20 -- or Section 21, this one,
again, this section is similar to the other revisions that
we did. The changes here were made to conform to the
legislative changes to 406 regarding notice and comment and
decision making.
    So on (a), we updated the reference to include
(q) instead of the repealed (k). And we also updated a
section reference that was incorrect.
    Moving on to page 49, not seeing any changes
unless there's a semicolon, but it doesn't look like it.
That takes us to page 50. (b) was revised. This deals
with how objections will be handled. This language, we
just inserted or referenced to the new (q) with -- that
deals with notice and comments or notice and objections,
instead of spelling out the requirements.
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And then we also updated (c) to conform to the statutory language, and removed the prior (i) and (ii) of (c), which no longer matched the statutory language.

We also updated new (d) with the current appeals process in the statutory language. We also deleted that language that followed previously in the chapter as that was no longer applicable.

And then, finally, we did -- for the subsection -- or new (e), that's just reorganization. And then, finally, we deleted (d). We couldn't find where this
requirement was coming from. We don't believe it's in
statutes or rule anywhere, so that subsection was deleted.
In Section 22, there were no changes.
In Section 23, no changes until (b) (iv). Again,
you'll see a little bit of red text that was at the
suggestion of the Legislative Service Office. So we've
included that.
And then, finally, in (c) of Section 23, we
updated the reference to Chapter 7 , Section 3 to make it
conform with other references similar to that.
And that brings us to the end of that chapter,
and $I$ appreciate everyone bearing with me on that one.
CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: That was a heroic
presentation.
MR. HULTS: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Do we have questions? comments? suggestions?

MS. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is

Shannon Anderson. I don't know if this is the time that you would want to take any public comment, or do you want to have the Board discussion first? I wasn't sure.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Let's let the Board have their comments first, and then we'll invite you back in. How's that sound?

MS. ANDERSON: That sounds great. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: So from the Board, comment, suggestions, questions?

BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Mr. Chairman, I have none. I just want to echo the gratitude to Craig for the presentation and the work on this.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Definitely a heroic presentation.

MR. HULTS: Thank you, Board Members.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Okay. Seeing no other comments, anyone else have comments?

MS. ANDERSON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Hi. This is Shannon Anderson representing Powder River Basin Resource Council. We'd also like to express our gratitude to the DEQ staff and the Attorney General's Office for

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moving the set of rules forward. We're particularly
appreciative of the work that was done on the coal side of
things, and both in terms of the statutory development as
well as the rules. We believe they'll really simplify the
process and make it clear to everybody what's going
forward.
    As you may know, there was a need to address that
because of some litigation. So it was really important
that this rule package does move forward.
    On the Noncoal side of things, we -- we have some
concerns. I think you received a letter from us on the
last Board meeting that you had. And my apologies for not
being able to make it. There was a legislative committee
meeting that day. But we -- you know, we were involved in
the legislative process, and at the time there was an
interest from some legislators to make sure there was
consistency on an informal conference option for Noncoal
mines. And that was something that the DEQ staff at the
time had represented to legislators that they could resolve
during the rulemaking process.
    So we're looking, I think, to the DEQ now to
think about how to build in an informal conference option
for Noncoal mines of all types, but particularly sand and
gravel. And the reason that we think this is important and
necessary is if you look at the Environmental Quality
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Council docket, you'll be -- you know, you'll be aware that
the majority of hearings requested are on noncoal mines and
particularly those small mines, sand and gravel mines in
particular.
    And we believe that, you know, the informal
conference has a lot of value, not just for coal mines, but
also for these noncoal mines to resolve difficulties and
objections in a very, you know, informal cultural way. I
did a review of the Environmental Quality Council docket
over, you know, the decades of the docket during the
legislative process for the }406\mathrm{ revisions and found that
the majority of the hearings that were requested were
actually not held, because what it did is requesting a
hearing drove the parties to talk to each other, and there
was often a resolution between the objecting landowner and
mining company that allowed, you know, resolutions of the
objections and the project to go forward.
    And that's really what the informal conference
process does, is it allows an objecting neighboring
landowner and the mining company and the DEQ to all get
together, air their grievances, talk about the issues and
have the director, you know, make a decision after that
oral presentation and informal conference.
    So, you know, we appreciate the ability to submit
comments to the DEQ in writing, but we don't believe that
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that has the same impact and opportunity to resolve
objections in meaningful ways for landowners, because you
just don't -- you're not able to participate in the process
the same way. You know, writing is different than talking,
just like it is now with the letter I sent you versus
speaking to you orally. You know, there's a different
impact and effect that way.
    So we would just encourage the Board to give
guidance to the DEQ staff to allow for the option for an
informal conference and see if there's a way to build that
into the noncoal portion of the rules. And I'd be happy to
answer any questions you have.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Craig, do you have any
response to that?
    MR. HULTS: Mr. Chairman, I think that was
discussed in the previous meeting. The legislature was
pretty clear in the division between the Coal and Noncoal
programs, and did indeed settle on the fact that there was
not an informal conference process within the Noncoal
realm. At this time the Land Quality Division would not be
pursuing any regulatory changes. We believe that would be
outside the scope of our authority, and our recommendations
would be that if there are -- or is that desire to have
that option, that the cochairs of the minerals committee be
contacted. We just feel like that if we pursued that
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option, we'd be legislating through rulemaking, and we
don't want to go down that path at this time.
    Also, there's nothing to preclude us during the
comment period from setting up a meeting between parties.
We discussed that that had occurred in the past and would
likely still be an option, although not formally recognized
within the rules. I know that happened up in District 3
near Sheridan in the past. So at this time, we wouldn't
propose any regulatory changes.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Any other comments?
    BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Mr. Chairman, can I
ask a question of Craig in reaction to the comments he just
made?
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Go ahead.
    BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Craig, so the comment
that there could be a meeting arranged, even if it's not
written into the rules, how would a landowner know that
that option could be available if it's not written in the
rules?
    MR. HULTS: As far as I know -- I wasn't
involved in the process, Board Member. As far as I know,
we received an objection to a permit. The Administrator
waived that comment and the objection and felt like it
would be productive. It isn't something that necessarily
they would have notice of, unless they read the transcript
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from this meeting. But it currently just isn't a procedure
that we can really write into rule without some kind of
statutory authority. So we're kind of in that position
right now.
    MS. ANDERSON: Yeah. And Board Member
Duncan, if -- Duncan-Macker, if I may. This is Shannon
again.
In response to Craig's comments, that was I think
the informal conference he's speaking about here in
Sheridan. District 3 is one our organization, our members,
participated in. And, really, it came at the request of
the company. The gravel mining company wanted to have that
meeting with the objecting landowners. It wasn't something
that the objecting landowners, as you indicate, had any
idea that it was something that they could request or
participate in, but it came at the request of the company.
    And so I would encourage the DEQ staff, if it is
an option to them, and if they are receiving objections, to
think about working with the permit applicants to hold such
a meeting, even if it's not required by the regulations,
because it is an incredibly productive process to be able
to, you know, get together and have a conversation about
objections, and in different ways to mitigate impacts that
would be acceptable to everybody.
    There's -- again, there's ways to move a project
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forward and resolve objections and have, you know, that
win-win opportunity for the mining companies and for the
neighbors.
And I do -- you know, I would just mention \(I\) take issue with the DEQ's history on the legislative process on having been involved in lobbying and talking directly with legislators. Again, there was an amendment that would have written in an informal conference option. I cited to that amendment in the letter that \(I\) sent you all. That amendment was defeated because of the representation directly from the \(D E Q\) that this is something that could be resolved in the rulemaking process.
And I feel personally let down from the DEQ, and I think the legislators that, you know, were involved in that would be as well. And, you know, I wish there would have been a representation from the staff at that time, that if they felt that an informal conference was outside the scope of the current statutory language, that, you know, we could have moved forward with statutory language to allow this rulemaking to happen.
But \(I\) guess, you know, we are where we are now. And, again, \(I\) hope the staff recognizes that there is this option available to them to have meetings to resolve these issues with landowners and mining companies. And thanks again for the opportunity and the time. And, again, we do
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appreciate all the work the DEQ staff has done.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Any other comments or
questions or any other issues that anyone wants to discuss?
    Well, I'm seeing on my list here, that the next
meeting that we're going to have is in early December.
    Craig, do you have anything on that?
    MR. HULTS: Mr. Chairman, before we move
on, I would like a recommendation from the Board, if you're
so inclined, to move these to the formal rulemaking
process.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Sure. Can we get a
motion on that?
    BOARD MEMBER JONES: This is Blake,
industry rep. I move to move the process forward with
these rules as Craig outlined.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Thank you.
    How about a second to that motion?
    BOARD MEMBER LEGERSKI: I'll second. This
is Gene.
    CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: It's been moved and
seconded. All those in favor, please indicate by saying
aye.
    BOARD MEMBER LEGERSKI: Aye.
    BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Aye.
    BOARD MEMBER JONES: Aye.
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            CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Any opposed?
            Seeing none, the motion carries.
            BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Mr. Chairman, would
    it be --
CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Yes.
BOARD MEMBER MACKER: -- possible to see if
there is an opportunity to look at -- I understand that the
position is legally rulemaking related to the informal
conference can't -- the informal conference can't be
included in the rulemaking for Noncoal, or that the
position being taken. But is there an option to suggest or
request if there are other ways of notifying that there's
an opportunity available for an informal conference so that
awareness of that is there and it could be requested by
members of the public through an objection or otherwise?
And what that type of noticing for the public would look
like if it's not included in the rules? And any ideas that
there might be around that from the team at the DEQ?
CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: I guess I would like
you to summarize what you just said.
BOARD MEMBER MACKER: Not -- so my request
would be can the DEQ provide some sort of notice if it's
not part of the rulemaking package through some other
avenue that an informal conference is an option that may be
available?

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CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Okay. Craig, do you
have a response to that?

MR. HULTS: Mr. Chairman, again, I think the informal conference term was specific to the coal process. Now, again, there isn't anything that precludes the administrator from meeting with concerned citizens along the way. I'm not sure how we would go about noticing that without putting it in rules some way.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Craig, could you talk to the Administrator on this and see if he has any ideas on how to accomplish this?

MR. HULTS: I can bring that to his
attention, but \(I\) will say \(I\) think the position's been pretty clear from the Administrator that it would require some legislative change to formally recognize that.

MR. VANWORMER: Mr. Chairman and Board

Member Duncan-Macker, this is Matt VanWormer with the Attorney General's Office. I represent Land Quality, and I had a chance to meet you guys here and there a couple of times.

If \(I\) could just add one consideration \(I\) think is important for the Division on this question of an informal conference and noncoal permit appeals. The new section \(406(q)\) only allows a 30 -day period after the close of public comment, in which the Administrator has to put
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together a report on the objections, a report on the
application itself, forward that on to the director, and
the director has to render a decision within that same
30-day period.
And having spoken with Administrator Wendtland on
this, I think there's a concern that if there was any kind
Of formal -- a formal process set up to allow for an
informal conference, it would cut into that 30-day window
so much that the administrator and director might not be
able to meet their statutory obligation of getting the
decision out within that time period.
So I appreciate the comments from Shannon and
from Board Member Duncan-Macker, but it's just something
that when Craig was talking about the legislature not
allowing much rulemaking authority on this, one of the
concerns is is there even time to get this done in any
standardized format.
CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Thank you. Thank you.
Any other comments? suggestions?
Craig, you can speak to the Administrator and
just see -- let him know that, you know, there is concern
around this issue.
MR. HULTS: Absolutely, Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Any other comments?
suggestions? questions?

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Okay. I see that our next meeting is early December. I have no idea where I'll be or what I'll be doing in early December. I don't know how one can schedule such things, particularly early December. So how do we -how do we move forward in terms of getting a date? MR. HULTS: Mr. Chairman, Board Members. I guess what \(I\) would request is in the next few weeks, if you can give me any dates that would be blacked out for sure. It seems like Thursdays usually work for meetings, and maybe we can target that for, say, December 2 nd or \(9 t h\) or possibly even the \(16 t h\), but \(I\) think that might be getting too far into the month. And so what \(I\) can do is I'll send out an email to the board members kind of giving you a date range between there and if you can let me know of any blacked-out dates, we can come to a conclusion on that physical date then.

CHAIRMAN GAMPETRO: Sounds like a plan, Craig.

Any other suggestions or comments?
Any other issues anyone wants to bring up?
Well, seeing none, I'm going to declare this meeting adjourned. And I want to thank everyone for your participation, your patience, your suggestions, your comments.

MR. HULTS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
public, interested parties.
                                    (Meeting proceedings concluded
                                    11:28 a.m., August 19, 2021.)

C E R T I F I C A T E
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