

**Summary of DEQ Bills before the House Natural Resources Committee:**

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<u>HB 75</u>	Kendall Van Dyk	<b>Revise environmental rehabilitation and response account use</b> - This legislation would allow DEQ to use ERRA to properly remove, recycle or dispose of solid wastes in certain circumstances.
<u>HB 153</u>	Betsy Hands	<b>Revise the Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act (VCRA)</b> - This legislation streamlines the VCRA process, addresses the impacts of failure of applicants to report additional contaminants in a timely fashion, and allows the Department to stop reviewing plans if the applicant stops paying its invoices to the Department..
<u>SB 71</u>	Ron Erickson	<b>Revise orphan share and environmental quality protection fund laws</b> - Last session, the legislature approved state agencies using Orphan Share Account funds for remediation of contaminated state properties. This was in anticipation of DNRC's liability at the Kalispell KRY site. Under current law, DEQ would invoice DNRC's portion of the cleanup costs at KRY, DNRC would make a claim to DEQ for reimbursement from the Orphan Share fund, DEQ would transfer Orphan Share funds to DNRC, DNRC would reimburse DEQ, and DEQ would place the funds in the Environmental Quality Protection Fund. This legislation would authorize a direct, one-time transfer for the biennium of up to \$9,000,000 from Orphan Share account to EQPF for DNRC's share of remediation costs, thus eliminating unnecessary and costly transactions.
<u>SB 95</u>	John Brueggeman	<b>Temporary nutrient criteria for discharge permits</b> - The Department has been developing numeric nutrient water quality standards for nitrogen and phosphorus to protect recreation and fisheries uses in streams and rivers. These standards have been requested by EPA since 1998 and may be very difficult for some communities to meet without costly upgrades to their wastewater treatment plants. This legislation provides DEQ with authority to grant variances from nutrient standards and gives it authority to establish specific procedures and criteria for these variances.

SB 97	David Wanzenried	<b>Revise petroleum tank release laws</b> – This legislation would address underground petroleum storage tank construction requirements, amend the cap on the Petro Fund balance, offer incentives for tank owners to acquire insurance, and address several housekeeping items.
SB 101	John Brueggeman	<b>Certification for wastewater collection system operators</b> - In existing statutes, operators of public water treatment plants, water distribution systems, and wastewater treatment plants are required to be trained and certified to perform the necessary functions. However, operators of wastewater collection systems are not certified. This legislation would require the Department to provide certification for wastewater collection system operators and require that the approximately 30 community public wastewater systems in Montana serving over 3,300 people employ a certified wastewater collection operator.
SB 102	John Brueggeman	<b>Revise public water supply laws</b> - This legislation would provide clear authority for the Department to require at existing public water supply facilities the correction of deficiencies that have the potential to cause significant harm to public health or the environment.
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