

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council (EQC) will consider proposed revisions to Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5 and Appendix A of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Land Quality Division (LQD), Coal Rules and Regulations addressing revegetation success standards at a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, **February 11, 2009** at the Campbell County Library, Pioneer Room, 2101 S. 4J Road, Gillette, Wyoming commencing at 9:30 a.m.. The LQD will also present an introduction to the rule package to the EQC on **January 15, 2009** at the Laramie County Commission, 310 W. 19th Street, Board Room – Ste. 310, 3rd Floor, Cheyenne, Wyoming starting at 9:00am.

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 multiple chapters of the LQD Coal Rules and Regulations. Proposed revisions to Chapter 2 focus on vegetation baseline measurement requirements and reclamation plan requirements for establishing vegetation. Proposed revisions to Chapter 4 include the addition of normal husbandry practices, and greater specification of revegetation success standards for different postmine land uses. Appendices to Chapter 4 contain a species diversity standard and shrub density standard options. Proposed changes to Chapter 1 include additional and revised definitions to support the changes to Chapters 2, 4 and Appendix A. Appendix A was deleted entirely from the rules, however numerous elements were relocated to proposed Chapters 1, 2, and 4. Proposed revisions to Chapter 5 deleted regulations on prime farmland.

The notice for submitting written comments on the LQD proposed revisions was first published on November 16, 2008. That comment period closes on **January 16, 2009**. All written comments should be submitted on or before January 16, 2009 to the following address: DEQ/Land Quality Division, 122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building – 3W, Cheyenne, WY 82002. Copies of the Proposed Rules and Statement of Principal Reasons are available for review at: <http://deq.state.wy.us/lqd/> . Persons may also request a copy of the proposed rules by contacting Becky Brosius at (307) 777-7176, fax: (307) 777-5864 or email at: rbrosi@wyo.gov . Questions regarding the proposed rules may be directed to Craig Hults at (307) 777-7066.

The LQD will file an analysis of comments received from the November 16, 2008 notice. The EQC has scheduled the public hearing on **February 11, 2009**. 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. Comments submitted during the comment period can be viewed at the EQC website: <http://deq.state.wy.us/eqc/docket.htm> under the link titled "08-4101".

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.