

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 155

2 INTRODUCED BY W. STAHL

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING DISCHARGE PERMITS FOR THE ANTHROPOGENIC  
5 MANIPULATION OF WETLANDS USING A WATER CONVEYANCE STRUCTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
6 HABITAT MANAGEMENT; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; EXEMPTING HYDROPOWER  
7 FACILITIES; AND AMENDING SECTION 75-5-401, MCA."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 75-5-401, MCA, is amended to read:  
12 **"75-5-401. (Temporary) Board rules for permits -- ground water exclusions.** (1) Except as provided  
13 in subsection (5), the board shall adopt rules:

14 (a) governing application for permits to discharge sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state  
15 waters, including rules requiring the filing of plans and specifications relating to the construction, modification,  
16 or operation of disposal systems;

17 (b) governing the issuance, denial, modification, or revocation of permits. ~~The~~ Except as provided in  
18 subsection (10), the board may not require a permit for a water conveyance structure or for a natural spring if the  
19 water discharged to state waters does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes. Discharge to surface  
20 water of ground water that is not altered from its ambient quality does not constitute a discharge requiring a permit  
21 under this part if:

22 (i) the discharge does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes;  
23 (ii) the water discharged does not cause the receiving waters to exceed applicable standards for any  
24 parameters; and

25 (iii) to the extent that the receiving waters in their ambient state exceed standards for any parameters,  
26 the discharge does not increase the concentration of the parameters.

27 (c) governing authorization to discharge under a general permit for storm water associated with  
28 construction activity. These rules must allow an owner or operator to notify the department of the intent to be  
29 covered under the general permit. This notice of intent must include a signed pollution prevention plan that  
30 requires the applicant to implement best management practices in accordance with the general permit. The rules

1 must authorize the owner or operator to discharge under the general permit on receipt of the notice and plan by  
2 the department.

3 (2) The rules must allow the issuance or continuance of a permit only if the department finds that  
4 operation consistent with the limitations of the permit will not result in pollution of any state waters, except that  
5 the rules may allow the issuance of a temporary permit under which pollution may result if the department  
6 ensures that the permit contains a compliance schedule designed to meet all applicable effluent standards and  
7 water quality standards in the shortest reasonable period of time.

8 (3) The rules must provide that the department may revoke a permit if the department finds that the  
9 holder of the permit has violated its terms, unless the department also finds that the violation was accidental and  
10 unforeseeable and that the holder of the permit corrected the condition resulting in the violation as soon as was  
11 reasonably possible.

12 (4) The board may adopt rules governing reclamation of sites disturbed by construction, modification,  
13 or operation of permitted activities for which a bond is voluntarily filed by a permittee pursuant to 75-5-405,  
14 including rules for the establishment of criteria and procedures governing release of the bond or other surety and  
15 release of portions of a bond or other surety.

16 (5) Discharges of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters from the following  
17 activities or operations are not subject to the ground water permit requirements adopted under subsections (1)  
18 through (4):

19 (a) discharges or activities at wells injecting fluids associated with oil and gas exploration and production  
20 regulated under the federal underground injection control program;

21 (b) disposal by solid waste management systems licensed pursuant to 75-10-221;

22 (c) individuals disposing of their own normal household wastes on their own property;

23 (d) hazardous waste management facilities permitted pursuant to 75-10-406;

24 (e) water injection wells, reserve pits, and produced water pits used in oil and gas field operations and  
25 approved pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11;

26 (f) agricultural irrigation facilities;

27 (g) storm water disposal or storm water detention facilities;

28 (h) subsurface disposal systems for sanitary wastes serving individual residences;

29 (i) in situ mining of uranium facilities controlled under Title 82, chapter 4, part 2;

30 (j) mining operations subject to operating permits or exploration licenses in compliance with The Strip

1 and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, or the metal mine reclamation laws, Title 82,  
2 chapter 4, part 3; or

3 (k) projects reviewed under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter 20.

4 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of 75-5-301(4), mixing zones for activities excluded from permit  
5 requirements under subsection (5) of this section must be established by the permitting agency for those activities  
6 in accordance with 75-5-301(4)(a) through (4)(c).

7 (7) Notwithstanding the exclusions set forth in subsection (5), any excluded source that the department  
8 determines may be causing or is likely to cause violations of ground water quality standards may be required to  
9 submit monitoring information pursuant to 75-5-602.

10 (8) The board may adopt rules identifying other activities or operations from which a discharge of  
11 sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters is not subject to the ground water permit  
12 requirements adopted under subsections (1) through (4).

13 (9) The board may adopt rules authorizing general permits for categories of point source discharges.  
14 The rules may authorize discharge upon issuance of an individual authorization by the department or upon receipt  
15 of a notice of intent to be covered under the general permit.

16 (10) The board shall adopt rules requiring DISCHARGE permits for the anthropogenic manipulation of  
17 wetlands USING A WATER CONVEYANCE STRUCTURE for the purpose of habitat management. The rules may not apply  
18 to hydropower facilities.

19 **75-5-401. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) Board rules for permits -- ground water**  
20 **exclusions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5), the board shall adopt rules:

21 (a) governing application for permits to discharge sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state  
22 waters, including rules requiring the filing of plans and specifications relating to the construction, modification,  
23 or operation of disposal systems;

24 (b) governing the issuance, denial, modification, or revocation of permits. ~~The~~ Except as provided in  
25 subsection (10), the board may not require a permit for a water conveyance structure or for a natural spring if the  
26 water discharged to state waters does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes. Discharge to surface  
27 water of ground water that is not altered from its ambient quality does not constitute a discharge requiring a permit  
28 under this part if:

29 (i) the discharge does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes;

30 (ii) the water discharged does not cause the receiving waters to exceed applicable standards for any

1 parameters; and

2 (iii) to the extent that the receiving waters in their ambient state exceed standards for any parameters,  
3 the discharge does not increase the concentration of the parameters.

4 (c) governing authorization to discharge under a general permit for storm water associated with  
5 construction activity. These rules must allow an owner or operator to notify the department of the intent to be  
6 covered under the general permit. This notice of intent must include a signed pollution prevention plan that  
7 requires the applicant to implement best management practices in accordance with the general permit. The rules  
8 must authorize the owner or operator to discharge under the general permit on receipt of the notice and plan by  
9 the department.

10 (2) The rules must allow the issuance or continuance of a permit only if the department finds that  
11 operation consistent with the limitations of the permit will not result in pollution of any state waters, except that  
12 the rules may allow the issuance of a temporary permit under which pollution may result if the department  
13 ensures that the permit contains a compliance schedule designed to meet all applicable effluent standards and  
14 water quality standards in the shortest reasonable period of time.

15 (3) The rules must provide that the department may revoke a permit if the department finds that the  
16 holder of the permit has violated its terms, unless the department also finds that the violation was accidental and  
17 unforeseeable and that the holder of the permit corrected the condition resulting in the violation as soon as was  
18 reasonably possible.

19 (4) The board may adopt rules governing reclamation of sites disturbed by construction, modification,  
20 or operation of permitted activities for which a bond is voluntarily filed by a permittee pursuant to 75-5-405,  
21 including rules for the establishment of criteria and procedures governing release of the bond or other surety and  
22 release of portions of a bond or other surety.

23 (5) Discharges of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters from the following  
24 activities or operations are not subject to the ground water permit requirements adopted under subsections (1)  
25 through (4):

26 (a) discharges or activities at wells injecting fluids associated with oil and gas exploration and production  
27 regulated under the federal underground injection control program;

28 (b) disposal by solid waste management systems licensed pursuant to 75-10-221;

29 (c) individuals disposing of their own normal household wastes on their own property;

30 (d) hazardous waste management facilities permitted pursuant to 75-10-406;

- 1 (e) water injection wells, reserve pits, and produced water pits used in oil and gas field operations and  
2 approved pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11;
- 3 (f) agricultural irrigation facilities;
- 4 (g) storm water disposal or storm water detention facilities;
- 5 (h) subsurface disposal systems for sanitary wastes serving individual residences;
- 6 (i) in situ mining of uranium facilities controlled under Title 82, chapter 4, part 2;
- 7 (j) mining operations subject to operating permits or exploration licenses in compliance with The Strip  
8 and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, or the metal mine reclamation laws, Title 82,  
9 chapter 4, part 3;
- 10 (k) projects reviewed under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter 20;  
11 or
- 12 (l) a carbon dioxide injection well for which a permit has been issued pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11,  
13 part 1.
- 14 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of 75-5-301(4), mixing zones for activities excluded from permit  
15 requirements under subsection (5) of this section must be established by the permitting agency for those activities  
16 in accordance with 75-5-301(4)(a) through (4)(c).
- 17 (7) Notwithstanding the exclusions set forth in subsection (5), any excluded source that the department  
18 determines may be causing or is likely to cause violations of ground water quality standards may be required to  
19 submit monitoring information pursuant to 75-5-602.
- 20 (8) The board may adopt rules identifying other activities or operations from which a discharge of  
21 sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters is not subject to the ground water permit  
22 requirements adopted under subsections (1) through (4).
- 23 (9) The board may adopt rules authorizing general permits for categories of point source discharges.  
24 The rules may authorize discharge upon issuance of an individual authorization by the department or upon receipt  
25 of a notice of intent to be covered under the general permit.
- 26 (10) The board shall adopt rules requiring DISCHARGE permits for the anthropogenic manipulation of  
27 wetlands USING A WATER CONVEYANCE STRUCTURE for the purpose of habitat management. The rules may not apply  
28 to hydropower facilities."

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