

DEQ Legislative Proposal

Revising the Major Facility Siting Act (MFSa) corridor width to 500 feet and requiring DEQ to further consult with an applicant. The proposed bill would modify the Major Facility Siting Act (MFSa) corridor width to a 500 foot corridor instead of the current mile wide corridor. The corridor width is defined for analyzing potential impacts in the environmental review document under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The draft bill also would allow DEQ, in consultation with the applicant, to identify areas along the corridor that may need to be wider or narrower than the 500 foot. If any of these areas are identified to diverge from the 500 foot corridor, DEQ must provide justification. The bill would also require public notice and comment on any corridor adjustment made after the agency has issued the certificate for the facility. Finally, the bill would generally require DEQ to consult with the certification holder before modifying an application or imposing a condition on a certification or certificate amendment.