

## Selected Highlights From EQC's 40 Year History (1971-2011)

- 1971 Montana Environmental Policy Act signed by the Governor and the Environmental Quality Council is established.
- 1972 EQC adopts first position paper outlining an Environmental Quality Premise for Montana.  
EQC studies environmental and legal problems of land development in Montana  
EQC studies coal development and potential in Montana  
First Montana Environmental Indicators report published.
- 1973 EQC conducts comprehensive, statewide land use policy study.  
EQC studies energy conservation in buildings.  
EQC publishes a Perspective on Subdivision Activity in the Bitterroot Valley.  
EQC studies Underground Natural Resources  
EQC studies Eastern Montana Water Resources and Coal Development  
EQC studies Land Development Associated with Subdivisions on Wildlife Habitat  
EQC develops EIS Guidelines.  
EQC publishes Montana Environmental Indicators Report.
- 1974 EQC conducts subdivision case study.  
EQC studies microflora in the Yellowstone River.  
EQC studies the potential for solar energy in Montana  
EQC studies the use of Montana's coal as an energy resource.  
EQC studies land use policies.  
EQC studies oil and gas energy resource in Montana.  
EQC studies geothermal and energy flow issues in Montana.  
EQC studies the role of the State in Federal and Indian Land Use Decisions.  
EQC publishes Montana Environmental Indicators Report.

- 1975 EQC publishes comprehensive report establishing baseline environmental conditions for the state of Montana.  
EQC develops a Montana Energy Policy.
- EQC conducts oversight hearings on the Montana Strip Mining and Reclamation Act.
- EQC studies commerce clause considerations relating to a local power policy for siting power generation facilities in Montana.
- EQC studies impacts of saline seep in Montana.
- 1976 EQC conducts Legal Analysis of MEPA and studies the MEPA planning process.
- EQC conducts study on the prevention of significant deterioration.
- EQC conducts analysis of Montana's Agricultural Experiment Station's livestock grazing demonstration on the reseeded surface mine reclaimed land near Coal Strip.
- EQC studies transboundary issues between Canada and Montana with respect to the Poplar River.
- EQC studies Montana's natural gas supply crisis.
- EQC publishes the Environmental Permit Directory.
- EQC studies Montana's renewable resources.
- 1977 EQC submits energy report to the Legislature.
- 1978 EQC analyzes the permitting process of the Colstrip 3 and 4 facilities and recommends steps to facilitate compliance with MEPA.
- EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.
- EQC studies oil and gas leasing on State Lands
- EQC publishes an citizen's brochure to environmental impact statements.
- 1979 EQC analyzes options for providing the science and technology resource capability for the Montana Legislature.
- 1980 EQC studies the coordination of the permit procedures.
- EQC studies promoting industrial growth and diversification in Montana.
- EQC surveys industry experiences and attitudes in Montana.
- EQC studies the problems and benefits of mining bentonite in Montana.

- EQC studies citizen participation in siting energy facilities in Montana.
- 1981 EQC studies natural resource issues in Montana.
- 1982 EQC completes hardrock mining impact study that concludes the existing level of taxation collected by local governments is adequate to off-set social and economic impacts.
- EQC provides a public forum for environmental regulations and Montana's economy
- EQC hosts conference on Montana's groundwater and develops a groundwater strategy.
- EQC analyzes agency implementation of MEPA.
- 1983 EQC studies the socio-economic impacts of large-scale hard-rock mining in Montana.
- EQC studies and reports to the legislature on the potential of renewable energy grant and loan programs.
- 1984 EQC studies small scale hydro development in Montana
- 1985 EQC Select Committee on Water Marketing develops the legal mechanism to protect Montana's waters from excessive out-of-state appropriation.
- EQC issues a citizen's guide to the Major Facility Siting Act.
- EQC publishes a citizen's guides on the Right-To-Know: A Guide to Montana's Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act.
- EQC issues a report to the Legislature on the Renewable Energy and Conservation Program.
- EQC publishes report on Montana's Water.
- 1986 EQC analyzes MEPA review of oil and gas drilling permits.
- EQC conducts a comparison study on environmental regulations of the oil and gas industry in the Rocky Mountain States and Alberta.
- 1987 EQC assessed Montana's water quality program for oil and gas practices, forest practices, and subdivisions.
- EQC review of hazardous substances in the environment.
- 1988 EQC facilitates a collaborative process with executive branch agencies to revise, streamline and improve the administrative rules implementing MEPA.
- EQC forest practices study establishes best management practices for forestry and

the BMP audit process; 1989 Legislature enacts implementing legislation.

EQC evaluates the Montana water rights adjudication process.

1989 EQC studies water resources research centers.

1990-91 EQC solid waste study develops recommendations to modernize all aspects of Montana's solid waste program and statutes; 1991 Legislature enacts 9 EQC bills.

EQC study develops legislation creating a 20 year ground water monitoring and ground water characterization program that will provide Montana with the information necessary to make informed ground water management decisions.

EQC studies log scaling and reports to the Legislature.

EQC studies rural development.

EQC publishes an overview of Montana's Energy Resources.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

1992-93 EQC study establishes an energy policy and a state energy policy development process for Montana; resolves long-standing dispute over the application of energy conservation measures to residential buildings. 1993 Legislature enacts SB 225 and SB 340.

EQC develops MEPA training manual and training seminars for state agency staff. Over 700 state employees receive MEPA training over next four years.

EQC completes study of Lakeshore Development.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

1994-95 EQC study analyzes and clarifies the provisions of Montana's water nondegradation policy.

EQC convenes a Transportation Energy Collaborative and develops a Transportation Energy Policy.

EQC studies Hazardous Waste Management and makes recommendations to the Legislature.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

1996-97 EQC evaluates the compliance and enforcement programs of 28 state environmental and natural resource programs and develops recommendations to improve the compliance and regulatory framework.

In order to facilitate and encourage better, more informed decision making regarding Montana's environment, EQC produces environmental indicators report that provides authoritative information on the current state of Montana's environment.

EQC publishes a citizens guide to the Montana Water Quality Act.

EQC studies and makes recommendations on Water Policy

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

1998-99

EQC studies and makes recommendations to the Legislature on DFWP's Water Leasing Laws.

EQC studies and analyzes the Management of Waste Tires and makes recommendations to the Legislature.

EQC studies and makes recommendations on Water Policy

EQC studies and makes recommendations on Water Quality and TMDLs.

EQC conducts oversight on compliance with enforcement of Montana's Natural Resource and Environmental Laws.

EQC conducts massive study on Planning for Growth in Montana and makes recommendations to the Legislature.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

2000-01

EQC develops a Briefing Paper for Growth Policy Funding to the 57th Legislature.

EQC conducts an extensive study on Improving the Montana Environmental Policy Act process and makes recommendations to the Legislature.

The EQC conducts an extensive study on eminent domain and makes recommendations to the Legislature.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

2002-03

EQC publishes the Electricity Law Handbook.

EQC publishes Understanding Electricity in Montana.

EQC publishes A Guide to Montana Water Quality Regulation.

EQC studies coal bed methane and water policy in Montana.

EQC publishes a Public Participation Guide to MEPA.

EQC publishes Petroleum and Petroleum Products in Montana.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

2004-05

EQC publishes Guide to the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

EQC studies water rights in Montana and reports to the Legislature.

EQC studies hydrogen, wind, biodiesel, and ethanol resources in Montana and reports to the Legislature.

EQC studies metal mine bonding issues in Montana and reports to the Legislature.

EQC studies water quality impacts at the Zortman and Landeusky Mines.

EQC studies Montana's water resources.

EQC produces an informational guide to State debt.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

2006-07

EQC publishes Guide to Montana's Water Rights

EQC studies the financing and administration of Montana's trust lands.

EQC studies contract timber harvesting on state land.

EQC studies the State superfund process

EQC studies wildland fire policy.

EQC studies split estates.

EQC studies water policy in Montana

EQC publishes a Guide to Split Estates in Oil and Gas Development

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

2008-09

EQC studies the Petroleum Tank Release Program

EQC studies climate change.

EQC studies conservation easements.

EQC studies water policy.

EQC studies trust land management.

EQC publishes Conservation Easements: 20 Things Everyone Should Know.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

2010-11

EQC publishes Permitting in Montana Guide

EQC studies monetary incentives for tourism and recreational access.

EQC studies recycling and solid waste diversion.

EQC studies biomass energy issues.

EQC publishes Environmental Permit Index.

