

**Everts, Todd**

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Date: May 9, 2002 Exhibit 14

From: Tony Tweedale [ttweed@wildrockies.org]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 07, 2002 2:56 PM  
To: teverts@state.mt.us  
Subject: Msla WP&S comment

Todd, will you place the below be in the 'Missoula White Pine & Sash' agenda-item section of ea. EQC member's packet, for their meeting this week (as public comment generally (or specifically, if the EQC takes any action). Let me know only if that's a problem.

Thanks, Tony Tweedale

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6 May 2002

Dear EQC members: I wanted you to see this view-point on this agenda item, especially as I have not yet had my get a call returned by Doug Mood (asking him for info on what this agenda item was about, this time); and as the Missoulia rejected the letter for being over 300 words.

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FOR PUBLICATION

Dear Editor:

As a Legislative body, the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) has a necessary coercive power of interrogation. Members should not abuse this power for goals that don't promote environmental quality. EQC member and House Rep. Doug Mood (Seeley Lake) has twice put on the EQC's agenda the adequacy of the Dept. of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) clean-up of the abandoned Missoula White Pine & Sash (WP&S) site. For years, developers have fought DEQ to be allowed to make money off this contaminated site before even its risk is assessed. Such pressure is quaintly termed "Brownfields development".

The national Superfund law works because it imposes extreme potential liabilities on any party involved in a contaminated site. But these liabilities have recently been weakened, using the false claim that only small business owners or Brownfields sites (sites with the "potential" (?) for development) have been granted relief from them. Also, EPA's critical oversight of state clean-ups has been attacked--because developers and polluters know they're most powerful at the state and local level. Tragic illnesses have occurred at Brownfields sites arbitrarily deemed "safe" and then developed as, e.g., housing.

The extensive minutes of the EQC's December meeting indicates parties appearing to speak for the WP&S developers. Missoula's Mayor and his CEO; even Northside/Westside neighborhood reps; should not have supported the developer's testimony concerning clean-up delays. DEQ has not finished sampling for contamination, much less finished assessing the risks of this site--which is close to the state's worst one, and whose known contamination was ignored for several years. Apparently the word 'dioxin' was not to be mentioned at this inquisition--though this contaminant poses the greatest risks, and thus will drive DEQ's clean-up decision. But DEQ cannot "remediate" ex-workers or any ill neighbors. As dioxin contaminates all mammals at levels known to be of some risk, DEQ has acknowledged that it will have to ignore dioxin's many non-cancer risks for the additional exposures at WP&S (dioxins cause cancers at slightly higher body burdens). Ultimately it is the clean environment that supports economic activity. Give DEQ the time to protect us, and economic activity will be stronger.

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Causality is a concept not subject to empirical demonstration. -David Hume

Temperate but endangered planet. Enjoys weather, northern lights,  
continental drift. Seeks caring relationship with intelligent life form.  
-Friends of the Earth

Everyone's doing something to the weather, but no one's talking about it!  
-?