



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
**Health Department**

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
COUNCIL. 2003-2004**

September 13, 2004

Ex. No. 25

PH:

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To: Environmental Quality Council  
From: Joan Miles, Health Officer, Lewis and Clark City County Health Department  
Date: September 13, 2004  
Re: Discussion Bill LC9009 (Clean Up of Clandestine Meth Labs)

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The following comments are submitted in concurrence with the health officers in Missoula, Yellowstone, Cascade, Flathead and Lewis and Clark counties:

We support the provisions in LC9009 that would establish voluntary clean-up standards for meth labs that are discovered in facilities intended for residential purposes. We believe this is an important first step in establishing a consistent statewide policy regarding meth labs and will provide an important measure of protection to the public. We believe the bill reflects manageable responsibilities for DPHHS as well as local health departments. As proposed, local health departments can act as resource and referral agencies to insure affected persons know how to obtain clean-up information and guidance as well as information about certified contractors.

This is a difficult problem for property owners and local governments – and only stands to get worse as we unfortunately see the manufacture and use of meth increasing in our communities. It is critical that we take steps to address this problem and offer consistent guidance on this issue. This proposal represents an important, relatively simple first step that will protect not only the public but the property owners who are victimized by this insidious problem.

We appreciate the time and consideration the EQC has given during the past year to address this issue and urge you to support the introduction of this legislation. Full legislative consideration of the problems associated with meth is necessary.

Thank you.

*"To Improve and Protect the Health of All Lewis and Clark County Residents."*