

1 SENATE BILL NO. 292

2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSON

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DEFINING "IN SITU COAL GASIFICATION"; DIRECTING THE
5 BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TO ADOPT RULES FOR IN SITU COAL GASIFICATION;
6 CLARIFYING THAT INJECTIONS INTO GROUNDWATER FOR IN SITU COAL GASIFICATION ARE NOT
7 POLLUTION; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 75-5-103 AND 82-4-203, MCA."

8

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

10

11 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Rulemaking -- in situ coal gasification.** (1) Within 1 year of [the effective
12 date of this act] and in accordance with subsection (3), the board shall adopt rules necessary to regulate
13 underground mining using in situ coal gasification.

14 (2) Unless required by this part, the board may not adopt a rule to regulate in situ coal gasification that
15 is more stringent than the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances.

16 (3) The board shall solicit, document, consider, and address comments from the board of oil and gas
17 conservation provided for in 2-15-3303 in developing rules pursuant to subsection (1).

18

19 **Section 2.** Section 75-5-103, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"75-5-103. (Temporary) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following
21 definitions apply:

22 (1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

23 (a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

24 (b) pipeline facilities;

25 (c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

26 (d) rail transportation;

27 (e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

28 (f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or product produced at an energy
29 development project; or

30 (g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by board rule, that is necessary for an energy development

1 project.

2 (2) (a) "Base numeric nutrient standards" means numeric water quality standards for nutrients in surface
3 water that are adopted to protect the designated uses of a surface water body.

4 (b) The term does not include numeric water quality standards for nitrate, nitrate plus nitrite, or nitrite that
5 are adopted to protect human health.

6 (3) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

7 (4) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial wastes, or
8 other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

9 (5) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107.

10 (6) (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department at the time a
11 decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodies that are threatened or
12 impaired.

13 (b) The term does not mean new data to be obtained as a result of department efforts.

14 (7) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality waters for a
15 parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined to be nonsignificant pursuant
16 to 75-5-301(5)(c).

17 (8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

18 (9) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes and includes
19 sewage systems and treatment works.

20 (10) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and concentrations of
21 chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged into state waters.

22 (11) (a) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and associated
23 developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:

24 (i) generating electricity;

25 (ii) producing gas derived from coal;

26 (iii) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

27 (iv) refining crude oil or natural gas;

28 (v) producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a tax incentive
29 pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5;

30 (vi) producing biodiesel and that are eligible for a tax incentive for the production of biodiesel pursuant

1 to 15-32-701; or

2 (vii) transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of equal to or
3 greater than 50 kilovolts.

4 (b) The term does not include a nuclear facility as defined in 75-20-1202.

5 (12) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1, 1971, whether
6 or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

7 (13) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

8 (a) ground water classified as of January 1, 1995, within the "III" or "IV" classifications established by
9 the board's classification rules; and

10 (b) surface waters that:

11 (i) are not capable of supporting any one of the designated uses for their classification; or

12 (ii) have zero flow or surface expression for more than 270 days during most years.

13 (14) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data
14 shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with applicable water quality
15 standards.

16 (15) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or from the
17 development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

18 (16) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, or an economic
19 interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's preliminary decision regarding
20 degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term includes a person who has requested authorization
21 to degrade high-quality waters.

22 (17) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated to one
23 of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

24 (18) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate without a violation
25 of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms of mass, it means the maximum
26 change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a surface water without causing a violation of the
27 surface water quality standards.

28 (19) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a county, city,
29 city-county, or district board of health.

30 (20) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, barium,

1 cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc.

2 (21) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradation issued by
3 the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to conditions that are imposed by the
4 department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by the board.

5 (22) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department, representing
6 publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, and other interested
7 parties that will advise the department on the base numeric nutrient standards, the development of temporary
8 nutrient criteria, and the implementation of those standards and criteria together with associated economic
9 impacts.

10 (23) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, lime,
11 sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or discarded
12 equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

13 (24) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

14 (a) state surface waters located wholly within the boundaries of areas designated as national parks or
15 national wilderness areas as of October 1, 1995; or

16 (b) other surface waters or ground waters classified by the board under the provisions of 75-5-316 and
17 approved by the legislature.

18 (25) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises a point
19 source.

20 (26) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when a value of that
21 property affects the quality of the state water.

22 (27) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm, corporation,
23 partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

24 (28) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to
25 any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or other floating
26 craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

27 (29) (a) "Pollution" means:

28 (i) contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of state waters that
29 exceeds that permitted by Montana water quality standards, including but not limited to standards relating to
30 change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor; or

1 (ii) the discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow of liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other
 2 substance into state water that will or is likely to create a nuisance or render the waters harmful, detrimental, or
 3 injurious to public health, recreation, safety, or welfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other wildlife.

4 ~~———— (b) A discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under the pollution discharge~~
 5 ~~permit rules of the board is not pollution under this chapter. Activities conducted under the conditions imposed~~
 6 ~~by the department in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308 are not considered pollution under this~~
 7 ~~chapter.~~

8 (b) The term does not include:

9 (i) a discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under the pollution discharge
 10 permit rules adopted by the board under this chapter;

11 (ii) activities conducted under this chapter that comply with the conditions imposed by the department
 12 in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308;

13 (iii) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of an underground mine using in situ coal
 14 gasification and operating in accordance with a permit issued under 82-4-221.

15 (c) Contamination referred to in subsection (29)(b)(iii) does not require a mixing zone.

16 (30) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, institutions, or
 17 other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, together with ground water infiltration and
 18 surface water present.

19 (31) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes, or other
 20 wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

21 (32) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the board for the control of the discharge
 22 of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievable through application of the best
 23 available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating methods, or other alternatives, including, when
 24 practicable, a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

25 (33) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or
 26 underground.

27 (b) The term does not apply to:

28 (i) ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants; or

29 (ii) irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used up within the irrigation
 30 or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to state waters.

1 (34) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data, alone or in
2 combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether a water body is achieving compliance
3 with applicable water quality standards.

4 (35) "Temporary nutrient criteria" means numeric permit limits for nutrients that are based on a
5 determination that the base numeric nutrient standards cannot be achieved by a particular point source
6 discharger due to economic impacts or the limits of technology.

7 (36) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data
8 and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment is fully supporting its designated
9 uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

10 (a) proposed sources that are not subject to pollution prevention or control actions required by a
11 discharge permit, the nondegradation provisions, or reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices; or

12 (b) documented adverse pollution trends.

13 (37) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual waste load allocations for
14 point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural background sources established at a
15 level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable surface water quality standards.

16 (38) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating or holding sewage,
17 industrial wastes, or other wastes.

18 (39) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated
19 to one of its existing or future point sources.

20 (40) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures,
21 or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed to protect, maintain, and improve
22 the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practices include but are not limited to treatment requirements,
23 standards of performance, effluent standards, and operating procedures and practices to control site runoff,
24 spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

25 (41) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or
26 otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, or acquisition of ground water.

27 (42) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in an advisory
28 capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-702 and in the development
29 of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individuals requested by the department to participate in
30 an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704.

1 **75-5-103. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) Definitions.** Unless the context requires
2 otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

4 (a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

5 (b) pipeline facilities;

6 (c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

7 (d) rail transportation;

8 (e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

9 (f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or product produced at an energy
10 development project; or

11 (g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by board rule, that is necessary for an energy development
12 project.

13 (2) (a) "Base numeric nutrient standards" means numeric water quality standards for nutrients in surface
14 water that are adopted to protect the designated uses of a surface water body.

15 (b) The term does not include numeric water quality standards for nitrate, nitrate plus nitrite, or nitrite that
16 are adopted to protect human health.

17 (3) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

18 (4) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial wastes, or
19 other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

20 (5) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107.

21 (6) (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department at the time a
22 decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodies that are threatened or
23 impaired.

24 (b) The term does not mean new data to be obtained as a result of department efforts.

25 (7) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality waters for a
26 parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined to be nonsignificant pursuant
27 to 75-5-301(5)(c).

28 (8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

29 (9) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes and includes
30 sewage systems and treatment works.

1 (10) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and concentrations of
2 chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged into state waters.

3 (11) (a) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and associated
4 developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:

5 (i) generating electricity;

6 (ii) producing gas derived from coal;

7 (iii) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

8 (iv) refining crude oil or natural gas;

9 (v) producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a tax incentive
10 pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5;

11 (vi) producing biodiesel and that are eligible for a tax incentive for the production of biodiesel pursuant
12 to 15-32-701; or

13 (vii) transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of equal to or
14 greater than 50 kilovolts.

15 (b) The term does not include a nuclear facility as defined in 75-20-1202.

16 (12) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1, 1971, whether
17 or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

18 (13) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

19 (a) ground water classified as of January 1, 1995, within the "III" or "IV" classifications established by
20 the board's classification rules; and

21 (b) surface waters that:

22 (i) are not capable of supporting any one of the designated uses for their classification; or

23 (ii) have zero flow or surface expression for more than 270 days during most years.

24 (14) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data
25 shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with applicable water quality
26 standards.

27 (15) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or from the
28 development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

29 (16) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, or an economic
30 interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's preliminary decision regarding

1 degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term includes a person who has requested authorization
2 to degrade high-quality waters.

3 (17) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated to one
4 of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

5 (18) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate without a violation
6 of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms of mass, it means the maximum
7 change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a surface water without causing a violation of the
8 surface water quality standards.

9 (19) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a county, city,
10 city-county, or district board of health.

11 (20) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, barium,
12 cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc.

13 (21) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradation issued by
14 the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to conditions that are imposed by the
15 department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by the board.

16 (22) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department, representing
17 publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, and other interested
18 parties that will advise the department on the base numeric nutrient standards, the development of temporary
19 nutrient criteria, and the implementation of those standards and criteria together with associated economic
20 impacts.

21 (23) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, lime,
22 sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or discarded
23 equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

24 (24) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

25 (a) state surface waters located wholly within the boundaries of areas designated as national parks or
26 national wilderness areas as of October 1, 1995; or

27 (b) other surface waters or ground waters classified by the board under the provisions of 75-5-316 and
28 approved by the legislature.

29 (25) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises a point
30 source.

1 (26) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when a value of that
2 property affects the quality of the state water.

3 (27) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm, corporation,
4 partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

5 (28) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to
6 any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or other floating
7 craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

8 (29) (a) "Pollution" means:

9 (i) contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of state waters that
10 exceeds that permitted by Montana water quality standards, including but not limited to standards relating to
11 change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor; or

12 (ii) the discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow of liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other
13 substance into state water that will or is likely to create a nuisance or render the waters harmful, detrimental, or
14 injurious to public health, recreation, safety, or welfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other wildlife.

15 ~~—— (b) A discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under the pollution discharge~~
16 ~~permit rules of the board is not pollution under this chapter. Activities conducted under the conditions imposed~~
17 ~~by the department in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308 are not considered pollution under this~~
18 ~~chapter.~~

19 ~~—— (c) Contamination of ground water within the boundaries of a geologic storage reservoir, as defined in~~
20 ~~82-11-101, by a carbon dioxide injection well in accordance with a permit issued pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11,~~
21 ~~part 1, is not pollution and does not require a mixing zone.~~

22 (b) The term does not include:

23 (i) a discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under the pollution discharge
24 permit rules adopted by the board under this chapter;

25 (ii) activities conducted under this chapter that comply with the conditions imposed by the department
26 in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308;

27 (iii) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of a geologic storage reservoir, as defined in
28 82-11-101, by a carbon dioxide injection well in accordance with a permit issued pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11,
29 part 1;

30 (iv) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of an underground mine using in situ coal

1 gasification and operating in accordance with a permit issued under 82-4-221;

2 (c) Contamination referred to in subsections (29)(b)(iii) and (29)(b)(iv) does not require a mixing zone.

3 (30) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, institutions, or
4 other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, together with ground water infiltration and
5 surface water present.

6 (31) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes, or other
7 wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

8 (32) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the board for the control of the discharge
9 of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievable through application of the best
10 available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating methods, or other alternatives, including, when
11 practicable, a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

12 (33) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or
13 underground.

14 (b) The term does not apply to:

15 (i) ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants; or

16 (ii) irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used up within the irrigation
17 or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to state waters.

18 (34) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data, alone or in
19 combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether a water body is achieving compliance
20 with applicable water quality standards.

21 (35) "Temporary nutrient criteria" means numeric permit limits for nutrients that are based on a
22 determination that the base numeric nutrient standards cannot be achieved by a particular point source
23 discharger due to economic impacts or the limits of technology.

24 (36) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data
25 and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment is fully supporting its designated
26 uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

27 (a) proposed sources that are not subject to pollution prevention or control actions required by a
28 discharge permit, the nondegradation provisions, or reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices; or

29 (b) documented adverse pollution trends.

30 (37) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual waste load allocations for

1 point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural background sources established at a
2 level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable surface water quality standards.

3 (38) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating or holding sewage,
4 industrial wastes, or other wastes.

5 (39) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated
6 to one of its existing or future point sources.

7 (40) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures,
8 or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed to protect, maintain, and improve
9 the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practices include but are not limited to treatment requirements,
10 standards of performance, effluent standards, and operating procedures and practices to control site runoff,
11 spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

12 (41) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or
13 otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, or acquisition of ground water.

14 (42) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in an advisory
15 capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-702 and in the development
16 of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individuals requested by the department to participate in
17 an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704."

18

19 **Section 3.** Section 82-4-203, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"82-4-203. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

21 (1) "Abandoned" means an operation in which a mineral is not being produced and that the department
22 determines will not continue or resume operation.

23 (2) "Adjacent area" means the area outside the permit area where a resource or resources, determined
24 in the context in which the term is used, are or could reasonably be expected to be adversely affected by
25 proposed mining operations, including probable impacts from underground workings.

26 (3) (a) "Alluvial valley floor" means the unconsolidated stream-laid deposits holding streams where water
27 availability is sufficient for subirrigation or flood irrigation agricultural activities.

28 (b) The term does not include upland areas that are generally overlain by a thin veneer of colluvial
29 deposits composed chiefly of debris from sheet erosion and deposits by unconcentrated runoff or slope wash,
30 together with talus, other mass movement accumulation, and windblown deposits.

- 1 (4) "Approximate original contour" means that surface configuration achieved by backfilling and grading
2 of the mined area so that the reclaimed area, including any terracing or access roads, closely resembles the
3 general surface configuration of the land prior to mining and blends into and complements the drainage pattern
4 of the surrounding terrain, with all highwalls, spoil piles, and coal refuse piles eliminated, so that:
- 5 (a) the reclaimed terrain closely resembles the general surface configuration if it is comparable to the
6 premine terrain. For example, if the area was basically level or gently rolling before mining, it should retain these
7 features after mining, recognizing that rolls and dips need not be restored to their original locations and that level
8 areas may be increased.
- 9 (b) the reclaimed area blends with and complements the drainage pattern of the surrounding area so
10 that water intercepted within or from the surrounding terrain flows through and from the reclaimed area in an
11 unobstructed and controlled manner;
- 12 (c) postmining drainage basins may differ in size, location, configuration, orientation, and density of
13 ephemeral drainageways compared to the premining topography if they are hydrologically stable, soil erosion is
14 controlled to the extent appropriate for the postmining land use, and the hydrologic balance as defined in
15 82-4-203 is protected; and
- 16 (d) the reclaimed surface configuration is appropriate for the postmining land use.
- 17 (5) "Aquifer" means any geologic formation or natural zone beneath the earth's surface that contains or
18 stores water and transmits it from one point to another in quantities that permit or have the potential to permit
19 economic development as a water source.
- 20 (6) (a) "Area of land affected" means the area of land from which overburden is to be or has been
21 removed and upon which the overburden is to be or has been deposited.
- 22 (b) The term includes:
- 23 (i) all land overlying any tunnels, shafts, or other excavations used to extract the mineral;
- 24 (ii) lands affected by the construction of new railroad loops and roads or the improvement or use of
25 existing railroad loops and roads to gain access and to haul the mineral;
- 26 (iii) processing facilities at or near the mine site or other mine-associated facilities, waste deposition
27 areas, treatment ponds, and any other surface or subsurface disturbance associated with strip mining or
28 underground mining; and
- 29 (iv) all activities necessary and incident to the reclamation of the mining operations.
- 30 (7) "Bench" means the ledge, shelf, table, or terrace formed in the contour method of strip mining.

1 (8) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

2 (9) "Coal conservation plan" means the planned course of conduct of a strip- or underground-mining
3 operation and includes plans for the removal and use of minable and marketable coal located within the area
4 planned to be mined.

5 (10) (a) "Coal preparation" means the chemical or physical processing of coal and its cleaning,
6 concentrating, or other processing or preparation.

7 (b) The term does not mean the conversion of coal to another energy form or to a gaseous or liquid
8 hydrocarbon, except for incidental amounts that do not leave the plant, nor does the term mean processing for
9 other than commercial purposes.

10 (11) "Coal preparation plant" means a commercial facility where coal is subject to coal preparation. The
11 term includes commercial facilities associated with coal preparation activities but is not limited to loading
12 buildings, water treatment facilities, water storage facilities, settling basins and impoundments, and coal
13 processing and other waste disposal areas.

14 (12) "Contour strip mining" means that strip-mining method commonly carried out in areas of rough and
15 hilly topography in which the coal or mineral seam outcrops along the side of the slope and entrance are made
16 to the seam by excavating a bench or table cut at and along the site of the seam outcropping, with the excavated
17 overburden commonly being cast down the slope below the mineral seam and the operating bench.

18 (13) "Cropland" means land used for the production of adapted crops for harvest, alone or in rotation with
19 grasses and legumes, that include row crops, small grain crops, hay crops, nursery crops, orchard crops, and
20 other similar crops.

21 (14) "Degree" means a measurement from the horizontal. In each case, the measurement is subject to
22 a tolerance of 5% error.

23 (15) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

24 (16) "Developed water resources" means land used for storing water for beneficial uses, such as
25 stockponds, irrigation, fire protection, flood control, and water supply.

26 (17) "Ephemeral drainageway" means a drainageway that flows only in response to precipitation in the
27 immediate watershed or in response to the melting of snow or ice and is always above the local water table.

28 (18) "Failure to conserve coal" means the nonremoval or nonuse of minable and marketable coal by an
29 operation. However, the nonremoval or nonuse of minable and marketable coal that occurs because of
30 compliance with reclamation standards established by the department is not considered failure to conserve coal.

1 (19) "Fill bench" means that portion of a bench or table that is formed by depositing overburden beyond
2 or downslope from the cut section as formed in the contour method of strip mining.

3 (20) "Fish and wildlife habitat" means land dedicated wholly or partially to the production, protection, or
4 management of species of fish or wildlife.

5 (21) "Forestry" means land used or managed for the long-term production of wood, wood fiber, or
6 wood-derived products.

7 (22) "Grazing land" means land used for grasslands and forest lands where the indigenous vegetation
8 is actively managed for livestock grazing or browsing or occasional hay production.

9 (23) "Higher or better uses" means postmining land uses that have a higher economic value or
10 noneconomic benefit to the landowner or the community than the premining land uses.

11 (24) "Hydrologic balance" means the relationship between the quality and quantity of water inflow to,
12 water outflow from, and water storage in a hydrologic unit, such as a drainage basin, aquifer, soil zone, lake, or
13 reservoir, and encompasses the dynamic relationships among precipitation, runoff, evaporation, and changes
14 in ground water and surface water storage.

15 (25) "Imminent danger to the health and safety of the public" means the existence of any condition or
16 practice or any violation of a permit or other requirement of this part in a strip- or underground-coal-mining and
17 reclamation operation that could reasonably be expected to cause substantial physical harm to persons outside
18 the permit area before the condition, practice, or violation can be abated. A reasonable expectation of death or
19 serious injury before abatement exists if a rational person, subjected to the same conditions or practices giving
20 rise to the peril, would not willingly be exposed to the danger during the time necessary for abatement.

21 (26) "Industrial or commercial" means land used for:

22 (a) extraction or transformation of materials for fabrication of products, wholesaling of products, or
23 long-term storage of products. This includes all heavy and light manufacturing facilities.

24 (b) retail or trade of goods or services, including hotels, motels, stores, restaurants, and other
25 commercial establishments.

26 (27) (a) "In situ coal gasification" means a method of in-place coal mining where limited quantities of
27 overburden are disturbed to install a conduit or well and coal is mined by injecting or recovering a liquid, solid,
28 sludge, or gas that causes the leaching, dissolution, gasification, liquefaction, or extraction of the coal.

29 (b) In situ coal gasification does not include the storage of carbon dioxide in a geologic storage reservoir,
30 the primary or enhanced recovery of naturally occurring oil and gas, or any related process regulated by the board

1 of oil and gas conservation pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11.

2 ~~(27)~~(28) "Intermittent stream" means a stream or reach of a stream that is below the water table for at
3 least some part of the year and that obtains its flow from both ground water discharge and surface runoff.

4 ~~(28)~~(29) "Land use" means specific uses or management-related activities, rather than the vegetative
5 cover of the land. Land uses may be identified in combination when joint or seasonal uses occur and may include
6 land used for support facilities that are an integral part of the land use. Land use categories include cropland,
7 developed water resources, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, grazing land, industrial or commercial, pastureland,
8 land occasionally cut for hay, recreation, or residential.

9 ~~(29)~~(30) "Marketable coal" means a minable coal that is economically feasible to mine and is fit for sale
10 in the usual course of trade.

11 ~~(30)~~(31) "Material damage" means, with respect to protection of the hydrologic balance, degradation or
12 reduction by coal mining and reclamation operations of the quality or quantity of water outside of the permit area
13 in a manner or to an extent that land uses or beneficial uses of water are adversely affected, water quality
14 standards are violated, or water rights are impacted. Violation of a water quality standard, whether or not an
15 existing water use is affected, is material damage.

16 ~~(34)~~(32) "Method of operation" means the method or manner by which the cut, open pit, shaft, or
17 excavation is made, the overburden is placed or handled, water is controlled, and other acts are performed by
18 the operator in the process of uncovering and removing the minerals that affect the reclamation of the area of land
19 affected.

20 ~~(32)~~(33) "Minaable coal" means that coal that can be removed through strip- or underground-mining
21 methods adaptable to the location that coal is being mined or is planned to be mined.

22 ~~(33)~~(34) "Mineral" means coal and uranium.

23 ~~(34)~~(35) "Operation" means:

24 (a) all of the premises, facilities, railroad loops, roads, and equipment used in the process of producing
25 and removing mineral from and reclaiming a designated strip-mine or underground-mine area, including coal
26 preparation plants; and

27 (b) all activities, including excavation incident to operations, or prospecting for the purpose of determining
28 the location, quality, or quantity of a natural mineral deposit.

29 ~~(35)~~(36) "Operator" means a person engaged in:

30 (a) strip mining or underground mining who removes or intends to remove more than 10,000 cubic yards

1 of mineral or overburden;

2 (b) coal mining who removes or intends to remove more than 250 tons of coal from the earth by mining
3 within 12 consecutive calendar months in any one location;

4 (c) operating a coal preparation plant; or

5 (d) uranium mining using in situ methods.

6 ~~(36)~~(37) "Overburden" means:

7 (a) all of the earth and other materials that lie above a natural mineral deposit; and

8 (b) the earth and other material after removal from their natural state in the process of mining.

9 ~~(37)~~(38) "Pastureland" means land used primarily for the long-term production of adapted, domesticated
10 forage plants to be grazed by livestock or occasionally cut and cured for livestock feed.

11 ~~(38)~~(39) "Perennial stream" means a stream or part of a stream that flows continuously during all of the
12 calendar year as a result of ground water discharge or surface runoff.

13 ~~(39)~~(40) "Person" means a person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity or any
14 political subdivision or agency of the state or federal government.

15 ~~(40)~~(41) "Prime farmland" means land that:

16 (a) meets the criteria for prime farmland prescribed by the United States secretary of agriculture in the
17 Federal Register; and

18 (b) historically has been used for intensive agricultural purposes.

19 ~~(41)~~(42) "Prospecting" means:

20 (a) the gathering of surface or subsurface geologic, physical, or chemical data by mapping, trenching,
21 or geophysical or other techniques necessary to determine:

22 (i) the quality and quantity of overburden in an area; or

23 (ii) the location, quantity, or quality of a mineral deposit; or

24 (b) the gathering of environmental data to establish the conditions of an area before beginning strip- or
25 underground-coal-mining and reclamation operations under this part.

26 ~~(42)~~(43) "Reclamation" means backfilling, subsidence stabilization, water control, grading, highwall
27 reduction, topsoiling, planting, revegetation, and other work conducted on lands affected by strip mining or
28 underground mining under a plan approved by the department to make those lands capable of supporting the
29 uses that those lands were capable of supporting prior to any mining or to higher or better uses.

30 (44) "Recovery fluid" means any material that flows or moves, whether in semisolid, liquid, sludge, gas,

1 or some other form or state, used to dissolve, leach, gasify, or extract coal.

2 ~~(43)~~(45) "Recreation" means land used for public or private leisure-time activities, including developed
3 recreation facilities, such as parks, camps, and amusement areas, as well as areas for less intensive uses, such
4 as hiking, canoeing, and other undeveloped recreational uses.

5 ~~(44)~~(46) "Reference area" means a land unit maintained under appropriate management for the purpose
6 of measuring vegetation ground cover, productivity, and plant species diversity that are produced naturally or by
7 crop production methods approved by the department. Reference areas must be representative of geology, soil,
8 slope, and vegetation in the permit area.

9 ~~(45)~~(47) "Remining" means conducting surface coal mining and reclamation operations that affect
10 previously mined areas (for example, the recovery of additional mineral from existing gob or tailings piles).

11 ~~(46)~~(48) "Residential" means land used for single- and multiple-family housing, mobile home parks, or
12 other residential lodgings.

13 ~~(47)~~(49) "Restore" or "restoration" means reestablishment after mining and reclamation of the land use
14 that existed prior to mining or to higher or better uses.

15 ~~(48)~~(50) (a) "Strip mining" means any part of the process followed in the production of mineral by the
16 open-cut method, including mining by the auger method or any similar method that penetrates a mineral deposit
17 and removes mineral directly through a series of openings made by a machine that enters the deposit from a
18 surface excavation or any other mining method or process in which the strata or overburden is removed or
19 displaced in order to recover the mineral.

20 (b) For the purposes of this part only, strip mining also includes remining and coal preparation.

21 (c) The terms "remining" and "coal preparation" are not included in the definition of "strip mining" for
22 purposes of Title 15, chapter 35, part 1.

23 ~~(49)~~(51) "Subsidence" means a vertically downward movement of overburden materials resulting from
24 the actual mining of an underlying mineral deposit or associated underground excavations.

25 ~~(50)~~(52) "Surface owner" means:

26 (a) a person who holds legal or equitable title to the land surface;

27 (b) a person who personally conducts farming or ranching operations upon a farm or ranch unit to be
28 directly affected by strip-mining operations or who receives directly a significant portion of income from farming
29 or ranching operations;

30 (c) the state of Montana when the state owns the surface; or

1 (d) the appropriate federal land management agency when the United States government owns the
2 surface.

3 ~~(51)~~(53) "Topsoil" means the unconsolidated mineral matter that is naturally present on the surface of
4 the earth, that has been subjected to and influenced by genetic and environmental factors of parent material,
5 climate, macroorganisms and microorganisms, and topography, all acting over a period of time, and that is
6 necessary for the growth and regeneration of vegetation on the surface of the earth.

7 ~~(52)~~(54) "Underground mining" means any part of the process that is followed in the production of a
8 mineral and that uses vertical or horizontal shafts, slopes, drifts, or incline planes connected with excavations
9 penetrating the mineral stratum or strata. The term includes mining by in situ methods.

10 ~~(53)~~(55) "Unwarranted failure to comply" means:

11 (a) the failure of a permittee to prevent the occurrence of any violation of a permit or any requirement
12 of this part because of indifference, lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care; or

13 (b) the failure to abate any violation of a permit or of this part because of indifference, lack of diligence,
14 or lack of reasonable care.

15 ~~(54)~~(56) "Waiver" means a document that demonstrates the clear intention to release rights in the surface
16 estate for the purpose of permitting the extraction of subsurface minerals by strip-mining methods.

17 ~~(55)~~(57) "Wildlife habitat enhancement feature" means a component of the reclaimed landscape,
18 established in conjunction with land uses other than fish and wildlife habitat, for the benefit of wildlife species,
19 including but not limited to tree and shrub plantings, food plots, wetland areas, water sources, rock outcrops,
20 microtopography, or raptor perches.

21 ~~(56)~~(58) "Written consent" means a statement that is executed by the owner of the surface estate and
22 that is written on a form approved by the department to demonstrate that the owner consents to entry of an
23 operator for the purpose of conducting strip-mining operations and that the consent is given only to strip-mining
24 and reclamation operations that fully comply with the terms and requirements of this part."

25

26 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
27 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
28 Chippewa tribe.

29

30 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

1 integral part of Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, and the provisions of Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, apply to [section 1].

2

3 NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Saving clause.** [This act] does not affect rights and duties that matured,
4 penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before [the effective date of this act].

5

6 NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable
7 from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part
8 remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

9

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