

SENATE BILL NO. 233

INTRODUCED BY D. ANKNEY

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3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE BOARD OF
5 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW; REASSIGNING DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD OF
6 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW; TRANSFERRING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING RULEMAKING
7 AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 7-13-4502, 7-13-4513, 7-13-4517, ~~45-24-3001, 37-42-102, 37-42-321,~~
8 ~~50-2-116, 50-79-401, 50-79-403, 75-1-220, 75-1-1001, 75-2-103, 75-2-104, 75-2-105, 75-2-111, 75-2-112, 75-~~
9 ~~2-201, 75-2-202, 75-2-203, 75-2-204, 75-2-206, 75-2-207, 75-2-211, 75-2-212, 75-2-213, 75-2-215, 75-2-217,~~
10 ~~75-2-218, 75-2-219, 75-2-220, 75-2-221, 75-2-231, 75-2-234, 75-2-301, 75-2-302, 75-2-401, 75-2-402, 75-2-~~
11 ~~411, 75-2-421, 75-2-422, 75-2-425, 75-2-426, 75-2-428, 75-2-515, 75-5-103, 75-5-105, 75-5-106, 75-5-201, 75-~~
12 ~~5-202, 75-5-203, 75-5-222, 75-5-301, 75-5-302, 75-5-303, 75-5-304, 75-5-305, 75-5-307, 75-5-308, 75-5-310,~~
13 ~~75-5-311, 75-5-312, 75-5-313, 75-5-314, 75-5-315, 75-5-316, 75-5-318, 75-5-401, 75-5-402, 75-5-403, 75-5-~~
14 ~~404, 75-5-502, 75-5-514, 75-5-515, 75-5-516, 75-5-611, 75-5-614, 75-5-621, 75-5-641, 75-5-702, 75-5-802, 75-~~
15 ~~6-402, 75-6-104, 75-6-105, 75-6-106, 75-6-107, 75-6-108, 75-6-109, 75-6-112, 75-6-113, 75-6-116, 75-6-121,~~
16 ~~75-6-131, 75-10-103, 75-10-104, 75-10-112, 75-10-115, 75-10-203, 75-10-206, 75-10-221, 75-10-223, 75-10-~~
17 ~~224, 75-10-227, 75-10-403, 75-10-406, 75-10-408, 75-10-409, 75-10-413, 75-10-414, 75-10-417, 75-10-418,~~
18 ~~75-10-424, 75-10-501, 75-10-515, 75-10-540, 75-10-714, 75-10-727, 75-10-732, 75-10-736, 75-10-1201, 75-~~
19 ~~10-1221, 75-10-1222, 75-11-203, 75-11-211, 75-11-218, 75-11-219, 75-11-223, 75-11-224, 75-11-503, 75-11-~~
20 ~~505, 75-11-508, 75-11-509, 75-11-512, 75-11-513, 75-11-516, 75-11-525, 75-20-104, 75-20-105, 75-20-201,~~
21 ~~75-20-207, 75-20-208, 75-20-211, 75-20-215, 75-20-216, 75-20-219, 75-20-223, 75-20-301, 75-20-303, 75-20-~~
22 ~~304, 75-20-401, 75-20-406, 75-20-407, 75-20-410, 75-20-411, 75-20-1001, 75-20-1202, 75-20-1203, 75-20-~~
23 ~~1205, 75-26-301, 75-26-304, 76-3-622, 76-4-102, 76-4-108, 76-4-126, 76-4-1001, 80-15-102, 80-15-105, 80-~~
24 ~~15-110, 80-15-201, 82-4-102, 82-4-103, 82-4-112, 82-4-123, 82-4-129, 82-4-130, 82-4-203, 82-4-205, 82-4-~~
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26 ~~4-254, 82-4-303, 82-4-304, 82-4-305, 82-4-309, 82-4-321, 82-4-332, 82-4-335, 82-4-338, 82-4-339, 82-4-342,~~
27 ~~82-4-353, 82-4-361, 82-4-362, 82-4-371, 82-4-403, 82-4-406, 82-4-422, 82-4-427, 82-4-437, 82-4-441, 82-4-~~

1 442, 82-4-445, 82-4-1001, AND 82-15-102, AND 82-15-120, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 2-15-3502,
 2 75-2-444, 75-6-103, 75-10-106, 82-4-111, AND 82-4-204, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

3

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

5

6 **Section 1.** Section 7-13-4502, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"7-13-4502. Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following
 8 definitions apply:

9 (1) "Board of directors" means the board of directors provided for in 7-13-4516 or a joint board of
 10 directors provided for in 7-13-4527.

11 ~~(2) "Board of environmental review" means the board of environmental review as provided in 2-15-~~
 12 ~~3502-~~

13 ~~(3)~~(2) "Commissioners" means the board of county commissioners or the governing body of a city-
 14 county consolidated government.

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

16 (4) "Family residential unit" means a single-family dwelling.

17 (5) "Fee-assessed units" means all real property with improvements, including taxable and tax-
 18 exempt property as shown on the property assessment records maintained by the county, and mobile homes
 19 and manufactured homes as defined in 15-24-201.

20 (6) "Local water quality district" means an area established with definite boundaries for the purpose of
 21 protecting, preserving, and improving the quality of surface water and ground water in the district as authorized
 22 by this part."

23

24 **Section 2.** Section 7-13-4513, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"7-13-4513. Insufficient protest to bar proceedings -- resolution creating district -- power to**
 26 **implement local water quality program.** (1) The commissioners may create a local water quality district,
 27 establish fees, and appoint a board of directors if the commissioners find that insufficient protests have been
 28 made in accordance with 7-13-4511 or if the registered voters who reside in the proposed district have

1 approved a referendum as provided in 7-13-4512.

2 (2) To create a local water quality district, the commissioners shall pass a resolution in accordance
3 with the resolution of intention introduced and passed by the commissioners or in accordance with the terms of
4 the referendum.

5 (3) The commissioners and board of directors may implement a local water quality program after the
6 program is approved by the ~~board of environmental review~~ department pursuant to 75-5-311."

7

8 **Section 3.** Section 7-13-4517, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"7-13-4517. Powers and duties of board of directors.** The board of directors of a local water quality
10 district, with the approval of the commissioners, may:

11 (1) develop a local water quality program, to be submitted to the ~~board of environmental review~~
12 department, for the protection, preservation, and improvement of the quality of surface water and ground water
13 in the district. In developing the program, the board of directors shall consult with the board or boards of
14 supervisors of conservation districts, established as provided in 76-15-201, whose geographical area of
15 jurisdiction is included within the boundaries of the local water quality district.

16 (2) implement a local water quality program;

17 (3) administer the budget of the local water quality district;

18 (4) employ personnel;

19 (5) purchase, rent, or lease equipment and material necessary to develop and implement an effective
20 program;

21 (6) cooperate or contract with any corporation, association, individual, or group of individuals,
22 including any agency of the federal, state, or local government, in order to develop and implement an effective
23 program;

24 (7) receive gifts, grants, or donations for the purpose of advancing the program and acquire, by gift,
25 deed, or purchase, land necessary to implement the local water quality program;

26 (8) administer local ordinances that are adopted by the commissioners and governing bodies of the
27 participating cities and towns and that pertain to the protection, preservation, and improvement of the quality of
28 surface water and ground water;

- 1 (9) apply for and receive from the federal government or the state government, on behalf of the local
2 water quality district, money to aid the local water quality program;
- 3 (10) borrow money for assistance in planning or refinancing a local water quality district and repay
4 loans with the money received from the established fees; and
- 5 (11) construct facilities that cost not more than \$5,000 and maintain facilities necessary to accomplish
6 the purposes of the district, including but not limited to facilities for removal of water-borne contaminants; water
7 quality improvement; sanitary sewage collection, disposal, and treatment; and storm water or surface water
8 drainage collection, disposal, and treatment."

9

10 **Section 4.** Section 15-24-3001, MCA, is amended to read:

11 ~~"15-24-3001. Electrical generation and transmission facility exemption -- definitions. (1) (a)~~
12 ~~Except as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (3), an electrical generation facility and related delivery facilities~~
13 ~~constructed in the state of Montana after May 5, 2001, and before January 1, 2006, may be exempt from~~
14 ~~property taxation for a 10-year period beginning on the date that an owner or operator of an electrical~~
15 ~~generation facility and related delivery facilities commences to construct the facility as defined in 75-20-~~
16 ~~104(6)(a) and (6)(b) 75-20-104(5)(a) and (5)(b). In order to be exempt from property taxation, an owner and~~
17 ~~operator of an electrical generation facility and related delivery facilities shall offer contracts to sell 50% of that~~
18 ~~facility's net generating output at a cost-based rate, which includes a rate of return not to exceed 12%, to~~
19 ~~customers for a 20-year period from the date of the facility's completion.~~

20 ~~(b) The property tax exemption allowed under subsection (1)(a) is limited to a 5-year period for~~
21 ~~generation facilities powered by oil or gas turbines.~~

22 ~~(2) To the extent that 50% of the net generating output of the facility is not contracted for delivery to~~
23 ~~consumers for a contract term extending 5 years to 20 years from the completion of the facility, as determined~~
24 ~~by the owner, surplus capacity must be offered on a declining contract term basis for the remainder of the~~
25 ~~contract period at a cost-based rate that includes a rate of return not to exceed 12%. Surplus capacity that is~~
26 ~~not contracted for in this fashion may be sold at market rates.~~

27 ~~(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), if an owner or operator of property exempt from~~
28 ~~taxation under subsection (1)(a) signs a contract to sell power as required in subsection (1) and then fails to~~

1 perform the contract during the first 10-year period, the 10-year property tax exemption in subsection (1) is void
 2 and the property is subject to a rollback tax as provided in 15-24-3002.

3 (b) ~~Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), if an owner or operator of property exempt from taxation~~
 4 ~~under subsection (1)(b) signs a contract to sell power as required in subsection (1) and then fails to perform the~~
 5 ~~contract during the first 5-year period, the 5-year property tax exemption in subsection (1) is void and the~~
 6 ~~property is subject to a rollback tax as provided in 15-24-3002.~~

7 (c) ~~If an owner or operator fails to perform the contract due to earthquakes or other acts of God, theft,~~
 8 ~~sabotage, acts of war, other social instabilities, or equipment failure, the property tax exemption in subsection~~
 9 ~~(1)(a) or (1)(b) is not void and the owner or operator is not subject to the rollback tax as provided in 15-24-3002.~~

10 (4) ~~For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:~~

11 (a) (i) ~~"Electrical generation facility" means any combination of a physically connected generator or~~
 12 ~~generators, associated prime movers, and other associated property, including appurtenant land and~~
 13 ~~improvements and personal property, that are normally operated together to produce 20 average megawatts or~~
 14 ~~more of electric power. The term is limited to generating facilities that produce electricity from coal-fired steam~~
 15 ~~turbines, oil or gas turbines, or turbine generators that are driven by falling water.~~

16 (ii) ~~The term does not include:~~

17 (A) ~~electrical generation facilities used for noncommercial purposes or exclusively for agricultural~~
 18 ~~purposes; or~~

19 (B) ~~a qualifying small power production facility, as that term is defined in 16 U.S.C. 796(17), that is~~
 20 ~~owned and operated by a person not primarily engaged in the generation or sale of electricity other than electric~~
 21 ~~power from a small power production facility and that is classified under 15-6-134 and 15-6-138.~~

22 (b) ~~"Related delivery facilities" means transmission facilities necessary to deliver the energy from the~~
 23 ~~electrical generation facility to the existing network transmission system.~~

24 (c) ~~"Surplus capacity" means that portion of the 50% of net generating output not contracted for use.~~

25 (5) ~~The department shall appraise exempt electrical generation facilities for each year that the~~
 26 ~~property is exempt and determine the taxable value of the property as if it were subject to property taxation."~~

27

28 **Section 5.** Section 37-42-102, MCA, is amended to read:

1 ~~"37-42-102. Definitions.~~ Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following
2 definitions apply:

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

4 ~~(2)(1) "Certificate" means a certificate of competency issued by the department, stating that the~~
5 operator holding the certificate has met the requirements for the specified operator classification of the
6 certification program.

7 ~~(3)(2) "Community water system" means a public water supply system that serves at least 15 service~~
8 connections used by year-round residents or that regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.

9 ~~(4)(3) "Council" means the water and wastewater operators' advisory council provided for in 2-15-~~
10 2405.

11 ~~(5)(4) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3504.~~

12 ~~(6)(5) "Industrial waste" means any waste substance from the processes of business or industry or~~
13 from the development of a natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

14 ~~(7)(6) "Industrial waste discharge system" means a system that discharges industrial waste into state~~
15 waters.

16 ~~(8)(7) "Nontransient noncommunity water system" means a public water system, as defined in 75-6-~~
17 202, that is not a community system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons for at least 6
18 months a year.

19 ~~(9)(8) "Operator" means the person in direct responsible charge of the operation of a water treatment~~
20 plant, water distribution system, or wastewater treatment plant.

21 ~~(10)(9) "State waters" means the term as defined in 75-6-102.~~

22 ~~(11)(10) "Wastewater treatment plant" means a facility that:~~

23 ~~(a) is designed to remove solids, bacteria, or other harmful constituents of sewage, industrial waste,~~
24 or other wastes; and

25 ~~(b) is part of either an industrial waste discharge system or a public sewage system as defined in 75-~~
26 6-102.

27 ~~(12)(11) "Water distribution system" means that portion of the water supply system that conveys water~~
28 from the water treatment plant or other supply source to the premises of the consumer and that is part of a

1 community water system or a nontransient noncommunity water system.

2 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Water supply system" means a system of pipes, structures, and facilities through which water
3 is obtained, treated, sold, distributed, or otherwise offered to the public for household use or use by humans
4 and that is part of a community water system or a nontransient noncommunity water system.

5 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Water treatment plant" means that portion of the water supply system that alters either the
6 physical, chemical, or bacteriological quality of the water and renders it safe and palatable for human use."

7

8 **Section 6.** Section 37-42-321, MCA, is amended to read:

9 ~~"37-42-321. Revocation of operator's certificate -- disciplinary action by department.~~ (1) The
10 department may issue an order revoking the certificate of an operator when the department finds that:

11 ~~(a) the operator has practiced fraud or deception;~~

12 ~~(b) reasonable care, judgment, or the application of the operator's knowledge or ability was not used
13 in the performance of the operator's duties; or~~

14 ~~(c) the operator is incompetent or unable to properly perform the operator's duties.~~

15 ~~(2) The department may issue an order taking any disciplinary action listed in 37-1-136.~~

16 ~~(3) A person aggrieved by an order of the department under this section may request a hearing
17 before the board department by submitting a written request stating the reason for the request within 30 days
18 after receipt of the department's decision.~~

19 ~~(4) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,
20 part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section."~~

21

22 **Section 4.** Section 50-2-116, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"50-2-116. Powers and duties of local boards of health.** (1) In order to carry out the purposes of
24 the public health system, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, each local board of health shall:

25 (a) appoint and fix the salary of a local health officer who is:

26 (i) a physician;

27 (ii) a person with a master's degree in public health; or

28 (iii) a person with equivalent education and experience, as determined by the department;

- 1 (b) elect a presiding officer and other necessary officers;
- 2 (c) employ qualified staff;
- 3 (d) adopt bylaws to govern meetings;
- 4 (e) hold regular meetings at least quarterly and hold special meetings as necessary;
- 5 (f) identify, assess, prevent, and ameliorate conditions of public health importance through:
- 6 (i) epidemiological tracking and investigation;
- 7 (ii) screening and testing;
- 8 (iii) isolation and quarantine measures;
- 9 (iv) diagnosis, treatment, and case management;
- 10 (v) abatement of public health nuisances;
- 11 (vi) inspections;
- 12 (vii) collecting and maintaining health information;
- 13 (viii) education and training of health professionals; or
- 14 (ix) other public health measures as allowed by law;
- 15 (g) protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of
- 16 public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that
- 17 might cause disease or adversely affect public health;
- 18 (h) supervise or make inspections for conditions of public health importance and issue written orders
- 19 for compliance or for correction, destruction, or removal of the conditions;
- 20 (i) bring and pursue actions and issue orders necessary to abate, restrain, or prosecute the violation
- 21 of public health laws, rules, and local regulations;
- 22 (j) identify to the department an administrative liaison for public health. The liaison must be the local
- 23 health officer in jurisdictions that employ a full-time local health officer. In jurisdictions that do not employ a full-
- 24 time local health officer, the liaison must be the highest ranking public health professional employed by the
- 25 jurisdiction.
- 26 (k) subject to the provisions of 50-2-130, adopt necessary regulations that are not less stringent than
- 27 state standards for the control and disposal of sewage from private and public buildings and facilities that are
- 28 not regulated by Title 75, chapter 6, or Title 76, chapter 4. The regulations must describe standards for granting

1 variances from the minimum requirements that are identical to standards promulgated by the ~~board of~~
2 ~~environmental review~~ department of environmental quality and must provide for appeal of variance decisions to
3 the department of environmental quality as required by 75-5-305. If the local board of health regulates or
4 permits water well drilling, the regulations must prohibit the drilling of a well if the well isolation zone, as defined
5 in 76-4-102, encroaches onto adjacent private property without the authorization of the private property owner.

6 (2) Local boards of health may:

7 (a) accept and spend funds received from a federal agency, the state, a school district, or other
8 persons or entities;

9 (b) adopt necessary fees to administer regulations for the control and disposal of sewage from private
10 and public buildings and facilities;

11 (c) adopt regulations that do not conflict with 50-50-126 or rules adopted by the department:

12 (i) for the control of communicable diseases;

13 (ii) for the removal of filth that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

14 (iii) subject to the provisions of 50-2-130, for sanitation in public and private buildings and facilities that
15 affects public health and for the maintenance of sewage treatment systems that do not discharge effluent
16 directly into state water and that are not required to have an operating permit as required by rules adopted
17 under 75-5-401;

18 (iv) subject to the provisions of 50-2-130 and Title 50, chapter 48, for tattooing and body-piercing
19 establishments and that are not less stringent than state standards for tattooing and body-piercing
20 establishments;

21 (v) for the establishment of institutional controls that have been selected or approved by the:

22 (A) United States environmental protection agency as part of a remedy for a facility under the federal
23 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.; or

24 (B) department of environmental quality as part of a remedy for a facility under the Montana
25 Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act, Title 75, chapter 10, part 7; and

26 (vi) to implement the public health laws; and

27 (d) promote cooperation and formal collaborative agreements between the local board of health and
28 tribes, tribal organizations, and the Indian health service regarding public health planning, priority setting,

1 information and data sharing, reporting, resource allocation, service delivery, jurisdiction, and other matters
2 addressed in this title.

3 (3) A local board of health may provide, implement, facilitate, or encourage other public health
4 services and functions as considered reasonable and necessary."

5

6 **Section 8.** Section 50-79-401, MCA, is amended to read:

7 ~~"50-79-401. **Administrative hearings.** In a proceeding under this chapter for granting, suspending,
8 revoking, or amending a license or for determining compliance with or granting exceptions from rules adopted
9 under this chapter, the board of environmental review department shall first afford an opportunity for a hearing
10 on the record upon the request of a person whose interest may be affected by the proceeding and shall admit
11 the person as a party to the proceeding."~~

12

13 **Section 9.** Section 50-79-403, MCA, is amended to read:

14 ~~"50-79-403. **Emergency orders and rules.** When the department finds that an emergency exists
15 requiring immediate action to protect the public health and safety, the department may, without notice or
16 hearing, issue a rule or order reciting the existence of the emergency and requiring that such action be taken as
17 considered necessary to meet the emergency. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the
18 rule or order is effective immediately. A person to whom the rule or order is directed shall comply with it
19 immediately but on application to the board shall department must be afforded a prompt hearing. On the basis
20 of the hearing the emergency rule or order shall must be continued, modified, or revoked by the board
21 department within 30 days after the hearing or when the emergency no longer exists."~~

22

23 **Section 10.** Section 75-1-220, MCA, is amended to read:

24 ~~"75-1-220. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:~~

25 (1) ~~"Alternatives analysis" means an evaluation of different parameters, mitigation measures, or
26 control measures that would accomplish the same objectives as those included in the proposed action by the
27 applicant. For a project that is not a state-sponsored project, it does not include an alternative facility or an
28 alternative to the proposed project itself. The term includes alternatives required pursuant to Title 75, chapter~~

1 20.

2 (2) ~~"Appropriate board" means, for administrative actions taken under this part by the:~~

3 (a) ~~department of environmental quality, the board of environmental review, as provided for in 2-15-~~
4 ~~3502;~~

5 (b)~~(a)~~ ~~department of fish, wildlife, and parks, the fish and wildlife commission, as provided for in 2-15-~~
6 ~~3402, and the state parks and recreation board, as provided for in 2-15-3406;~~

7 (c)~~(b)~~ ~~department of transportation, the transportation commission, as provided for in 2-15-2502;~~

8 (d)~~(c)~~ ~~department of natural resources and conservation for state trust land issues, the board of land~~
9 ~~commissioners, as provided for in Article X, section 4, of the Montana constitution;~~

10 (e)~~(d)~~ ~~department of natural resources and conservation for oil and gas issues, the board of oil and~~
11 ~~gas conservation, as provided for in 2-15-3303; and~~

12 (f)~~(e)~~ ~~department of livestock, the board of livestock, as provided for in 2-15-3102.~~

13 (3) ~~"Complete application" means, for the purpose of complying with this part, an application for a~~
14 ~~permit, license, or other authorization that contains all data, studies, plans, information, forms, fees, and~~
15 ~~signatures required to be included with the application sufficient for the agency to approve the application under~~
16 ~~the applicable statutes and rules.~~

17 (4) ~~"Cumulative impacts" means the collective impacts on the human environment within the borders~~
18 ~~of Montana of the proposed action when considered in conjunction with other past, present, and future actions~~
19 ~~related to the proposed action by location or generic type.~~

20 (5) ~~"Environmental review" means any environmental assessment, environmental impact statement,~~
21 ~~or other written analysis required under this part by a state agency of a proposed action to determine, examine,~~
22 ~~or document the effects and impacts of the proposed action on the quality of the human and physical~~
23 ~~environment within the borders of Montana as required under this part.~~

24 (6) ~~"Project sponsor" means any applicant, owner, operator, agency, or other entity that is proposing~~
25 ~~an action that requires an environmental review. If the action involves state agency-initiated actions on state~~
26 ~~trust lands, the term also includes each institutional beneficiary of any trust as described in The Enabling Act of~~
27 ~~Congress, approved February 22, 1899, 25 Stat. 676, as amended, the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301~~
28 ~~through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329.~~

1 ~~(7) "Public scoping process" means any process to determine the scope of an environmental review.~~

2 ~~(8) (a) "State-sponsored project" means:~~

3 ~~(i) a project, program, or activity initiated and directly undertaken by a state agency;~~

4 ~~(ii) except as provided in subsection (8)(b)(i), a project or activity supported through a contract, grant,~~
 5 ~~subsidy, loan, or other form of funding assistance from a state agency, either singly or in combination with one~~
 6 ~~or more other state agencies; or~~

7 ~~(iii) except as provided in subsection (8)(b)(i), a project or activity authorized by a state agency acting~~
 8 ~~in a land management capacity for a lease, easement, license, or other authorization to act.~~

9 ~~(b) The term does not include:~~

10 ~~(i) a project or activity undertaken by a private entity that is made possible by the issuance of permits,~~
 11 ~~licenses, leases, easements, grants, loans, or other authorizations to act by the:~~

12 ~~(A) department of environmental quality pursuant to Titles 75, 76, or 82;~~

13 ~~(B) department of fish, wildlife, and parks pursuant to Title 87, chapter 4, part 4;~~

14 ~~(C) board of oil and gas conservation pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11; or~~

15 ~~(D) department of natural resources and conservation or the board of land commissioners pursuant to~~
 16 ~~Titles 76, 77, 82, and 85; or~~

17 ~~(ii) a project or activity involving the issuance of a permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for~~
 18 ~~permission to act by another agency acting in a regulatory capacity, either singly or in combination with other~~
 19 ~~state agencies."~~

20

21 **Section 5.** Section 75-1-1001, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-1-1001. Penalty factors.** (1) In determining the amount of an administrative or civil penalty to
 23 which subsection (4) applies, the department of environmental quality or the district court, as appropriate, shall
 24 take into account the following factors:

25 (a) the nature, extent, and gravity of the violation;

26 (b) the circumstances of the violation;

27 (c) the violator's prior history of any violation, which:

28 (i) must be a violation of a requirement under the authority of the same chapter and part as the

1 violation for which the penalty is being assessed;

2 (ii) must be documented in an administrative order or a judicial order or judgment issued within 3 years
3 prior to the date of the occurrence of the violation for which the penalty is being assessed; and

4 (iii) may not, at the time that the penalty is being assessed, be undergoing or subject to administrative
5 appeal or judicial review;

6 (d) the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violator's action;

7 (e) the violator's good faith and cooperation;

8 (f) the amounts voluntarily expended by the violator, beyond what is required by law or order, to
9 address or mitigate the violation or impacts of the violation; and

10 (g) other matters that justice may require.

11 (2) After the amount of a penalty is determined under subsection (1), the department of environmental
12 quality or the district court, as appropriate, may consider the violator's financial ability to pay the penalty and
13 may institute a payment schedule or suspend all or a portion of the penalty.

14 (3) The department of environmental quality may accept a supplemental environmental project as
15 mitigation for a portion of the penalty. For purposes of this section, a "supplemental environmental project" is an
16 environmentally beneficial project that a violator agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action but
17 which the violator is not otherwise legally required to perform.

18 (4) This section applies to penalties assessed by the department of environmental quality or the
19 district court under Title 75, chapters 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 20; Title 75, chapter 10, parts 2, 4, 5, and 12; and Title
20 76, chapter 4.

21 (5) ~~The board of environmental review and the department of environmental quality may, for the~~
22 ~~statutes listed in subsection (4) for which each has rulemaking authority, adopt rules to implement this section."~~

23

24 **Section 12.** ~~Section 75-2-103, MCA, is amended to read:~~

25 ~~"75-2-103. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following~~
26 ~~definitions apply:~~

27 (1) ~~"Air contaminant" means dust, fumes, mist, smoke, other particulate matter, vapor, gas, odorous~~
28 ~~substances, or any combination of those air contaminants.~~

1 ~~(2) "Air pollutants" means one or more air contaminants that are present in the outdoor atmosphere,~~
 2 ~~including those pollutants regulated pursuant to section 7412 and Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42~~
 3 ~~U.S.C. 7401, et seq.~~

4 ~~(3) "Air pollution" means the presence of air pollutants in a quantity and for a duration that are or tend~~
 5 ~~to be injurious to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property or that would unreasonably interfere~~
 6 ~~with the enjoyment of life, property, or the conduct of business.~~

7 ~~(4) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:~~

8 ~~(a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;~~

9 ~~(b) pipeline facilities;~~

10 ~~(c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;~~

11 ~~(d) rail transportation;~~

12 ~~(e) aqueducts and diversion dams;~~

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

15 ~~(g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by board department rule, that is necessary for an~~
 16 ~~energy development project.~~

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

18 ~~(6)(5) (a) "Commercial hazardous waste incinerator" means:~~

19 ~~(i) an incinerator that burns hazardous waste; or~~

20 ~~(ii) a boiler or industrial furnace subject to the provisions of 75-10-406.~~

21 ~~(b) Commercial hazardous waste incinerator does not include a research and development facility~~
 22 ~~that receives federal or state research funds and that burns hazardous waste primarily to test and evaluate~~
 23 ~~waste treatment remediation technologies.~~

24 ~~(7)(6) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

25 ~~(8)(7) "Emission" means a release into the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants.~~

26 ~~(9)(8) (a) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and associated~~
 27 ~~developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:~~

28 ~~(i) generating electricity;~~

- 1 (ii) ~~producing gas derived from coal;~~
- 2 (iii) ~~producing liquid hydrocarbon products;~~
- 3 (iv) ~~refining crude oil or natural gas;~~
- 4 (v) ~~producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a tax~~
 5 ~~incentive pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5;~~
- 6 (vi) ~~producing biodiesel and that are eligible for a tax incentive for the production of biodiesel pursuant~~
 7 ~~to 15-32-701; or~~
- 8 (vii) ~~transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of equal to or~~
 9 ~~greater than 50 kilovolts.~~
- 10 (b) ~~The term does not include a nuclear facility as defined in 75-20-1202.~~
- 11 ~~(10)(9) "Environmental protection law" means a law contained in or an administrative rule adopted~~
 12 ~~pursuant to Title 75, chapter 2, 5, 10, or 11.~~
- 13 ~~(11)(10) "Hazardous waste" means:~~
- 14 (a) ~~a substance defined as hazardous under 75-10-403 or defined as hazardous in department~~
 15 ~~administrative rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 4; or~~
- 16 (b) ~~a waste containing 2 parts or more per million of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).~~
- 17 ~~(12)(11) (a) "Incinerator" means any single or multiple chambered combustion device that burns~~
 18 ~~combustible material, alone or with a supplemental fuel or with catalytic combustion assistance, primarily for the~~
 19 ~~purpose of removal, destruction, disposal, or volume reduction of any portion of the input material.~~
- 20 ~~(b) Incinerator does not include:~~
- 21 (i) ~~safety flares used to combust or dispose of hazardous or toxic gases at industrial facilities, such as~~
 22 ~~refineries, gas sweetening plants, oil and gas wells, sulfur recovery plants, or elemental phosphorus plants;~~
- 23 (ii) ~~space heaters that burn used oil;~~
- 24 (iii) ~~wood-fired boilers; or~~
- 25 (iv) ~~wood waste burners, such as tepee, wigwam, truncated cone, or silo burners.~~
- 26 ~~(13)(12) "Medical waste" means any waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or~~
 27 ~~immunization of human beings or animals, in medical research on humans or animals, or in the production or~~
 28 ~~testing of biologicals. The term includes:~~

- 1 ~~(a) cultures and stocks of infectious agents;~~
 2 ~~(b) human pathological wastes;~~
 3 ~~(c) waste human blood or products of human blood;~~
 4 ~~(d) sharps;~~
 5 ~~(e) contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding that were known to have been exposed~~
 6 ~~to infectious agents during research;~~
 7 ~~(f) laboratory wastes and wastes from autopsy or surgery that were in contact with infectious agents;~~
 8 ~~and~~
 9 ~~(g) biological waste and discarded material contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or~~
 10 ~~secretions from humans or animals.~~

11 ~~(14)(13) (a) "Oil or gas well facility" means a well that produces oil or natural gas. The term includes:~~

12 ~~(i) equipment associated with the well and used for the purpose of producing, treating, separating, or~~
 13 ~~storing oil, natural gas, or other liquids produced by the well; and~~

14 ~~(ii) a group of wells under common ownership or control that produce oil or natural gas and that share~~
 15 ~~common equipment used for the purpose of producing, treating, separating, or storing oil, natural gas, or other~~
 16 ~~liquids produced by the wells.~~

17 ~~(b) The equipment referred to in subsection (14)(a)(13)(a) includes but is not limited to wellhead~~
 18 ~~assemblies, amine units, prime mover engines, phase separators, heater treater units, dehydrator units, tanks,~~
 19 ~~and connecting tubing.~~

20 ~~(c) The term does not include equipment such as compressor engines used for transmission of oil or~~
 21 ~~natural gas.~~

22 ~~(15)(14) "Person" means an individual, a partnership, a firm, an association, a municipality, a public or~~
 23 ~~private corporation, the state or a subdivision or agency of the state, a trust, an estate, an interstate body, the~~
 24 ~~federal government or an agency of the federal government, or any other legal entity and includes persons~~
 25 ~~resident in Canada.~~

26 ~~(16)(15) "Principal" means a principal of a corporation, including but not limited to a partner, associate,~~
 27 ~~officer, parent corporation, or subsidiary corporation.~~

28 ~~(17)(16) "Small business stationary source" means a stationary source that:~~

- 1 ~~(a) is owned or operated by a person who employs 100 or fewer individuals;~~
 2 ~~(b) is a small business concern as defined in the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 631, et seq.;~~
 3 ~~(c) is not a major stationary source as defined in Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C.~~
 4 ~~7661, et seq.;~~
 5 ~~(d) emits less than 50 tons per year of an air pollutant;~~
 6 ~~(e) emits less than a total of 75 tons per year of all air pollutants combined; and~~
 7 ~~(f) is not excluded from this definition under 75-2-108(3).~~

8 ~~(18)(17) (a) "Solid waste" means all putrescible and nonputrescible solid, semisolid, liquid, or~~
 9 ~~gaseous wastes, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, refuse, ashes, swill, food wastes, commercial or~~
 10 ~~industrial wastes, medical waste, sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or air~~
 11 ~~pollution control facilities, construction, demolition, or salvage wastes, dead animals, dead animal parts, offal,~~
 12 ~~animal droppings, or litter; discarded home and industrial appliances; automobile bodies, tires, interiors, or parts~~
 13 ~~thereof; wood products or wood byproducts and inert materials; styrofoam and other plastics; rubber materials;~~
 14 ~~asphalt shingles; tarpaper; electrical equipment, transformers, or insulated wire; oil or petroleum products or oil~~
 15 ~~or petroleum products and inert materials; treated lumber and timbers; and pathogenic or infectious waste.~~
 16 ~~(b) Solid waste does not include municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes~~
 17 ~~regulated under the mining and reclamation laws administered by the department of environmental quality, or~~
 18 ~~slash and forest debris regulated under laws administered by the department of natural resources and~~
 19 ~~conservation."~~

20

21 **Section 13.** Section 75-2-104, MCA, is amended to read:

22 ~~"75-2-104. Limitations -- personal cause of action unabridged -- venue. (1) This chapter may not~~
 23 ~~be construed to:~~

- 24 ~~(a) grant to the board department any jurisdiction or authority with respect to air contamination~~
 25 ~~existing solely within commercial and industrial plants, works, or shops;~~
 26 ~~(b) affect the relations between employers and employees with respect to or arising out of any~~
 27 ~~condition of air contamination or air pollution;~~
 28 ~~(c) supersede or limit the applicability of any law or ordinance relating to sanitation, industrial health,~~

1 or safety; or

2 (d) ~~abridge, limit, impair, create, enlarge, or otherwise affect substantively or procedurally the right of~~
 3 ~~a person to damages or other relief on account of injury to persons or property and to maintain an action or~~
 4 ~~other appropriate proceeding.~~

5 (2) ~~A judicial challenge to a permit issued pursuant to this chapter by a party other than the permit~~
 6 ~~applicant or permitholder must include the party to whom the permit was issued unless otherwise agreed to by~~
 7 ~~the permit applicant or permitholder. All judicial challenges of permits for projects with a project cost, as~~
 8 ~~determined by the court, of more than \$1 million must have precedence over any civil cause of a different~~
 9 ~~nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without merit or was for an improper~~
 10 ~~purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or increased cost in litigation,~~
 11 ~~the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action.~~

12 (3) ~~An action to challenge a permit decision pursuant to this chapter must be brought in the county in~~
 13 ~~which the permitted activity will occur. If an activity will occur in more than one county, the action may be~~
 14 ~~brought in any of the counties in which the activity will occur.~~

15 (4) ~~A judicial action or proceeding pursuant to this chapter for an equine slaughter or processing~~
 16 ~~facility must comply with 81-9-240 and 81-9-241."~~

17

18 **Section 6.** Section 75-2-105, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"75-2-105. Confidentiality of records.** (1) Records or other information concerning air pollutant
 20 sources that are furnished to or obtained by the ~~board or~~ department are a matter of public record and open to
 21 public use. However, any information unique to the owner or operator of an air pollutant source that would, if
 22 disclosed, reveal methods or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets must be maintained as
 23 confidential if so determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. The owner or operator shall file a declaratory
 24 judgment action to establish the existence of a trade secret if the owner or operator wishes the information to
 25 enjoy confidential status. The department must be served in the action and may intervene as a party in the
 26 action. A trade secret not intended to be public when submitted to the ~~board or~~ department must be submitted
 27 in writing and clearly marked as confidential. However, emission data and operating permits issued by the
 28 department pursuant to 75-2-217 through 75-2-219 may not be considered confidential for the purposes of this

1 section.

2 (2) This section does not prevent the use of records or information by the ~~board or~~ department in
3 compiling or publishing analyses or summaries relating to the general condition of the outdoor atmosphere if
4 the analyses or summaries do not identify an owner or operator or reveal information otherwise made
5 confidential by this section."

6

7 **SECTION 7. SECTION 75-2-111, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:**

8 **"75-2-111. Powers of board.** The board shall, subject to the provisions of 75-2-207:

9 ~~(1) adopt, amend, and repeal rules for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of this~~
10 ~~chapter, for issuing orders under and in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 7419, and for fulfilling the requirements of~~
11 ~~42 U.S.C. 7420 and regulations adopted pursuant to that section, except that, for purposes other than~~
12 ~~agricultural open burning, the board may not adopt permitting requirements or any other rule relating to:~~

13 ~~(a) any agricultural activity or equipment that is associated with the use of agricultural land or the~~
14 ~~planting, production, processing, harvesting, or storage of agricultural crops by an agricultural producer and that~~
15 ~~is not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a;~~

16 ~~(b) a commercial operation relating to the activities or equipment referred to in subsection (1)(a) that~~
17 ~~remains in a single location for less than 12 months and is not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475,~~
18 ~~7503, or 7661a; or~~

19 ~~(c) forestry equipment and its associated engine used for forestry practices that remain in a single~~
20 ~~location for less than 12 months and are not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a;~~

21 ~~(2)~~(1) hold hearings relating to any aspect of or matter in the administration of this chapter at a place
22 designated by the board. The board may compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence at
23 hearings. The board shall designate an attorney to assist in conducting hearings and shall appoint a reporter
24 who must be present at all hearings and take full stenographic notes of all proceedings, transcripts of which will
25 be available to the public at cost.

26 ~~(3)~~(2) issue orders necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter;

27 ~~(4) by rule require access to records relating to emissions;~~

28 ~~(5) by rule adopt a schedule of fees required for permits, permit applications, and registrations~~

1 consistent with this chapter;

2 ~~(6)(3)~~ have the power to issue orders under and in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 7419."

3

4 **Section 8.** Section 75-2-112, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"75-2-112. Powers and responsibilities of department.** (1) The department is responsible for the
6 administration of this chapter.

7 (2) Subject to the provisions of 75-2-207, the department shall:

8 (a) adopt, amend, and repeal rules for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of this
9 chapter, ~~for issuing orders under and in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 7419,~~ and for fulfilling the requirements of
10 42 U.S.C. 7420 and regulations adopted pursuant to that section, except that, for purposes other than
11 agricultural open burning, the department may not adopt permitting requirements or any other rule relating to:

12 (i) any agricultural activity or equipment that is associated with the use of agricultural land or the
13 planting, production, processing, harvesting, or storage of agricultural crops by an agricultural producer and that
14 is not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a;

15 (ii) a commercial operation relating to the activities or equipment referred to in subsection (2)(a)(i) that
16 remains in a single location for less than 12 months and is not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475,
17 7503, or 7661a; or

18 (iii) forestry equipment and its associated engine used for forestry practices that remain in a single
19 location for less than 12 months and are not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a;

20 ~~(b) hold hearings relating to any aspect of or matter in the administration of this chapter at a~~
21 ~~placedesignated by the department. The department may compel the attendance of witnesses and the~~
22 ~~production of evidence at hearings. The department shall designate an attorney to assist in conducting hearings~~
23 ~~and shall appoint a reporter who must be present at all hearings and take full stenographic notes of all~~
24 ~~proceedings, transcripts of which will be available to the public at cost.~~

25 ~~(e)(B) issue orders necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter;~~

26 ~~(d)(C) by rule require access to records relating to emissions; AND~~

27 ~~(e)(D) by rule adopt a schedule of fees required for permits, permit applications, and registrations~~

28 consistent with this chapter;

- 1 ~~(f) have the power to issue orders under and in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 7419.~~
- 2 ~~(2)(3)~~ The department shall:
- 3 (a) by appropriate administrative and judicial proceedings, enforce orders issued by the department or
- 4 the former board of environmental review;
- 5 (b) secure necessary scientific, technical, administrative, and operational services, including
- 6 laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise;
- 7 (c) prepare and develop a comprehensive plan for the prevention, abatement, and control of air
- 8 pollution in this state;
- 9 (d) encourage voluntary cooperation by persons and affected groups to achieve the purposes of this
- 10 chapter;
- 11 (e) encourage local units of government to handle air pollution problems within their respective
- 12 jurisdictions on a cooperative basis and provide technical and consultative assistance for this. If local programs
- 13 are financed with public funds, the department may contract with the local government to share the cost of the
- 14 program. However, the state share may not exceed 30% of the total cost.
- 15 (f) encourage and conduct studies, investigations, and research relating to air contamination and air
- 16 pollution and their causes, effects, prevention, abatement, and control;
- 17 (g) determine, by means of field studies and sampling, the degree of air contamination and air
- 18 pollution in the state;
- 19 (h) make a continuing study of the effects of the emission of air contaminants from motor vehicles on
- 20 the quality of the outdoor atmosphere of this state and make recommendations to appropriate public and
- 21 private bodies with respect to this;
- 22 (i) collect and disseminate information and conduct educational and training programs relating to air
- 23 contamination and air pollution;
- 24 (j) advise, consult, contract, and cooperate with other agencies of the state, local governments,
- 25 industries, other states, interstate and interlocal agencies, the United States, and any interested persons or
- 26 groups;
- 27 (k) consult, on request, with any person proposing to construct, install, or otherwise acquire an air
- 28 contaminant source or device or system for the control thereof concerning the efficacy of this device or system

1 or the air pollution problems which may be related to the source, device, or system. Nothing in this consultation
2 relieves a person from compliance with this chapter, rules in force under it, or any other provision of law.

3 (l) accept, receive, and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies,
4 including the United States, for the purpose of carrying out this chapter. Funds received under this section shall
5 be deposited in the state treasury to the account of the department.

6 ~~(3)(4)~~ The department may assess fees to the applicant for the analysis of the environmental impact
7 of an application to redesignate the classification of any area, except those areas within the exterior boundaries
8 of a reservation of a federally recognized Indian tribe, under the classifications established by 42 U.S.C. 7470
9 through 7479 (prevention of significant deterioration of air quality). The determination of whether or not a fee
10 will be assessed is to be on a case-by-case basis."
11

12 **Section 9.** Section 75-2-201, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"75-2-201. Classifying and reporting air contaminant sources.** (1) The ~~board~~department may
14 classify air contaminant sources ~~which that~~ in its judgment may cause or contribute to air pollution according to
15 levels and types of emissions and other characteristics ~~which that~~ relate to air pollution and may require
16 reporting for any such class or classes. ~~Such~~The classifications ~~shall~~must be made with special reference to
17 effects on health, economic and social factors, and physical effects on property and may be applied to the state
18 as a whole or to any designated area.

19 (2) Any person operating or responsible for the operation of air contaminant sources of any class for
20 which the rules of the ~~board~~department may require reporting shall make reports containing ~~such any~~
21 information as may be required concerning location, size and height of contaminant outlets, processes
22 employed, fuels used, and the nature and time periods or duration of emissions and any other matter relevant
23 to air pollution ~~which that~~ is available or reasonably capable of being assembled."
24

25 **Section 10.** Section 75-2-202, MCA, is amended to read:

26 **"75-2-202. Board-Department to set ambient air quality standards.** (1) The ~~board~~department shall
27 establish ambient air quality standards for the state.

28 (2) Ambient air quality standards for fluorides ~~shall~~MUST be established through limitations upon the

1 concentration of fluorides in forage grasses, hay, and silage."

2

3 **Section 11.** Section 75-2-203, MCA, is amended to read:

4 **"75-2-203. ~~Board~~Department to set emission levels.** (1) The ~~board~~department may establish the
5 limitations of the levels, concentrations, or quantities of emissions of various pollutants from any source
6 necessary to prevent, abate, or control air pollution. Except as otherwise provided in or pursuant to this section,
7 ~~such those~~ levels, concentrations, or quantities ~~shall be~~are controlling, and no emission in excess ~~there of~~shall
8 ~~be of those levels is~~ lawful.

9 (2) In any area where the concentration of air pollution sources or of population or where the nature of
10 the economy or of land and its uses ~~se may~~ require, the ~~board~~department may fix more stringent requirements
11 governing the emission of air pollutants than those in effect pursuant to subsection (1) ~~of this section~~.

12 (3) The ~~board~~department may by rule use any widely recognized measuring system for measuring
13 emission of air contaminants.

14 (4) Should federal minimum standards of air pollution be set by federal law, the ~~board~~department
15 may, if necessary in some localities of this state, set more stringent standards by rule."

16

17 **Section 12.** Section 75-2-204, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"75-2-204. Rules relating to construction, installation, alteration, operation, or use.** The ~~board~~
19 department may by rule prohibit the construction, installation, alteration, operation, or use of a machine,
20 equipment, device, or facility that it finds may directly or indirectly cause or contribute to air pollution or that is
21 intended primarily to prevent or control the emission of air pollutants, unless the owner or operator ~~has obtained~~
22 OBTAINS a permit under this part or has registered the source of air contaminants with the department if the
23 source is in a category for which only registration is required by the rules adopted to implement this part."

24

25 **Section 13.** Section 75-2-206, MCA, is amended to read:

26 **"75-2-206. Study of effects of sulfur dioxide on health and environment.** (1) To the extent that
27 funds are available, the ~~board~~department shall conduct an ongoing study in areas of Montana where there are
28 major industrial sources of sulfur dioxide. The study MUST ~~shall~~ concentrate on the effects on human health and

1 the environment of ambient sulfur dioxide concentrations separately and in conjunction with particulates.

2 (2) Notwithstanding other funding sources to pay for the study, the ~~board~~department may accept
3 funds and grants from private and public sources."
4

5 **Section 14.** Section 75-2-207, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"75-2-207. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines --**
7 **exceptions -- procedure.** (1) After April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) or unless
8 required by state law, the ~~board~~or department may not adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more
9 stringent than the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The
10 ~~board~~or department may incorporate by reference comparable federal regulations or guidelines.

11 (2) (a) The ~~board~~or department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent
12 than comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if:

13 (i) a public hearing is held;

14 (ii) public comment is allowed; and

15 (iii) the ~~board~~or the department makes a written finding after the public hearing and comment period
16 that is based on evidence in the record that the proposed standard or requirement:

17 (A) protects public health or the environment;

18 (B) can mitigate harm to the public health or the environment; and

19 (C) is achievable with current technology.

20 (b) The written finding required under subsection (2)(a)(iii) must reference information and peer-
21 reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that form the basis for ~~the board's~~or the department's
22 conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing record regarding costs to the
23 regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed standard or requirement.

24 (c) (i) A person or entity affected by a rule of the ~~board~~or department adopted after January 1, 1990,
25 and before April 14, 1995, that the person or entity believes is more stringent than comparable federal
26 regulations or guidelines may petition the ~~board~~or department to review the rule.

27 (ii) If the ~~board~~or department determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal
28 regulations or guidelines, the ~~board~~or department shall either revise the rule to conform to the federal

1 regulations or guidelines or follow the process provided in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) within a reasonable
2 period of time, not to exceed 6 months after receiving the petition.

3 (iii) A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the
4 challenged rule. The ~~board or~~ department may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$250.

5 (iv) A person may also petition the ~~board or~~ department for a rule review under subsection (2)(a) if the
6 ~~board or~~ department adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no federal regulations or
7 guidelines existed and the federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines
8 that are less stringent than the previously adopted ~~board or~~ department rule.

9 (3) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking provisions of 2-4-
10 303(1)."

11

12 **Section 15.** Section 75-2-211, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"75-2-211. Permits for construction, installation, alteration, or use.** (1) The ~~board~~ department
14 shall by rule provide for the issuance, modification, suspension, revocation, and renewal of a permit issued
15 under this part.

16 (2) (a) Except as provided in 75-1-208(4)(b), 75-2-234, and subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) of this
17 section, not later than 180 days before construction, installation, or alteration begins or as a condition of use of
18 any machine, equipment, device, or facility that the ~~board~~ department finds may directly or indirectly cause or
19 contribute to air pollution or that is intended primarily to prevent or control the emission of air pollutants, the
20 owner or operator shall file with the department the appropriate permit application on forms available from the
21 department.

22 (b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(e), the owner or operator of an oil or gas well facility shall file
23 the permit application with the department no later than January 3, 2006, or 60 days after the initial well
24 completion date, whichever is later. For purposes of this section, the initial well completion date for an oil or gas
25 well facility is:

26 (i) for an oil or gas well facility producing oil, the date when the first oil is produced through wellhead
27 equipment into lease tanks from the ultimate producing interval after casing has been run; and

28 (ii) for an oil or gas well facility producing gas, the date when the oil or gas well facility is capable of

1 producing gas through wellhead equipment from the ultimate producing interval after casing has been run.

2 (c) An owner or operator who complies with subsection (2)(b) may construct, install, or use equipment
3 necessary to complete or operate an oil or gas well facility without a permit until the department's decision on
4 the application is final. If the owner or operator does not comply with subsection (2)(b), the owner or operator
5 may not operate the oil or gas well facility and is liable for a violation of this section for every day of
6 construction, installation, or operation of the facility.

7 (d) The ~~board~~department shall adopt rules establishing air emission control requirements applicable
8 to an oil or gas well facility during the time from the initial well completion date until the department's decision
9 on the application is final.

10 (e) The provisions of subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) do not apply to an oil or gas well facility subject to
11 the federal air permitting provisions of 42 U.S.C. 7475 or 7503.

12 (3) The permit program administered by the department pursuant to this section must include the
13 following:

14 (a) requirements and procedures for permit applications, including standard application forms;

15 (b) requirements and procedures for submittal of information necessary to determine the location,
16 quantity, and type of emissions;

17 (c) procedures for public notice and opportunity for comment or public hearing, as appropriate;

18 (d) procedures for providing notice and an opportunity for comment to contiguous states and federal
19 agencies, as appropriate;

20 (e) requirements for inspection, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting;

21 (f) procedures for the transfer of permits;

22 (g) requirements and procedures for suspension, modification, and revocation of permits by the
23 department;

24 (h) requirements and procedures for appropriate emission limitations and other requirements,
25 including enforceable measures necessary to ensure compliance with those limitations and requirements;

26 (i) requirements and procedures for permit modification and amendment; and

27 (j) requirements and procedures for issuing a single permit authorizing emissions from similar
28 operations at multiple temporary locations, which permit may include conditions necessary to ensure

1 compliance with the requirements of this chapter at all authorized locations and a requirement that the owner or
2 operator notify the department in advance of each change in location.

3 (4) This section does not restrict the ~~board's~~ department's authority to adopt regulations providing for
4 a single air quality permit system.

5 (5) Department approval of an application to transfer a portable emission source from one location to
6 another is exempt from the provisions of 75-1-201(1).

7 (6) The department may, for good cause shown, waive or shorten the time required for filing the
8 appropriate applications.

9 (7) The department shall require that applications for permits be accompanied by any plans,
10 specifications, and other information that it considers necessary.

11 (8) An application is not considered filed until the applicant has submitted all fees required under 75-
12 2-220 and all information and completed application forms required pursuant to subsections (2), (3), and (7) of
13 this section. If the department fails to notify the applicant in writing within 30 days after the purported filing of an
14 application that the application is incomplete and fails to list the reasons why the application is considered
15 incomplete, the application is considered filed as of the date of the purported filing.

16 (9) (a) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4) and 75-1-208(4)(b), if an application for a permit requires
17 the preparation of an environmental impact statement under the Montana Environmental Policy Act, Title 75,
18 chapter 1, parts 1 through 3, the department shall notify the applicant in writing of the approval or denial of the
19 application:

20 (i) within 180 days after the department's receipt of a filed application, as provided in subsection (8), if
21 the department prepares the environmental impact statement;

22 (ii) within 30 days after issuance of the final environmental impact statement by the lead agency if a
23 state agency other than the department has been designated by the governor as lead agency for preparation of
24 the environmental impact statement; or

25 (iii) if the application is for a machine, equipment, a device, or a facility at an operation that requires a
26 permit under Title 82, chapter 4, part 1, 2, or 3, within 30 days of issuance of the final environmental impact
27 statement in accordance with time requirements of Title 82, chapter 4, part 1, 2, or 3.

28 (b) If an application does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement, is not

1 subject to the provisions of 75-2-215, and is not subject to the federal air quality permitting provisions of 42
2 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a, the department shall notify the applicant in writing within 60 days after its receipt
3 of a filed application, as provided in subsection (8), of its approval or denial of the application, except as
4 provided in subsection (14).

5 (c) If an application does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement and is
6 subject to the federal air permitting provisions of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a, the department shall notify
7 the applicant, in writing, within 75 days after its receipt of a filed application, as provided in subsection (8), of its
8 approval or denial of the application.

9 (d) Except as provided in subsection (9)(e), if an application does not require the preparation of an
10 environmental impact statement and is subject to the provisions of 75-2-215, the department shall notify the
11 applicant of its approval or denial of the application, in writing, within 75 days after its receipt of a filed
12 application, as provided in subsection (8).

13 (e) If an application for a permit is for the construction, installation, alteration, or use of a source that
14 is also required to obtain a license pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit pursuant to 75-10-406, the department
15 shall prepare a single environmental review document pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, for the permit required
16 under this section and the license or permit required under 75-10-221 or 75-10-406 and act on the applications
17 within the time period provided for in 75-2-215(3)(e).

18 (f) The time for notification may be extended for 30 days by written agreement of the department and
19 the applicant. Additional 30-day extensions may be granted by the department upon the request of the
20 applicant. Notification of approval or denial may be served personally or by certified mail on the applicant or the
21 applicant's agent.

22 (g) Failure by the department to act in a timely manner does not constitute approval or denial of the
23 application. This does not limit or abridge the right of any person to seek available judicial remedies to require
24 the department to act in a timely manner.

25 (10) Except as provided in 75-2-213, when the department approves or denies the application for a
26 permit under this section, a person who is directly and adversely affected by the department's decision may
27 request a hearing before the ~~board~~ department BOARD. The request for hearing must be filed within 15 days
28 after the department renders its decision. An affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request must be filed

1 within 30 days after the department renders its decision. The contested case provisions of the Montana
2 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the ~~board-department~~ BOARD
3 under this subsection.

4 (11) Except as provided in 75-2-213:

5 (a) the department's decision on the application is not final until 15 days have elapsed from the date
6 of the decision;

7 (b) the filing of a request for hearing does not stay the department's decision. However, the ~~board~~
8 ~~department~~ BOARD may order a stay upon receipt of a petition and a finding, after notice and opportunity for
9 hearing, that:

- 10 (i) the person requesting the stay is entitled to the relief demanded in the request for a hearing; or
11 (ii) continuation of the permit during the appeal would produce great or irreparable injury to the person
12 requesting the stay.

13 (c) upon granting a stay, the ~~board-department~~ BOARD may require a written undertaking to be given
14 by the party requesting the stay for the payment of costs and damages incurred by the permit applicant and its
15 employees if the ~~board-department~~ BOARD determines that the permit was properly issued. When requiring an
16 undertaking, the ~~board-department~~ BOARD shall use the same procedures and limitations as are provided in 27-
17 19-306(2) through (4) for undertakings on injunctions.

18 (12) The ~~board-department~~ shall provide, by rule, a period of 30 days in which the public may submit
19 comments on draft air quality permits for applications that:

- 20 (a) are subject to the federal air quality permitting provisions of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a;
21 (b) are subject to the requirements of 75-2-215; or
22 (c) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

23 (13) The ~~board-department~~ shall provide, by rule, a period of 15 days in which the public may submit
24 comments on draft air quality permits not subject to subsection (12).

25 (14) The ~~board-department~~ shall provide, by rule, the basis upon which the department may extend by
26 15 days:

- 27 (a) the period as provided in subsection (13) in which the public may submit comments on draft air
28 quality permits not subject to subsection (12); and

1 (b) the period for notifying an applicant of its final decision on approval or denial of an application, as
2 provided in subsection (9)(b).

3 (15) (a) The ~~board~~ department may adopt rules for issuance, modification, suspension, revocation,
4 renewal, or creation of:

5 (i) general permits covering multiple similar sources; or

6 (ii) other permits covering multiple similar sources.

7 (b) Rules adopted pursuant to subsection (15)(a) may provide for construction and operation under
8 the permit upon authorization by the department or upon notice to the department."

9

10 **Section 16.** Section 75-2-212, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"75-2-212. Variances -- renewals -- filing fees.** (1) A person who owns or is in control of a plant,
12 building, structure, process, or equipment may apply to the ~~board~~ department for an exemption or partial
13 exemption from rules governing the quality, nature, duration, or extent of emissions of air pollutants. The
14 application must be accompanied by information and data that the ~~board~~ department may require. The ~~board~~
15 department may grant an exemption or partial exemption if it finds that:

16 (a) the emissions occurring or proposed to occur do not constitute a danger to public health or safety;
17 and

18 (b) compliance with the rules from which an exemption is sought would produce hardship without
19 equal or greater benefits to the public.

20 (2) An exemption or partial exemption may not be granted pursuant to this section except after public
21 hearing on due notice and until the ~~board~~ department has considered the relative interests of the applicant,
22 other owners or property likely to be affected by the emissions, and the general public.

23 (3) The exemption or partial exemption may be renewed if a complaint is not made to the ~~board~~
24 department because of it or if, after the complaint has been made and duly considered at a public hearing held
25 by the ~~board~~ department on due notice, the ~~board~~ department finds that renewal is justified. A renewal may not
26 be granted except on application. An application must be made at least 60 days before the expiration of the
27 exemption or partial exemption. Immediately before application for renewal, the applicant shall give public
28 notice of the application in accordance with rules of the ~~board~~ department. A renewal pursuant to this

1 subsection must be on the same grounds and subject to the same limitations and requirements as provided in
2 subsection (1).

3 (4) An exemption, partial exemption, or renewal is not a right of the applicant or holder but may be
4 granted at the discretion of the ~~board~~ department. However, a person adversely affected by an exemption,
5 partial exemption, or renewal granted by the ~~board~~ department may obtain judicial review as provided by 75-2-
6 411.

7 (5) This section and an exemption, partial exemption, or renewal granted pursuant to this section may
8 not be construed to prevent or limit the application of the emergency provisions and procedures of 75-2-402 to
9 a person or the person's property.

10 (6) A person who owns or is in control of a plant, building, structure, process, or equipment, which are
11 called facilities, who applies to the ~~board~~ department for an exemption or partial exemption or a renewal of an
12 exemption or partial exemption from a rule governing the quality, nature, duration, or extent of emissions of air
13 pollutants shall submit with the application for variance a sum of not less than \$500 or 2% of the cost of the
14 equipment to bring the facility into compliance with the rule for which a variance is sought, whichever is greater,
15 but not to exceed \$80,000. The department shall prepare a statement of actual costs, and funds in excess of
16 this must be returned to the applicant. The person requesting the variance shall describe the facility in sufficient
17 detail, with accompanying estimates of cost and verifying materials, to permit the department to determine with
18 reasonable accuracy the sum of the fee. For a renewal of an exemption or partial exemption, if a public hearing,
19 environmental impact statement, or appreciable investigation by the department is not necessary, the minimum
20 filing fee applies or the fee may be waived by the department. The filing fee must be deposited in the state
21 special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102. It is the intent of the legislature that the revenue derived from the
22 filing fees must be used by the department to:

- 23 (a) compile the information required for rendering a decision on the request;
24 (b) compile the information necessary for any environmental impact statements;
25 (c) offset the costs of a public hearing, printing, or mailing; and
26 (d) carry out its other responsibilities under this chapter."

27

28 **Section 24.** Section 75-2-213, MCA, is amended to read:

1 ~~"75-2-213.—Energy development project -- hearing and procedures.~~ (1) (a) When the department
 2 approves or denies the application for a permit under 75-2-211 for an energy development project, the applicant
 3 or a person who has provided the department with formal comments and who is directly and adversely affected
 4 by the department's decision may request a hearing before the ~~board~~ department. If the department provided
 5 an opportunity for public comment on the application, the request for a hearing must be limited to those issues
 6 raised in comments made to the department during the comment period unless the issues are related to a
 7 material change in federal or state law made during the comment period, to a judicial decision issued after the
 8 comment period, or to a material change to the draft permit, which was submitted for public comment, made by
 9 the department in the final permit decision and upon which the public did not have a meaningful opportunity to
 10 comment. The request for hearing must be filed within 30 days after the department renders its decision. An
 11 affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request must be filed with the request for a hearing.

12 ~~(b)—(i) If a hearing is requested by a person other than the applicant for or permittee of an energy~~
 13 ~~development project, the applicant or permittee may, by filing a written election with the board~~ department
 14 ~~within 15 days of receipt of the request for hearing, elect to have the matter proceed to hearing before the~~
 15 ~~board~~ department ~~or to have the matter submitted directly to the district court for judicial review of the agency~~
 16 ~~decision. The party who requests the hearing may elect to have the matter submitted either to the board~~
 17 ~~department for a hearing or to the district court for judicial review by submitting a written election to the board~~
 18 ~~department with the request for hearing. If there are conflicting elections between the parties, the matter must~~
 19 ~~proceed to district court.~~

20 ~~If the applicant or permittee is not the person who requested the hearing and has elected to have the~~
 21 ~~matter submitted to the district court, the person who submitted the request for a hearing shall file a petition for~~
 22 ~~review of the permit decision within 15 days of receipt of notice from the permittee. If the person who requested~~
 23 ~~the hearing has elected to have the matter proceed to district court, that person shall file a petition in district~~
 24 ~~court within 15 days of filing the request.~~

25 ~~(iii) The petition must be limited to matters raised in the request for hearing and must be filed in the~~
 26 ~~county in which the facility is located.~~

27 ~~(iv) If a party does not elect to submit the matter directly to district court, the matter must proceed~~
 28 ~~through the contested case process before the board~~ department ~~pursuant to the Montana Administrative~~

1 Procedure Act.

2 ~~—The board department or the district court shall apply the laws and rules in place when the~~
3 ~~department issued its decision, and the board department or the district court may not consider any issue that~~
4 ~~was not presented to the department for the department's consideration during the formal comment period~~
5 ~~unless the issue is related to a material change in federal or state law made during the comment period, to a~~
6 ~~judicial decision issued after the comment period, or to a material change to the draft permit, which was~~
7 ~~submitted for public comment, made by the department in the final permit decision and upon which the public~~
8 ~~did not have a meaningful opportunity to comment.~~

9 ~~(c) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c)(ii), if the person requesting the hearing is not the~~
10 ~~applicant or permittee of an energy development project, the board department or the district court shall require~~
11 ~~a written undertaking to be given by the party requesting the hearing for the payment of costs and damages~~
12 ~~incurred by the permit applicant and its employees if the request for a hearing or judicial review was for an~~
13 ~~improper purpose designed to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or improperly interfere with the issuance of~~
14 ~~the permit without a reasonable basis in law or fact.~~

15 ~~(ii) The board department or the district court may not require a written undertaking if the party~~
16 ~~requesting the hearing is an indigent person.~~

17 ~~(d) If grounds for requesting the hearing are based on alleged error in applying best available control~~
18 ~~technology requirements, the board department or the district court shall give deference to the best available~~
19 ~~control technology determination made by the department. The board department or the district court may not~~
20 ~~reject the best available control technology determination unless the determination was incorrect as a matter of~~
21 ~~law or the factual basis for the determination was clearly erroneous.~~

22 ~~(2) The board department shall issue a final decision within 4 months from the close of the hearing~~
23 ~~on the merits or, if no hearing is held, within 3 months from the date that briefing by the parties is complete~~
24 ~~unless the applicant or permittee and the party other than the applicant or permittee agree in writing to an~~
25 ~~extension of time. The board department shall require the parties to prepare the case for hearing without~~
26 ~~unreasonable delay.~~

27 ~~(3) (a) Any requirement in a permit to commence construction, installation, or alteration within a~~
28 ~~certain time period is tolled during a contested case or judicial review proceeding, but not by more than 12~~

1 months, unless the applicant or permittee in its discretion waives the tolling in writing.

2 (b) ~~If there are multiple appeals of one permit, tolling under this subsection (3) may not exceed a total~~
 3 ~~of 12 months for all appeals.~~

4 (c) ~~The applicant may not engage in construction during the period that the time period is tolled under~~
 5 ~~subsection (3)(a).~~

6 (4) ~~The department shall, for good cause shown, waive for up to 1 year any requirement that~~
 7 ~~construction of an energy development project must proceed with due diligence. During the period that a waiver~~
 8 ~~is in effect, an air quality permit does not expire because construction of an energy development project failed~~
 9 ~~to proceed with due diligence."~~

10

11 **Section 17.** Section 75-2-215, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"75-2-215. Solid or hazardous waste incineration -- additional permit requirements.** (1) Until the
 13 department ~~has issued~~ISSUES an air quality permit pursuant to 75-2-211 that includes the conditions required
 14 by this section, a person may not construct, install, alter, or use a solid or hazardous waste incinerator or a
 15 boiler or industrial furnace subject to the provisions of 75-10-406, except as provided in subsection (2).

16 (2) An existing or permitted solid or hazardous waste incinerator or a boiler or industrial furnace
 17 subject to the provisions of 75-10-406 is subject to the provisions of subsection (1) only if it incinerates or uses
 18 as fuel or would incinerate or use as fuel solid or hazardous waste in an amount, form, kind, or content that
 19 changes the nature, character, or composition of its emissions from its design or permitted operation.

20 (3) The department may not issue a permit to a facility described in subsection (1) until:

21 (a) the owner or operator ~~has provided~~PROVIDES to the department's satisfaction:

22 (i) a characterization of emissions and ambient concentrations of air pollutants, including hazardous
 23 air pollutants, from any existing emission source at the facility; and

24 (ii) an estimate of emissions and ambient concentrations of air pollutants, including hazardous air
 25 pollutants, from the incineration of solid or hazardous waste or the use of hazardous waste as fuel for a boiler
 26 or industrial furnace, as proposed in the permit application or modification;

27 (b) if a license is required pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit is required pursuant to 75-10-406, the
 28 applicant has published, in the county where the project is proposed, at least three notices, in accordance with

1 the procedures identified in 7-1-4127, describing the proposed project;

2 (c) if a license is required pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit is required pursuant to 75-10-406, the
3 department has conducted a public hearing on an environmental review prepared pursuant to Title 75, chapter
4 1, and, as appropriate, provided additional opportunities for the public to review and comment on the permit
5 application or modification;

6 (d) the department ~~has reached~~ REACHES a determination that the projected emissions and ambient
7 concentrations will constitute a negligible risk to the public health, safety, and welfare and to the environment;
8 and

9 (e) the department ~~has issued~~ ISSUES a license pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit pursuant to 75-10-
10 406, if a license or permit is required. The decision to issue, deny, or alter a permit pursuant to 75-2-211 and
11 this section must be made within 30 days from when the department issues a license pursuant to 75-10-221 or
12 a permit pursuant to 75-10-406 or within 90 days after the receipt of a complete application for a permit or a
13 permit alteration under 75-2-211 and this section, whichever is later.

14 (4) The department shall require the application of air pollution control equipment, engineering, or
15 other operating procedures as necessary to provide reductions of air pollutants, including hazardous air
16 pollutants, equivalent to or more stringent than those achieved through the best available control technology.

17 (5) The ~~board~~ department may by rule provide for general air quality permits under the provisions of
18 75-2-211 and this section. The rules must cover numerous similar classes or categories of incinerators and
19 boilers or industrial furnaces.

20 (6) This section does not relieve an owner or operator of a solid or hazardous waste incinerator or a
21 boiler or industrial furnace that is not included under subsection (1) from the obligation to obtain any permit
22 otherwise required under this chapter or rules implementing this chapter."
23

24 **Section 18.** Section 75-2-217, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"75-2-217. Operating permit program -- exemptions -- general requirements -- duration.** (1) The
26 ~~board~~ department shall provide by rule for the issuance, expiration, modification, amendment, suspension,
27 revocation, and renewal of operating permits as part of an operating permit program to be administered by the
28 department under this chapter. The ~~board~~ department shall promulgate rules that are consistent with the

1 operating permit framework and guidelines outlined in Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act and
2 implementing regulations.

3 (2) This section applies to all sources of air pollutants that are subject to the provisions of Subchapter
4 V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.

5 (3) A person may not violate any requirement of an operating permit issued under 75-2-218 and this
6 section or operate any source required to have a permit under this section without having complied with the
7 requirements of the operating permit program administered by the department pursuant to 75-2-218, 75-2-219,
8 and this section.

9 (4) The ~~board~~department may by rule provide for the exemption of one or more source categories, in
10 whole or in part, from all or part of the requirements of this section if the ~~board~~department determines that
11 compliance with the requirements of this section is impracticable, infeasible, or unnecessarily burdensome for
12 the sources. The ~~board~~department may premise this determination upon a similar determination by the
13 appropriate federal agency acting pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.

14 (5) The ~~board~~department may by rule provide for general operating permits covering numerous
15 similar sources.

16 (6) An operating permit issued by the department under 75-2-218 and this section is effective for a
17 period not to exceed 5 years and may be renewed.

18 (7) The operating permit program administered by the department pursuant to this section must
19 include the following:

20 (a) adequate procedures that are streamlined and reasonable for:

21 (i) expeditiously determining when applications are complete;

22 (ii) processing applications; and

23 (iii) expeditiously reviewing permit actions, including application renewals or revisions;

24 (b) requirements and procedures for submittal of information necessary to determine the location,
25 quantity, and type of emissions;

26 (c) procedures for public notice and opportunity for comment or public hearing, as appropriate;

27 (d) procedures for providing notice and an opportunity for comment to contiguous states and federal
28 agencies, as appropriate;

- 1 (e) requirements for inspection, monitoring, recordkeeping, compliance certification, and reporting;
- 2 (f) deadlines for submitting permit applications and compliance plans that are not later than 12
3 months after the source becomes subject to the operating permit requirement;
- 4 (g) deadlines for submitting permit renewal applications that are not later than 6 months before
5 expiration of the existing operating permit;
- 6 (h) requirements for compliance plans that must be submitted with permit and renewal applications,
7 including schedules of compliance and progress reports;
- 8 (i) requirements and procedures for periodic certification of source compliance with permit
9 requirements, including the prompt reporting of any deviations from permit requirements;
- 10 (j) requirements for submission of any plans, specifications, or other information that the department
11 considers necessary under this section;
- 12 (k) conditions and procedures for the transfer of operating permits;
- 13 (l) requirements and procedures for suspension, modification, amendment, and revocation of permits
14 by the department for cause, including the modification or amendment of permits before renewal or termination
15 to incorporate applicable limitations or requirements effective after permit issuance;
- 16 (m) requirements and procedures for incorporating into permits and permit renewals all applicable
17 emission limitations and other requirements, including enforceable measures necessary to ensure compliance
18 with those limitations and requirements;
- 19 (n) requirements and procedures for permit modification and amendment;
- 20 (o) procedures for tracking activities conducted under general permits;
- 21 (p) requirements and procedures for issuing a single operating permit authorizing emissions from
22 similar operations at multiple temporary locations, which permit may include conditions necessary to ensure
23 compliance with the requirements of this chapter at all authorized locations and a requirement that the owner or
24 operator notify the department in advance of each change in location;
- 25 (q) requirements and procedures for allowing changes within a permitted facility without requiring a
26 permit amendment if the changes are not prohibited under this chapter and do not exceed the emissions
27 allowable under the permit; and
- 28 (r) other requirements necessary for the department to obtain the authorization to administer an

1 operating permit program under the provisions of Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act."

2

3 **Section 19.** Section 75-2-218, MCA, is amended to read:

4 **"75-2-218. Permits for operation -- application completeness -- action by department --**

5 **application shield -- review by ~~board~~ department BOARD.** (1) An application for an operating permit or

6 renewal is not considered filed until the department has determined that it is complete. An application is

7 complete if all fees required under 75-2-220 and all information and completed application forms required under

8 75-2-217 have been submitted. A complete application must contain all of the information required for the

9 department to begin processing the application. If the department fails to notify the applicant in writing within 60

10 days after submittal of an application that the application is incomplete and fails to list the reasons why the

11 application is considered incomplete, the application is considered filed on the date of the department's receipt

12 of the application. The department may request additional information after a completeness determination has

13 been made. The ~~board~~ department shall adopt rules that contain criteria for use in determining both when an

14 application is complete and when additional information is required after a completeness determination has

15 been made.

16 (2) Except as provided in 75-1-208(4)(b) and subsection (3) of this section, the department shall,

17 consistent with the procedures established under 75-2-217, approve or disapprove a complete application for

18 an operating permit or renewal and shall issue or deny the permit or renewal within 18 months after the date of

19 filing. Failure of the department to act in a timely manner does not constitute approval or denial of the

20 application. This does not limit or abridge the right of any person to seek available judicial remedies to require

21 the department to act in a timely manner.

22 (3) The ~~board~~ department may by rule provide for a transition schedule for both the submittal to the

23 department of initial applications for operating permits by existing sources and action by the department on

24 these initial permit applications. The ~~board~~ department may require that one-third of all operating permit

25 applications required for existing sources be submitted within the first calendar year after the adoption of rules

26 implementing an operating permit program under 75-2-217.

27 (4) If an applicant submits a timely and complete application for an operating permit, the applicant's

28 failure to hold a valid operating permit is not a violation of 75-2-217. If an applicant submits a timely and

1 complete application for an operating permit renewal, the expiration of the applicant's existing operating permit
2 is not a violation of 75-2-217. The applicant shall continue to be subject to the terms and conditions of the
3 expired operating permit until the operating permit is renewed and is subject to the application of 75-2-217. The
4 applicant is not entitled to the protection of this subsection if the delay in final action by the department on the
5 application results from the applicant's failure to submit in a timely manner information requested by the
6 department to process the application.

7 (5) Except as provided in subsection (8), if the department approves or denies an application for an
8 operating permit or the renewal, modification, or amendment of a permit under 75-2-217 and this section, any
9 person that participated in the public comment process required under 75-2-217(7) may request a hearing
10 before the ~~board department~~ BOARD. The request for a hearing must be filed within 30 days after the department
11 renders its decision and must include an affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request. The contested case
12 provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing ~~before the~~
13 ~~board department~~ under this subsection.

14 (6) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8), the department's decision on any application is not final
15 until 30 days have elapsed from the date of the decision.

16 (b) Except as provided in subsection (8), the filing of a request for hearing does not stay the
17 department's decision. However, the ~~board department~~ BOARD may order a stay upon receipt of a petition and a
18 finding, after notice and opportunity for an informal hearing, that:

19 (i) the person requesting the hearing is entitled to the relief demanded in the request for a hearing; or
20 (ii) continuation of the permit during the appeal would produce great or irreparable injury to the person
21 requesting the hearing.

22 (c) Upon granting a stay, the ~~board department~~ BOARD may require a written undertaking to be given
23 by the party requesting the stay for the payment of costs and damages incurred by the permit applicant and its
24 employees if the ~~board department~~ BOARD determines that the permit was properly issued. When requiring an
25 undertaking, the ~~board department~~ BOARD shall use the same procedures and limitations as are provided in 27-
26 19-306(2) through (4) for undertakings on injunctions.

27 (7) The requirements of subsections (5) and (6) also apply to any action initiated by the department to
28 suspend, revoke, modify, or amend an operating permit issued under this section.

1 (8) The denial by the department of an application under 75-2-217 and this section is not subject to
 2 review by the ~~board~~ department BOARD or judicial review if the basis for denial is the written objection of the
 3 appropriate federal agency acting pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.

4 (9) Compliance with an operating permit granted or renewed under 75-2-217 and this section is
 5 considered to be compliance with the requirements of this chapter only if the permit expressly includes those
 6 requirements or an express determination that those requirements are not applicable. This subsection does not
 7 apply to general permits provided for under 75-2-217."

8

9 **Section 20.** Section 75-2-219, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"75-2-219. Permits for operation -- limitations.** Sections 75-2-217 and 75-2-218 may not be
 11 construed to:

12 (1) affect the department's issuance of a permit for the construction, installation, alteration, or use of a
 13 source of air pollutants pursuant to 75-2-211 or 75-2-215;

14 (2) restrict the ~~board's~~ department's authority to adopt regulations providing for a single air quality
 15 permit system; or

16 (3) affect permits, allowances, phase II compliance schedules, or other acid rain provisions under
 17 Subchapter IV of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7651, et seq."

18

19 **Section 21.** Section 75-2-220, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"75-2-220. Fees -- special assessments -- late payment assessments -- credit.** (1) A person
 21 required to obtain a permit or to register a facility pursuant to this chapter shall submit to the department fees
 22 set by the ~~board~~ pursuant to ~~75-2-111~~ 75-2-112 that are sufficient to cover the reasonable costs, direct and
 23 indirect, of developing and administering the permitting or registration requirements in this chapter, including:

24 (a) reviewing and acting upon a permit application or a registration or modifying, amending, or
 25 updating a permit or registration;

26 (b) implementing and enforcing the terms and conditions of a permit issued pursuant to this chapter or
 27 an administrative rule or other regulatory requirement adopted pursuant to this chapter. This does not include
 28 any court costs or other costs associated with an enforcement action. If the permit is not issued, the department

1 shall return this portion of the fee to the applicant.

2 (c) emissions and ambient monitoring;

3 (d) preparing generally applicable rules or guidance;

4 (e) modeling, analysis, and demonstrations;

5 (f) preparing inventories and tracking emissions;

6 (g) providing support to sources under the small business stationary source technical and
7 environmental compliance assistance program; and

8 (h) all other costs required to be recovered pursuant to Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42
9 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.

10 (2) For a permit or registration fee based on emissions, the fee must be based on emissions of air
11 pollutants regulated under this chapter, including but not limited to volatile organic compounds, each air
12 pollutant regulated under section 7411 or 7412 of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq., and each
13 air pollutant subject to a national primary ambient air quality standard.

14 (3) The ~~board~~department shall by rule provide for the annual review of all fees assessed for persons
15 holding an operating permit issued under 75-2-217 and 75-2-218 to ensure the collection of revenue sufficient
16 to cover the costs of administering the operating permit requirements of this chapter, as required by Subchapter
17 V of the federal Clean Air Act.

18 (4) In addition to the fees required under subsection (1), the ~~board~~department may order the
19 assessment of additional fees required to fund specific activities of the department that are directed at a
20 particular geographic area if the legislature authorizes the activities and appropriates funds for the activities,
21 including emissions or ambient monitoring, modeling analysis or demonstrations, and emissions inventories or
22 tracking. Additional assessments may be levied only on those sources that are within or are believed by the
23 department to be impacting the geographic area. Before the ~~board~~department may require the fees, it shall first
24 determine, after opportunity for hearing, that the activities to be funded are necessary for the administration or
25 implementation of this chapter, that the amount of the requested fees is appropriate, that the assessments
26 apportion the required funding in an equitable manner, and that the department has obtained the necessary
27 appropriation. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,
28 part 6, apply to a hearing before the ~~board~~department under this subsection.

1 (5) (a) If the permitholder or registrant fails to pay in a timely manner a fee required under subsection
2 (1), in addition to the fee, the department may:

3 (i) impose a penalty not to exceed 50% of the fee, plus interest on the required fee computed as
4 provided in 15-1-216; or

5 (ii) revoke the permit or registration consistent with those procedures established under this chapter for
6 permit revocation.

7 (b) Within 1 year of revocation, the department may reissue the revoked permit or registration after
8 the permitholder or registrant has paid all outstanding fees required under subsections (1) and (4), including all
9 penalties and interest provided for under this subsection (5). In reissuing the revoked permit, the department
10 may modify the terms and conditions of the permit as necessary to account for changes in air quality occurring
11 since revocation.

12 (c) The ~~board~~department shall by rule provide for the implementation of this subsection (5), including
13 criteria for imposition of the sanctions described in this subsection (5).

14 (6) The ~~board~~department may by rule allow the reduction of a fee required under this section for an
15 operating permit or permit renewal to account for the financial resources of a category of small business
16 stationary sources.

17 (7) As a condition of the continuing validity of a permit issued by the department under this chapter
18 prior to October 1, 1993, the ~~board~~department may by rule require the permitholder to pay the fees under
19 subsections (1) and (4).

20 (8) For an existing source of air pollutants that is subject to Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act
21 and that is not required to hold an air quality permit from the department as of October 1, 1993, the ~~board~~
22 department may, as a condition of continued operation, require by rule that the owner or operator of the source
23 pay the fees under subsections (1) and (4).

24 (9) (a) The department shall give written notice of the fee to be assessed and the basis for the
25 department's fee assessment under this section to the owner or operator of the air pollutant source. The owner
26 or operator may appeal the department's fee assessment ~~to the board~~TO THE BOARD within 20 days after receipt
27 of the written notice.

28 (b) An appeal must be based upon the allegation that the fee assessment is erroneous or excessive.

1 An appeal may not be based on the amount of the fee contained in the schedule adopted by the ~~board~~
2 department.

3 (c) If any part of the fee assessment is not appealed, it must be paid to the department upon receipt
4 of the notice required in subsection (9)(a).

5 (d) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,
6 part 6, apply to a hearing before the ~~board~~ department ~~BOARD~~ under this subsection (9).

7 (10) The total of the fees charged to an applicant under subsections (1) and (4) of this section must be
8 reduced by the amount of any credit accruing to the applicant under 75-2-225. The department may not
9 increase fee assessments beyond legislative appropriation levels to adjust for any credit claimed under 75-2-
10 225. The credit applied under 75-2-225 may not limit the department's ability to collect fees sufficient to cover
11 the reasonable costs, both direct and indirect, of developing and administering the permitting and registration
12 requirements of this chapter."
13

14 **Section 22.** Section 75-2-221, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"75-2-221. Deposit of air quality permitting and registration fees.** (1) All money collected by the
16 department pursuant to ~~75-2-444~~75-2-112 and 75-2-220 must be deposited in an account in the state special
17 revenue fund to be appropriated by the legislature to the department for the development and administration of
18 the permitting and registration requirements of this chapter.

19 (2) Upon request, the expenditure by the department of funds in this account may be audited by a
20 qualified auditor at the end of each fiscal year. The cost of the audit must be paid by the person requesting the
21 audit."
22

23 **Section 23.** Section 75-2-231, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"75-2-231. Medical waste and hazardous waste incineration -- additional permit requirements.**

25 (1) Because of the potential emission of chlorinated dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and carcinogens as a result
26 of the incineration of medical waste and hazardous waste and the potential health risk these chemicals pose,
27 the ~~board~~ department shall adopt rules establishing additional permit requirements for commercial medical
28 waste and commercial hazardous waste incinerators. For the purposes of this section, the term "commercial

1 medical waste incinerator" does not include hospital or medical facility incinerators that primarily incinerate
2 medical waste generated onsite. The ~~board~~department shall adopt rules that:

3 (a) regulate the type and amount of plastic and other materials in the medical waste stream and
4 hazardous waste stream that may be a source of chlorine, in order to minimize the potential emission of
5 chlorinated dioxins, furans, and carcinogens;

6 (b) require commercial medical waste and commercial hazardous waste incinerators to achieve the
7 lowest achievable emission rate to prevent the public health risk from air emissions or ambient concentrations
8 from exceeding the negligible risk standard required by 75-2-215 and any applicable federal allowable intake
9 standards, as determined pursuant to subsection (3), for dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other hazardous air
10 pollutants;

11 (c) implement the requirements of subsection (2), including establishing procedures and standards for
12 the collection of high-quality scientific information and for the submission of the information by the applicant;

13 (d) establish procedures for the monitoring, testing, and inspection of:

14 (i) the medical waste stream and hazardous waste stream, including heavy metals and possible
15 precursors to the formation of chlorinated dioxins, furans, and carcinogens;

16 (ii) combustion, including destruction and removal efficiencies; and

17 (iii) emissions, including continuous emission monitoring and air pollution control devices; and

18 (e) are necessary to implement the provisions of this section and to coordinate the requirements
19 under this section with the requirements contained in 75-2-211 and 75-2-215.

20 (2) A person who applies for an air quality permit or alteration pursuant to 75-2-211 and 75-2-215 for
21 a commercial medical waste incinerator or commercial hazardous waste incinerator shall provide, to the
22 satisfaction of the department, the following information:

23 (a) a dispersion model of emissions, using approved methods, and those studies that are necessary
24 to identify the potential community exposure;

25 (b) an analysis of the potential pathways for human exposure to air contaminants, particularly
26 chlorinated dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other carcinogens, including the potential for inhalation,
27 ingestion, and physical contact by the affected communities; and

28 (c) a quantitative analysis of the estimated total possible human exposure to chlorinated dioxins,

1 furans, heavy metals, and carcinogens for the affected communities.

2 (3) The department may not issue or alter an air quality permit pursuant to this chapter until the
3 department has determined, based upon an analysis of the information provided by the applicant pursuant to
4 subsection (2) and other necessary and relevant data, that the public health risk from air emissions or ambient
5 concentrations of chlorinated dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other hazardous air pollutants will not exceed
6 the negligible risk standard required by 75-2-215 and any applicable federal standards for allowable intake, as
7 determined by the department after a review of established and relevant federal standards and guidelines.

8 (4) This section may not be construed in any way to:

9 (a) require the ~~board~~ department to promulgate standards for the allowable intake of any substances
10 for which the federal government has not established standards;

11 (b) allow the ~~board~~ department to promulgate standards for the allowable intake of any substances for
12 which the federal government has established standards that are more stringent than the federal standards; or

13 (c) limit or otherwise impair the duty of the department under 75-2-215 to determine that emissions
14 and ambient concentrations will constitute a negligible risk as required by 75-2-215(3)(d), including emissions
15 and ambient concentrations of dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and carcinogens, before issuing an air quality
16 permit pursuant to 75-2-211 and 75-2-215."
17

18 **Section 24.** Section 75-2-234, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"75-2-234. Registration.** The ~~board~~ department may adopt rules for the registration of certain classes
20 of sources of air contaminants in lieu of a permit application required under 75-2-211(2)."
21

22 **Section 25.** Section 75-2-301, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"75-2-301. Local air pollution control programs -- consistency with state and federal**
24 **regulations -- procedure for public notice and comment required.** (1) After public hearing, a municipality or
25 county may establish and administer a local air pollution control program if the program is consistent with this
26 chapter and is approved by the ~~board~~ department.

27 (2) If a local air pollution control program established by a county encompasses all or part of a
28 municipality, the county and each municipality shall approve the program in accordance with subsection (1).

1 (3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), the ~~board~~department by order may approve a local air
2 pollution control program that:

3 (i) subject to subsection (4), provides by rule, ordinance, or local law for requirements compatible
4 with, more stringent than, or more extensive than those imposed by 75-2-203, 75-2-204, 75-2-211, 75-2-212,
5 75-2-215, 75-2-217 through 75-2-219, and 75-2-402 and rules adopted under these sections;

6 (ii) provides for the enforcement of requirements established under subsection (3)(a)(i) by appropriate
7 administrative and judicial processes; and

8 (iii) provides for administrative organization, staff, financial resources, and other resources necessary
9 to effectively and efficiently carry out the program. As part of meeting these requirements, a local air pollution
10 control program may administer the permit or registration fee provisions of 75-2-220. The permit or registration
11 fees collected by a local air pollution control program must be deposited in a county special revenue fund to be
12 used by the local air pollution control program for administration of local air pollution control program permitting
13 or registration activities.

14 (b) ~~Board~~ Department approval of a rule, ordinance, or local law that is more stringent than the
15 comparable state law is subject to the provisions of subsection (4).

16 (4) (a) A local air pollution control program may, subject to approval by the ~~board~~ department, adopt
17 a rule, ordinance, or local law to implement this chapter that is more stringent than comparable state or federal
18 regulations or guidelines only if:

19 (i) a public hearing is held;

20 (ii) public comment is allowed; and

21 (iii) the ~~board~~department or the local air pollution control program makes a written finding after the
22 public hearing and comment period that is based on evidence in the record that the proposed local standard or
23 requirement:

24 (A) protects public health or the environment of the area;

25 (B) can mitigate harm to the public health or the environment; and

26 (C) is achievable with current technology.

27 (b) The written finding required under subsection (4)(a)(iii) must reference information and peer-
28 reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that form the basis for the ~~board's~~ department's or the local

1 air pollution control program's conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing
2 record regarding costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed local standard
3 or requirement.

4 (c) (i) A person or entity affected by a rule, ordinance, or local law approved or adopted after January
5 1, 1996, and before May 1, 2001, that the person or entity believes is more stringent than comparable state or
6 federal regulations or guidelines may petition the ~~board~~department or the local air pollution control program to
7 review the rule, ordinance, or local law.

8 (ii) If the ~~board~~department or local air pollution control program determines that the rule, ordinance, or
9 local law is more stringent than state or federal regulations or guidelines, the ~~board~~department or local air
10 pollution control program shall either revise the rule, ordinance, or local law to conform to the state or federal
11 regulations or guidelines or follow the process provided in subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) within a reasonable
12 period of time, not to exceed 6 months after receiving the petition.

13 (5) Except for those emergency powers provided for in 75-2-402, the ~~board~~department may not
14 delegate to a local air pollution control program the authority to control any air pollutant source that:

15 (a) requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement in accordance with Title 75,
16 chapter 1, part 2;

17 (b) is subject to regulation under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, as provided in Title 75, chapter
18 20; or

19 (c) has the potential to emit 250 tons a year or more of any pollutant subject to regulation under this
20 chapter, including fugitive emissions, unless the authority to control the source was delegated to a local air
21 pollution control program prior to January 1, 1991.

22 (6) If the ~~board~~department finds that the location, character, or extent of particular concentrations of
23 population, air pollutant sources, or geographic, topographic, or meteorological considerations or any
24 combination of these makes impracticable the maintenance of appropriate levels of air quality without an
25 areawide air pollution control program, the ~~board~~department may determine the boundaries within which the
26 program is necessary and require it as the only acceptable alternative to direct state administration.

27 (7) If the ~~board~~department has reason to believe that any part of an air pollution control program in
28 force under this section is either inadequate to prevent and control air pollution in the jurisdiction to which the

1 program relates or is being administered in a manner inconsistent with this chapter, the ~~board~~department shall,
2 on notice, conduct a hearing on the matter.

3 (8) If, after the hearing, the ~~board~~department determines that any part of the program is inadequate
4 to prevent and control air pollution in the jurisdiction to which it relates or that it is not accomplishing the
5 purposes of this chapter, it shall require that necessary corrective measures be taken within a reasonable time,
6 not to exceed 60 days.

7 (9) If the jurisdiction fails to take these measures within the time required, the department shall
8 administer within that jurisdiction all of the provisions of this chapter, including the terms contained in any
9 applicable ~~board~~department order, that are necessary to correct the deficiencies found by the ~~board~~
10 department. The department's control program supersedes all municipal or county air pollution laws, rules,
11 ordinances, and requirements in the affected jurisdiction. The cost of the department's action is a charge on the
12 jurisdiction.

13 (10) If the ~~board~~department finds that the control of a particular air pollutant source because of its
14 complexity or magnitude is beyond the reasonable capability of the local jurisdiction or may be more efficiently
15 and economically performed at the state level, it may ~~direct the department to~~ assume and retain control over
16 that air pollutant source. A charge may not be assessed against the jurisdiction. Findings made under this
17 subsection may be either on the basis of the nature of the sources involved or on the basis of their relationship
18 to the size of the communities in which they are located.

19 (11) A jurisdiction in which the department administers all or part of its air pollution control program
20 under subsection (9) may, ~~with the approval of the board,~~ establish or resume an air pollution control program
21 that meets the requirements of subsection (3).

22 (12) A municipality or county may administer all or part of its air pollution control program in
23 cooperation with one or more municipalities or counties of this state or of other states.

24 (13) Local air pollution control programs established under this section shall provide procedures for
25 public notice, public hearing, public comment, and appeal for any proposed new or revised rules, ordinances, or
26 local laws adopted pursuant to this section. The procedures must comply with the following requirements:

27 (a) The local air pollution control program shall create and maintain a list of interested persons who
28 wish to be informed of actions related to rules, ordinances, or local laws adopted by the local air pollution

1 control program.

2 (b) At least 30 days prior to the adoption, revision, or repeal of a rule, ordinance, or law, the local air
3 pollution control program shall give written notice of its intended action.

4 (c) The notice required under subsection (13)(b) must include:

5 (i) a statement of the terms or substance of the intended action or a description of the subjects and
6 issues affected by the intended action;

7 (ii) an explanation of the procedure for a person to be included on the list of interested persons
8 established pursuant to subsection (13)(a);

9 (iii) an explanation of the procedures and deadlines for presentation of oral or written comments
10 related to the intended action;

11 (iv) an explanation of the process for requesting a public hearing as provided in subsection (13)(f); and

12 (v) the rationale for the intended action. The rationale must:

13 (A) include an explanation of why the intended action is reasonably necessary to implement the goals
14 and purposes of the local air pollution control program;

15 (B) specifically address those intended actions for which there are no similar state or federal
16 regulations or guidelines; and

17 (C) be written in plain, easily understood language.

18 (d) For the purposes of subsection (13)(c)(v), a statement of authority to adopt a rule, ordinance, or
19 local law does not, standing alone, constitute a showing of reasonable necessity for the intended action.

20 (e) The local air pollution control program shall mail a copy of the proposed rule, ordinance, or local
21 law to all interested persons on the list established pursuant to subsection (13)(a) who have made timely
22 requests to be included on the list.

23 (f) If at least 10 of the persons who will be directly affected by the proposed rule, ordinance, or local
24 law request a public hearing, the local air pollution control program shall hold a hearing to hear comments from
25 the public on the intended action.

26 (g) The local air pollution control program shall prepare a written response to all comments submitted
27 in writing or presented at the public hearing for consideration prior to adoption, revision, or repeal of the
28 proposed rule, ordinance, or local law.

1 (h) A person who submits a written comment on a proposed action or who attends a public hearing in
2 regard to a proposed action must be informed of the final action."

3

4 **Section 26.** Section 75-2-302, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"75-2-302. State and federal aid.** (1) Any local air pollution control program meeting the
6 requirements of this chapter and rules made pursuant ~~thereto shall be~~ to this chapter is eligible for state aid in
7 an amount up to 30% of the locally funded annual operating cost ~~thereof~~ of the program.

8 (2) Federal aid granted to the state for developing or maintaining a local air pollution control program
9 that is subsequently granted to a local program is not considered state aid.

10 (3) Subdivisions of the state may make application for, receive, administer, and expend any federal
11 aid for the control of air pollution or the development and administration of programs related to air pollution
12 control, provided the program is currently approved by the ~~board~~ department under 75-2-301."

13

14 **Section 35.** Section 75-2-401, MCA, is amended to read:

15 ~~"75-2-401. Enforcement -- notice -- order for corrective action -- administrative penalty.~~ (1)
16 ~~When the department believes that a violation of this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, or a condition~~
17 ~~or limitation imposed by a permit issued pursuant to this chapter has occurred, it may cause written notice to be~~
18 ~~served personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the~~
19 ~~provision of this chapter, the rule, or the permit condition or limitation alleged to be violated and the facts~~
20 ~~alleged to constitute a violation. The notice may include an order to take necessary corrective action within a~~
21 ~~reasonable period of time stated in the order or an order to pay an administrative penalty, or both. The order~~
22 ~~becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is received, the person named requests in writing a~~
23 ~~hearing before the board~~ department. ~~On receipt of the request, the board~~ department ~~shall schedule a hearing.~~

24 (2) ~~If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board~~ department ~~finds that violations have~~
25 ~~occurred, it shall issue an appropriate order for the prevention, abatement, or control of the emissions involved~~
26 ~~or for the taking of other corrective action or assess an administrative penalty, or both. As appropriate, an order~~
27 ~~issued as part of a notice or after a hearing may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease; time~~
28 ~~limits for particular action in preventing, abating, or controlling the emissions; or the date by which the~~

1 administrative penalty must be paid. If, after a hearing on an order contained in a notice, the board ~~department~~
2 finds that a violation has not occurred or is not occurring, it shall rescind the order.

3 ~~(3) (a) An action initiated under this section may include an administrative civil penalty of not more~~
4 ~~than \$10,000 for each day of each violation, not to exceed a total of \$80,000. If an order issued by the board~~
5 ~~department under this section requires the payment of an administrative civil penalty, the board department~~
6 ~~shall state findings and conclusions describing the basis for its penalty assessment.~~

7 ~~(b) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the alternative energy~~
8 ~~revolving loan account established in 75-25-101.~~

9 ~~(c) Penalties imposed by an administrative order under this section may not be assessed for any day~~
10 ~~of violation that occurred more than 2 years prior to the issuance of the initial notice and order by the~~
11 ~~department under subsection (1).~~

12 ~~(d) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed for an alleged violation under this section,~~
13 ~~the department or board, as appropriate, shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.~~

14 ~~(e) The department may bring a judicial action to enforce a final administrative order issued pursuant~~
15 ~~to this section. The action must be filed in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred or, if~~
16 ~~mutually agreed on by the parties in the action, in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark~~
17 ~~County.~~

18 ~~(4) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
19 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section.~~

20 ~~(5) Instead of issuing the order provided for in subsection (1), the department may either:~~

21 ~~(a) require that the alleged violators appear before the board department for a hearing at a time and~~
22 ~~place specified in the notice and answer the charges complained of; or~~

23 ~~(b) initiate action under 75-2-412 or 75-2-413.~~

24 ~~(6) This chapter does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtain voluntary~~
25 ~~compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.~~

26 ~~(7) In connection with a hearing held under this section, the board department may and on~~
27 ~~application by a party shall compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence on behalf of the~~
28 ~~parties."~~

1

2 **Section 36.** Section 75-2-402, MCA, is amended to read:

3 ~~"75-2-402. **Emergency procedure.** (1) Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, if the~~
 4 ~~department finds that a generalized condition of air pollution exists and that it creates an emergency requiring~~
 5 ~~immediate action to protect human health or safety, the department shall order persons causing or contributing~~
 6 ~~to the air pollution to immediately reduce or discontinue the emission of air contaminants. Upon issuance of this~~
 7 ~~order, the department shall fix a place and time within 24 hours for a hearing to be held before the board~~
 8 ~~department. Within 24 hours after the start of the hearing and without adjournment, the board department shall~~
 9 ~~confirm, modify, or set aside the order of the department.~~

10 (2) ~~Except as provided in subsection (1), if the department finds that emissions from the operation of~~
 11 ~~one or more air contaminant sources are causing imminent danger to human health or safety, it may order the~~
 12 ~~person responsible for the operation in question to reduce or discontinue emissions immediately, without regard~~
 13 ~~for 75-2-401. In this event, the requirements for hearing and confirmation, modification, or setting aside of orders~~
 14 ~~as provided in subsection (1) apply.~~

15 (3) ~~This section does not limit any power that the governor or any other officer may have to declare an~~
 16 ~~emergency and act on the basis of this declaration, whether the power is conferred by statute or the constitution~~
 17 ~~or is inherent to the office."~~

18

19 **Section 37.** Section 75-2-411, MCA, is amended to read:

20 ~~"75-2-411. **Judicial review.** (1) A person aggrieved by an order of the board department or local~~
 21 ~~control authority may apply for rehearing upon one or more of the following grounds and upon no other~~
 22 ~~grounds:~~

23 (a) ~~the board department or local control authority acted without or in excess of its powers;~~

24 (b) ~~the order was procured by fraud;~~

25 (c) ~~the order is contrary to the evidence;~~

26 (d) ~~the applicant has discovered new evidence, material to the applicant, that the applicant could not~~
 27 ~~with reasonable diligence have discovered and produced at the hearing; or~~

28 (e) ~~competent evidence was excluded to the prejudice of the applicant.~~

1 ~~(2) The petition must be in a form and filed at a time that the board department prescribes.~~

2 ~~(3) (a) Within 30 days after the application for rehearing is denied or, if the application is granted,~~
 3 ~~within 30 days after the decision on the rehearing, an aggrieved party may appeal to the district court of the~~
 4 ~~judicial district of the state that is the situs of property affected by the order.~~

5 ~~(b) The appeal must be taken by serving a written notice of appeal upon the presiding officer of the~~
 6 ~~board department. Service must be made by the delivery of a copy of the notice to the presiding officer~~
 7 ~~department and by filing the original with the clerk of the court to which the appeal is taken. Immediately after~~
 8 ~~service upon the board, the board department shall certify to the district court the entire record and proceedings,~~
 9 ~~including all testimony and evidence taken by the board department. Immediately upon receiving the certified~~
 10 ~~record, the district court shall fix a day for filing of briefs and hearing arguments on the cause and shall cause a~~
 11 ~~notice of the dates to be served upon the board department and the appellant.~~

12 ~~(c) The court shall hear and decide the cause upon the record of the board department. The court~~
 13 ~~shall determine whether or not the board department regularly pursued its authority, whether or not the findings~~
 14 ~~of the board department were supported by substantial competent evidence, and whether or not the board~~
 15 ~~department made errors of law prejudicial to the appellant.~~

16 ~~(4) Either the board department or the person aggrieved may appeal from the decision of the district~~
 17 ~~court to the supreme court. The proceedings before the supreme court must be limited to a review of the record~~
 18 ~~of the hearing before the board department and of the district court's review of that record."~~

19

20 **Section 38.** Section 75-2-421, MCA, is amended to read:

21 ~~"75-2-421. **Persons subject to noncompliance penalties -- exemptions.** (1) Except as provided in~~
 22 ~~subsection (2), the department may assess and collect a noncompliance penalty from any person who owns or~~
 23 ~~operates:~~

24 ~~(a) a stationary source (other than a primary nonferrous smelter that has received a nonferrous~~
 25 ~~smelter order under 42 U.S.C. 7419) that is not in compliance with any emission limitation specified in an order~~
 26 ~~of the board department, emission standard, or compliance schedule under the state implementation plan~~
 27 ~~approved by the federal environmental protection agency;~~

28 ~~(b) a stationary source that is not in compliance with an emission limitation, emission standard,~~

1 standard of performance, or other requirement under this chapter or 42 U.S.C. 7411, 7412, 7477, or 7603;

2 (c) a stationary source that is not in compliance with any other requirement under this chapter or any
3 requirement of Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.; or

4 (d) any source referred to in subsections (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c) that has been granted an exemption,
5 extension, or suspension under subsection (2) or that is covered by a compliance order, or a primary
6 nonferrous smelter that has received a primary nonferrous smelter order under 42 U.S.C. 7419, if that source is
7 not in compliance with any interim emission control requirement or schedule of compliance under the extension,
8 order, or suspension.

9 (2) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (1), the department may, after notice and
10 opportunity for a public hearing, exempt any source from the requirements of 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 with
11 respect to a particular instance of noncompliance that:

12 (a) the department finds is de minimis in nature and in duration;

13 (b) is caused by conditions beyond the reasonable control of the source and is of no demonstrable
14 advantage to the source; or

15 (c) is exempt under 42 U.S.C. 7420(a)(2)(B) of the federal Clean Air Act.

16 (3) Any person who is jointly or severally adversely affected by the department's decision may
17 request, within 15 days after the department renders its decision, upon affidavit setting forth the grounds for it, a
18 hearing before the board ~~department~~. A hearing must be held under the provisions of the Montana
19 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6."

20

21 **Section 27.** Section 75-2-422, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-2-422. Amount of noncompliance penalty -- late charge.** (1) The amount of the penalty which
23 ~~that shall be~~ is assessed and collected with respect to any source under 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 ~~shall~~ must
24 be equal to:

25 (a) the amount determined in accordance with the rules adopted by the board ~~department~~, which shall
26 must be no less than the economic value ~~which~~ that a delay in compliance after July 1, 1979, may have for the
27 owner of ~~such~~ the source, including the quarterly equivalent of the capital costs of compliance and debt service
28 over a normal amortization period not to exceed 10 years, operation and maintenance costs foregone as a

1 result of noncompliance, and any additional economic value ~~which such a~~ that the delay may have for the
 2 owner or operator of such source; minus

3 (b) the amount of any expenditure made by the owner or operator of that source during ~~any such the~~
 4 quarter for the purpose of bringing that source into and maintaining compliance with ~~such the~~ requirement, to
 5 the extent that ~~such the~~ expenditures have not been taken into account in the calculation of the penalty under
 6 subsection (1)(a).

7 (2) To the extent that any expenditure under subsection (1)(b) made during any quarter is not
 8 subtracted for ~~such the~~ quarter from the costs under subsection (1)(a), ~~such the~~ expenditure may be subtracted
 9 for any subsequent quarter from ~~such the~~ costs. In no event may the amount paid be less than the quarterly
 10 payment minus the amount attributed to actual cost of construction.

11 (3) If the owner or operator of any stationary source to whom notice is issued under 75-2-425 does
 12 not submit a timely petition under 75-2-425(2)(b) or submits a petition ~~which that~~ is denied and if the owner or
 13 operator fails to submit a calculation of the penalty assessment, a schedule for payment, and the information
 14 necessary for independent verification thereof, the department may enter into a contract with any person who
 15 has no financial interest in the matter to assist in determining the amount of the penalty assessment or payment
 16 schedule with respect to ~~such the~~ source. The cost of carrying out ~~such the~~ contract may be added to the
 17 penalty to be assessed against the owner or operator of ~~such the~~ source.

18 (4) Any person who fails to pay the amount of any penalty with respect to any source under 75-2-421
 19 through 75-2-429 on a timely basis shall ~~be required to pay~~ in addition a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each
 20 quarter during which ~~such the~~ failure to pay persists. ~~Such The~~ nonpayment penalty ~~shall be~~ is equal to 20% of
 21 the aggregate amount of ~~such the~~ person's penalties and nonpayment penalties with respect to ~~such the~~ source
 22 ~~which that~~ are unpaid as of the beginning of ~~such the~~ quarter."
 23

24 **Section 40.** Section 75-2-425, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"75-2-425. Notice of noncompliance -- challenge.** (1) The department shall give a brief but
 26 reasonably specific notice of noncompliance to each person who owns or operates a source subject to 75-2-
 27 421(1) which ~~that~~ is not in compliance as provided in that subsection, within 30 days after the department has
 28 discovered the noncompliance.

1 ~~(2) Each person to whom notice has been given pursuant to subsection (1) shall:~~

2 ~~(a) calculate the amount of penalty owed (determined in accordance with 75-2-422(1)) and the~~
 3 ~~schedule of payments (determined in accordance with 75-2-423) for each source and, within 45 days after~~
 4 ~~issuance of the notice of noncompliance, submit that calculation and proposed schedule, together with the~~
 5 ~~information necessary for an independent verification thereof, to the department; or~~

6 ~~(b) submit to the board department a petition within 45 days after the issuance of such the notice,~~
 7 ~~challenging such the notice of noncompliance or alleging entitlement to an exemption under 75-2-421(2) with~~
 8 ~~respect to a particular source.~~

9 ~~(3) Each person to whom notice of noncompliance is given shall pay the department the amount~~
 10 ~~determined under 75-2-422 as the appropriate penalty unless there has been a final determination granting a~~
 11 ~~petition filed pursuant to subsection (2)(b)."~~

12

13 **Section 41.** Section 75-2-426, MCA, is amended to read:

14 ~~"75-2-426. **Hearing on challenge.** (1) The board department shall provide a hearing on the record~~
 15 ~~and make a decision (including findings of fact and conclusions of law) not later than 90 days after the receipt of~~
 16 ~~any petition under 75-2-425(2)(b) with respect to such the source.~~

17 ~~(2) If the petition is denied, the petitioner shall submit the material required by 75-2-425(2)(a) to the~~
 18 ~~department within 45 days of the date of decision."~~

19

20 **Section 28.** Section 75-2-428, MCA, is amended to read:

21 ~~"75-2-428. **Effect of new standards on noncompliance penalty.** In the case of any emission~~
 22 ~~limitation, emission standard, or other requirement approved or adopted by the board department under this~~
 23 ~~chapter after July 1, 1979, and approved by the federal environmental protection agency as an amendment to~~
 24 ~~the state implementation plan, which is more stringent than the emission limitation or requirement for the source~~
 25 ~~in effect prior to such approval or promulgation, if any, or where there was no emission limitation, emission~~
 26 ~~standard, or other requirement approved or adopted before July 1, 1979, the date for imposition of the~~
 27 ~~noncompliance penalty under 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 shall be the date on which the source is required to~~
 28 ~~be in full compliance with such emission limitation, emission standard, or other requirement or 3 years after the~~

1 approval or promulgation of such emission limitation or requirement, whichever is sooner."

2

3 **Section 43.** Section 75-2-515, MCA, is amended to read:

4 ~~"75-2-515. — Administrative enforcement. (1) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke the~~
5 ~~accreditation of a person that:~~

6 ~~(a) fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain accreditation;~~

7 ~~(b) fails to meet the qualifications for accreditation or fails to comply with the requirements of this part,~~
8 ~~a rule adopted under this part, or a permit or order issued under this part; or~~

9 ~~(c) fails to meet an applicable federal or state standard for asbestos projects.~~

10 ~~(2) When the department believes that a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a~~
11 ~~permit or order issued under this part has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation personally or by~~
12 ~~certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of this part or~~
13 ~~the rule, permit, or order alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation. The notice may~~
14 ~~include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time stated in the order, an~~
15 ~~order to pay an administrative civil penalty, or both. An order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the~~
16 ~~order is received, the person that has been named requests, in writing, a hearing before the board department.~~

17 ~~(3) On receipt of a hearing request, the board department shall schedule a hearing. The contested~~
18 ~~case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to any hearing~~
19 ~~conducted under this section. If, after a hearing, the board department finds that a violation has not occurred or~~
20 ~~is not occurring, it shall rescind the order.~~

21 ~~(4) (a) An action initiated under this section may include an administrative civil penalty of not more~~
22 ~~than \$10,000 for each day of each violation, not to exceed a total of \$80,000. Any order issued by the~~
23 ~~department under this section requiring payment of an administrative civil penalty must specify the basis for the~~
24 ~~penalty assessment.~~

25 ~~(b) A penalty may not be assessed under this section for any day of violation that occurred more than~~
26 ~~3 years prior to the department issuing the order requiring payment of the penalty.~~

27 ~~(c) In determining the amount of a penalty assessed to a person under this section, the department~~
28 ~~shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.~~

- 1 ~~(5) In addition to or instead of issuing an order under subsection (2), the department may:~~
 2 ~~(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board department for a hearing at a time and~~
 3 ~~place specified in the notice of hearing to answer the charges complained of; or~~
 4 ~~(b) initiate action under 75-2-514."~~

5

6 **Section 29.** Section 75-5-103, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"75-5-103. (Temporary) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the
 8 following definitions apply:

9 (1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

10 (a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

11 (b) pipeline facilities;

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

13 (d) rail transportation;

14 (e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

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

17 (g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by ~~board~~ department rule, that is necessary for an
 18 energy development project.

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

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

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

24 (3) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROVIDED FOR IN 2-15-3502.

25 ~~(4)(3) (4)~~ (4) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial
 26 wastes, or other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

27 ~~(5)(4) (5)~~ (5) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107.

28 ~~(6)(5) (6)~~ (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department at the

1 time a decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodies that are threatened
2 or impaired.

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

4 ~~(7)(6)~~ (7) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality waters
5 for a parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined to be nonsignificant
6 pursuant to 75-5-301(5)(c).

7 ~~(8)(7)~~ (8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

8 ~~(9)(8)~~ (9) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes and
9 includes sewage systems and treatment works.

10 ~~(40)(9)~~ (10) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and
11 concentrations of chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged into state waters.

12 ~~(41)(10)~~ (11) (a) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and
13 associated developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:

14 (i) generating electricity;

15 (ii) producing gas derived from coal;

16 (iii) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

17 (iv) refining crude oil or natural gas;

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

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

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

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

25 ~~(42)(11)~~ (12) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1,
26 1971, whether or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

27 ~~(43)(12)~~ (13) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

28 (a) ground water classified as of January 1, 1995, within the "III" or "IV" classifications established by

1 the ~~board's~~ department's classification rules; and

2 (b) surface waters that:

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

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

5 ~~(14)(13)~~ (14) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient
6 credible data shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with applicable
7 water quality standards.

8 ~~(15)(14)~~ (15) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or
9 from the development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

10 ~~(16)(15)~~ (16) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, or an
11 economic interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's preliminary decision
12 regarding degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term includes a person who has requested
13 authorization to degrade high-quality waters.

14 ~~(17)(16)~~ (17) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is
15 allocated to one of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

16 ~~(18)(17)~~ (18) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate
17 without a violation of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms of mass, it
18 means the maximum change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a surface water without
19 causing a violation of the surface water quality standards.

20 ~~(19)(18)~~ (19) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a
21 county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

22 ~~(20)(19)~~ (20) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium,
23 barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver,
24 thallium, and zinc.

25 ~~(21)(20)~~ (21) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradation
26 issued by the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to conditions that are
27 imposed by the department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by the ~~board~~ department.

28 ~~(22)(21)~~ (22) "Nutrient standards variance" means numeric water quality criteria for nutrients based on

1 a determination that base numeric nutrient standards cannot be achieved because of economic impacts or
 2 because of the limits of technology. The term includes individual, general, and alternative nutrient standards
 3 variances in accordance with 75-5-313.

4 ~~(23)(22)~~ (23) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department,
 5 representing publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, and
 6 other interested parties that will advise the department on the base numeric nutrient standards, the
 7 development of nutrient standards variances, and the implementation of those standards and variances
 8 together with associated economic impacts.

9 ~~(24)(23)~~ (24) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings,
 10 bark, lime, sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or
 11 discarded equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

12 ~~(25)(24)~~ (25) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

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

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

17 ~~(26)(25)~~ (26) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises
 18 a point source.

19 ~~(27)(26)~~ (27) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when a
 20 value of that property affects the quality of the state water.

21 ~~(28)(27)~~ (28) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm, corporation,
 22 partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

23 ~~(29)(28)~~ (29) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not
 24 limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or
 25 other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

26 ~~(30)(29)~~ (30) (a) "Pollution" means:

27 (i) contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of state waters
 28 that exceeds that permitted by Montana water quality standards, including but not limited to standards relating

1 to change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor; or

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

6 (b) The term does not include:

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

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

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

13 (c) Contamination referred to in subsection ~~(30)(b)(iii)~~ ~~(29)(b)(iii)~~ (30)(B)(III) does not require a mixing
14 zone.

15 ~~(34)(30)~~ (31) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings,
16 institutions, or other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, together with ground water
17 infiltration and surface water present.

18 ~~(32)(31)~~ (32) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes,
19 or other wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

20 ~~(33)(32)~~ (33) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the ~~board~~department for the
21 control of the discharge of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievable through
22 application of the best available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating methods, or other
23 alternatives, including, when practicable, a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

24 ~~(34)(33)~~ (34) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either
25 surface or underground.

26 (b) The term does not apply to:

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

28 (ii) irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used up within the

1 irrigation or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to state waters.

2 ~~(35)(34)~~ (35) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data, alone
3 or in combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether a water body is achieving
4 compliance with applicable water quality standards.

5 ~~(36)(35)~~ (36) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient
6 credible data and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment is fully supporting
7 its designated uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

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

10 (b) documented adverse pollution trends.

11 ~~(37)(36)~~ (37) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual waste load
12 allocations for point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural background sources
13 established at a level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable surface water quality standards.

14 ~~(38)(37)~~ (38) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating or
15 holding sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes.

16 ~~(39)(38)~~ (39) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is
17 allocated to one of its existing or future point sources.

18 ~~(40)(39)~~ (40) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenance
19 procedures, or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed to protect,
20 maintain, and improve the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practices include but are not limited
21 to treatment requirements, standards of performance, effluent standards, and operating procedures and
22 practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

23 ~~(41)(40)~~ (41) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug,
24 jetted, or otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, or acquisition of
25 ground water.

26 ~~(42)(41)~~ (42) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in an
27 advisory capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-702 and in the
28 development of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individuals requested by the department to

1 participate in an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704.

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

4 (1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

5 (a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

6 (b) pipeline facilities;

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

8 (d) rail transportation;

9 (e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

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

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

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

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

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

19 (3) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROVIDED FOR IN 2-15-3502.

20 ~~(4)(3)~~ (4) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial
21 wastes, or other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

22 ~~(5)(4)~~ (5) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107.

23 ~~(6)(5)~~ (6) (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department at the
24 time a decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodies that are threatened
25 or impaired.

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

27 ~~(7)(6)~~ (7) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality waters
28 for a parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined to be nonsignificant

1 pursuant to 75-5-301(5)(c).

2 ~~(8)(7)~~ (8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

3 ~~(9)(8)~~ (9) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes and
4 includes sewage systems and treatment works.

5 ~~(10)(9)~~ (10) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and
6 concentrations of chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged into state waters.

7 ~~(11)(10)~~ (11) (a) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and
8 associated developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:

9 (i) generating electricity;

10 (ii) producing gas derived from coal;

11 (iii) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

12 (iv) refining crude oil or natural gas;

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

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

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

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

20 ~~(12)(11)~~ (12) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1,
21 1971, whether or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

22 ~~(13)(12)~~ (13) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

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

25 (b) surface waters that:

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

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

28 ~~(14)(13)~~ (14) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient

1 credible data shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with applicable
2 water quality standards.

3 ~~(15)(14)~~ (15) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or
4 from the development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

5 ~~(16)(15)~~ (16) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, or an
6 economic interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's preliminary decision
7 regarding degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term includes a person who has requested
8 authorization to degrade high-quality waters.

9 ~~(17)(16)~~ (17) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is
10 allocated to one of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

11 ~~(18)(17)~~ (18) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate
12 without a violation of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms of mass, it
13 means the maximum change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a surface water without
14 causing a violation of the surface water quality standards.

15 ~~(19)(18)~~ (19) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a
16 county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

17 ~~(20)(19)~~ (20) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium,
18 barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver,
19 thallium, and zinc.

20 ~~(21)(20)~~ (21) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradation
21 issued by the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to conditions that are
22 imposed by the department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by the ~~board~~ department.

23 ~~(22)(21)~~ (22) "Nutrient standards variance" means numeric water quality criteria for nutrients based on
24 a determination that base numeric nutrient standards cannot be achieved because of economic impacts or
25 because of the limits of technology. The term includes individual, general, and alternative nutrient standards
26 variances in accordance with 75-5-313.

27 ~~(23)(22)~~ (23) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department,
28 representing publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, and

1 other interested parties that will advise the department on the base numeric nutrient standards, the
 2 development of nutrient standards variances, and the implementation of those standards and variances
 3 together with associated economic impacts.

4 ~~(24)(23)~~ (24) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings,
 5 bark, lime, sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or
 6 discarded equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

7 ~~(25)(24)~~ (25) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

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

10 (b) other surface waters or ground waters classified by the ~~board~~ department under the provisions of
 11 75-5-316 and approved by the legislature.

12 ~~(26)(25)~~ (26) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises
 13 a point source.

14 ~~(27)(26)~~ (27) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when a
 15 value of that property affects the quality of the state water.

16 ~~(28)(27)~~ (28) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm, corporation,
 17 partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

18 ~~(29)(28)~~ (29) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not
 19 limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or
 20 other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

21 ~~(30)(29)~~ (30) (a) "Pollution" means:

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

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

1 (b) The term does not include:

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

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

6 (iii) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of a geologic storage reservoir, as defined in
7 82-11-101, by a carbon dioxide injection well in accordance with a permit issued pursuant to Title 82, chapter
8 11, part 1;

9 (iv) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of an underground mine using in situ coal
10 gasification and operating in accordance with a permit issued under 82-4-221;

11 (c) Contamination referred to in subsections ~~(30)(b)(iii) and (30)(b)(iv)~~ ~~(29)(b)(iii) and~~
12 ~~(29)(b)(iv)~~ (30)(B)(III) AND (30)(B)(IV) does not require a mixing zone.

13 ~~(31)(30)~~ (31) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings,
14 institutions, or other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, together with ground water
15 infiltration and surface water present.

16 ~~(32)(31)~~ (32) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes,
17 or other wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

18 ~~(33)(32)~~ (33) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the ~~board~~ department for the
19 control of the discharge of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievable through
20 application of the best available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating methods, or other
21 alternatives, including, when practicable, a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

22 ~~(34)(33)~~ (34) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either
23 surface or underground.

24 (b) The term does not apply to:

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

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

28 ~~(35)(34)~~ (35) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data, alone

1 or in combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether a water body is achieving
2 compliance with applicable water quality standards.

3 ~~(36)(35)~~ (36) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient
4 credible data and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment is fully supporting
5 its designated uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

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

8 (b) documented adverse pollution trends.

9 ~~(37)(36)~~ (37) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual waste load
10 allocations for point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural background sources
11 established at a level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable surface water quality standards.

12 ~~(38)(37)~~ (38) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating or
13 holding sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes.

14 ~~(39)(38)~~ (39) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is
15 allocated to one of its existing or future point sources.

16 ~~(40)(39)~~ (40) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenance
17 procedures, or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed to protect,
18 maintain, and improve the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practices include but are not limited
19 to treatment requirements, standards of performance, effluent standards, and operating procedures and
20 practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

21 ~~(41)(40)~~ (41) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug,
22 jetted, or otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, or acquisition of
23 ground water.

24 ~~(42)(41)~~ (42) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in an
25 advisory capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-702 and in the
26 development of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individuals requested by the department to
27 participate in an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704."

28

1 **Section 45.** Section 75-5-105, MCA, is amended to read:

2 ~~"75-5-105. **Confidentiality of records.** Except as provided in 80-15-108, any information concerning~~
 3 ~~sources of pollution that is furnished to the board or department or that is obtained by either of them the~~
 4 ~~department is a matter of public record and open to public use. However, any information unique to the owner~~
 5 ~~or operator of a source of pollution that would, if disclosed, reveal methods or processes entitled to protection~~
 6 ~~as trade secrets must be maintained as confidential if so determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. The~~
 7 ~~owner or operator shall file a declaratory judgment action to establish the existence of a trade secret if the~~
 8 ~~owner or operator wishes the information to remain confidential. The department must be served in the action~~
 9 ~~and may intervene as a party. Any information not intended to be public when submitted to the board or~~
 10 ~~department must be submitted in writing and clearly marked as confidential. Except as provided in 75-5-314,~~
 11 ~~the data describing physical and chemical characteristics of a waste discharged to state waters may not be~~
 12 ~~considered confidential. The board department may use any information in compiling or publishing analyses or~~
 13 ~~summaries relating to water pollution if the analyses or summaries do not identify any owner or operator of a~~
 14 ~~source of pollution or reveal any information that is otherwise made confidential by this section."~~

15

16 **Section 30.** Section 75-5-106, MCA, is amended to read:

17 ~~"75-5-106. **Interagency cooperation -- enforcement authorization.** (1) The council, BOARD, ~~board,~~~~
 18 ~~and the department may require the use of records of all state agencies and may seek the assistance of the~~
 19 ~~agencies. When the department's review of a permit application submitted under another chapter or title is~~
 20 ~~required or requested, the department shall coordinate the review under this chapter with the review conducted~~
 21 ~~by the agency or unit under the other chapter, following the time schedule for that review. State, county, and~~
 22 ~~municipal officers and employees, including sanitarians and other employees of local departments of health,~~
 23 ~~shall cooperate with the council, BOARD, ~~board,~~ and the department in furthering the purposes of this chapter, so~~
 24 ~~far as is practicable and consistent with their other duties.~~

25 (2) The department may authorize a local water quality district established according to the provisions
 26 of Title 7, chapter 13, part 45, to enforce the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter on
 27 a case-by-case basis. If a local water quality district requests the authorization, the local water quality district
 28 shall present appropriate documentation to the department that a person is violating permit requirements

1 established by the department or may be causing pollution, as defined in 75-5-103, of state waters or placing or
 2 causing to be placed wastes in a location where they are likely to cause pollution of state waters. The ~~board~~
 3 department may adopt rules regarding the granting of enforcement authority to local water quality districts."
 4

5 **Section 31.** Section 75-5-201, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"75-5-201. ~~Board rules~~ Rules authorized.** (1) (a) The ~~board~~ department shall, except as provided in
 7 75-5-411 and subject to the provisions of 75-5-203, adopt rules for the administration of this chapter.

8 (b) The ~~board~~ department shall adopt rules that describe the location and the times of the year when
 9 suction dredging is permissible. These rules may be adopted only after consultation with the local conservation
 10 districts in the areas subject to the rule.

11 (2) The ~~board's~~ department's rules may include a fee schedule or system for assessment of
 12 administrative penalties as provided under 75-5-611."
 13

14 **Section 48.** Section ~~75-5-202~~, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **~~"75-5-202. Board hearings~~ HEARINGS.** ~~The board~~ department shall hold hearings necessary for the
 16 proper administration of this chapter, or, in the case of permit issuance hearings, delegate this function to the
 17 department."
 18

19 **Section 32.** Section 75-5-203, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"75-5-203. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines.** (1) Except
 21 as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless required by state law, the ~~board~~ department may not adopt
 22 a rule to implement 75-5-301, 75-5-302, 75-5-303, or 75-5-310 that is more stringent than the comparable
 23 federal regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The ~~board~~ department may incorporate
 24 by reference comparable federal regulations or guidelines.

25 (2) The ~~board~~ department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than
 26 comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if the ~~board~~ department makes a written finding after a public
 27 hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:

28 (a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment of the state;

1 and

2 (b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or
3 environment and is achievable under current technology.

4 (3) The written finding must reference pertinent, ascertainable, and peer-reviewed scientific studies
5 contained in the record that forms the basis for the ~~board's~~ department's conclusion. The written finding must
6 also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are
7 directly attributable to the proposed state standard or requirement.

8 (4) (a) A person affected by a rule ~~of the board that~~ that the person believes to be more stringent
9 than comparable federal regulations or guidelines may petition the ~~board~~ department BOARD to review the rule.
10 If the ~~board~~ department BOARD determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or
11 guidelines, the ~~board~~ department shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform to the
12 federal regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under subsection (2), within a
13 reasonable period of time, not to exceed 8 months after receiving the petition. A petition under this section does
14 not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged rule. The ~~board~~ department may charge a
15 petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$250.

16 (b) A person may also petition the ~~board~~ department BOARD for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if
17 the ~~board~~ department adopts a rule in an area in which no federal regulations or guidelines existed and the
18 federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than
19 the previously adopted ~~board~~ department rule.

20 (5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking provisions of 2-4-
21 303(1)."

22

23 **Section 33.** Section 75-5-222, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"75-5-222. State regulation for natural conditions.** (1) The department may not apply a standard to
25 a water body for water quality that is more stringent than the nonanthropogenic condition of the water body. For
26 the parameters for which the applicable standards are more stringent than the nonanthropogenic condition, the
27 standard is the nonanthropogenic condition of the parameter in the water body. The department shall
28 implement the standard in a manner that provides for the water quality standards for downstream waters to be

1 attained and maintained.

2 (2) (a) For water bodies where the standard is more stringent than the condition of the water body but
3 subsection (1) is not applicable, the ~~board~~department shall adopt rules consistent with comparable federal
4 rules and guidelines providing criteria and procedures for the department to issue variances from standards if:

5 (i) the condition cannot reasonably be expected to be remediated during the permit term for which the
6 application for variance has been received; and

7 (ii) the discharge to which the variance applies would not materially contribute to the condition.

8 (b) A variance issued pursuant to subsection (2)(a) must be reviewed every 5 years and may be
9 modified or terminated as a result of the review."

10

11 **Section 34.** Section 75-5-301, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"75-5-301. Classification and standards for state waters.** Consistent with the provisions of 80-15-
13 201 and this chapter, the ~~board~~department shall:

14 (1) establish the classification of all state waters in accordance with their present and future most
15 beneficial uses, creating an appropriate classification for streams that, due to sporadic flow, do not support an
16 aquatic ecosystem that includes salmonid or nonsalmonid fish;

17 (2) formulate and adopt standards of water quality, ~~giving consideration to~~CONSIDERING the
18 economics of waste treatment and prevention. When rules are adopted regarding temporary standards, they
19 must conform with the requirements of 75-5-312. Standards ~~adopted by the board~~department must meet the
20 following requirements:

21 (a) for carcinogens, the water quality standard for protection of human health must be the value
22 associated with an excess lifetime cancer risk level, assuming continuous lifetime exposure, not to exceed $1 \times$
23 10^{-3} in the case of arsenic and 1×10^{-5} for other carcinogens. However, if a standard established at a risk level
24 of 1×10^{-3} for arsenic or 1×10^{-5} for other carcinogens violates the maximum contaminant level obtained from
25 40 CFR, part 141, then the maximum contaminant level must be adopted as the standard for that carcinogen.

26 (b) standards for the protection of aquatic life do not apply to ground water.

27 (3) review, from time to time at intervals of not more than 3 years and, to the extent permitted by this
28 chapter, revise established classifications of waters and adopted standards of water quality;

- 1 (4) adopt rules governing the granting of mixing zones, requiring that mixing zones granted by the
2 department be specifically identified and requiring that mixing zones have:
- 3 (a) the smallest practicable size;
- 4 (b) a minimum practicable effect on water uses; and
- 5 (c) definable boundaries;
- 6 (5) adopt rules implementing the nondegradation policy established in 75-5-303, including but not
7 limited to rules that:
- 8 (a) provide a procedure for department review and authorization of degradation;
- 9 (b) establish criteria for the following:
- 10 (i) determining important economic or social development; and
- 11 (ii) weighing the social and economic importance to the public of allowing the proposed project against
12 the cost to society associated with a loss of water quality;
- 13 (c) establish criteria for determining whether a proposed activity or class of activities, in addition to
14 those activities identified in 75-5-317, will result in nonsignificant changes in water quality for any parameter in
15 order that those activities are not required to undergo review under 75-5-303(3). These criteria must be
16 established in a manner that generally:
- 17 (i) equates significance with the potential for harm to human health, a beneficial use, or the
18 environment;
- 19 (ii) considers both the quantity and the strength of the pollutant;
- 20 (iii) considers the length of time the degradation will occur;
- 21 (iv) considers the character of the pollutant so that greater significance is associated with carcinogens
22 and toxins that bioaccumulate or biomagnify and lesser significance is associated with substances that are less
23 harmful or less persistent.
- 24 (d) provide that changes of nitrate as nitrogen in ground water are nonsignificant if the discharge will
25 not cause degradation of surface water and the predicted concentration of nitrate as nitrogen at the boundary of
26 the ground water mixing zone does not exceed:
- 27 (i) 7.5 milligrams per liter from sources other than sewage;
- 28 (ii) 5.0 milligrams per liter from sewage discharged from a system that does not use level two

1 treatment in an area where the ground water nitrate as nitrogen is 5.0 milligrams per liter or less;

2 (iii) 7.5 milligrams per liter from sewage discharged from a system using level two treatment, which
3 must be defined in the rules; or

4 (iv) 7.5 milligrams per liter from sewage discharged from a system in areas where the ground water
5 nitrate as nitrogen level exceeds 5.0 milligrams per liter primarily from sources other than human waste.

6 (6) to the extent practicable, ensure that the rules adopted under subsection (5) establish objective
7 and quantifiable criteria for various parameters. These criteria must, to the extent practicable, constitute
8 guidelines for granting or denying applications for authorization to degrade high-quality waters under the policy
9 established in 75-5-303(2) and (3).

10 (7) adopt rules to implement this section."
11

12 **Section 35.** Section 75-5-302, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"75-5-302. Revising classifications in accordance with existing, present, and future most**
14 **beneficial uses of water bodies.** When the ~~board~~ or department is presented with facts indicating that a body
15 of water is not properly classified in accordance with its existing, present, and future most beneficial uses, the
16 department shall, within 90 days, evaluate the facts ~~and advise the board whether the water body is not~~
17 ~~properly classified.~~ If the ~~board~~ department determines that the water body is not properly classified, the ~~board~~
18 department shall initiate rulemaking to properly classify the water body in accordance with its existing, present,
19 and future most beneficial uses. ~~Board action~~ Action pursuant to this section is subject to 75-5-307."
20

21 **Section 36.** Section 75-5-303, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-5-303. Nondegradation policy.** (1) Existing uses of state waters and the level of water quality
23 necessary to protect those uses must be maintained and protected.

24 (2) Unless authorized by the department under subsection (3) or exempted from review under 75-5-
25 317, the quality of high-quality waters must be maintained.

26 (3) The department may not authorize degradation of high-quality waters unless it has been
27 affirmatively demonstrated by a preponderance of evidence to the department that:

28 (a) degradation is necessary because there are no economically, environmentally, and technologically

1 feasible modifications to the proposed project that would result in no degradation;

2 (b) the proposed project will result in important economic or social development and that the benefit of
3 the development exceeds the costs to society of allowing degradation of high-quality waters;

4 (c) existing and anticipated use of state waters will be fully protected; and

5 (d) the least degrading water quality protection practices determined by the department to be
6 economically, environmentally, and technologically feasible will be fully implemented by the applicant prior to
7 and during the proposed activity.

8 (4) The department shall issue a preliminary decision either denying or authorizing degradation and
9 shall provide public notice and a 30-day comment period prior to issuing a final decision. The department's
10 preliminary and final decisions must include:

11 (a) a statement of the basis for the decision; and

12 (b) a detailed description of all conditions applied to any authorization to degrade state waters,
13 including, when applicable, monitoring requirements, required water protection practices, reporting
14 requirements, effluent limits, designation of the mixing zones, the limits of degradation authorized, and methods
15 of determining compliance with the authorization for degradation.

16 (5) An interested person wishing to challenge a final department decision may request a hearing
17 before the ~~board-department~~ BOARD within 30 days of the final department decision. The contested case
18 procedures of Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing under this section.

19 (6) Periodically, but not more often than every 5 years, the department may review authorizations to
20 degrade state waters. Following the review, the department may, after timely notice and opportunity for hearing,
21 modify the authorization if the department determines that an economically, environmentally, and
22 technologically feasible modification to the development exists. The decision by the department to modify an
23 authorization may be appealed to the ~~board-department~~ BOARD.

24 (7) The ~~board-department~~ may not issue an authorization to degrade state waters that are classified
25 as outstanding resource waters.

26 (8) The ~~board-department~~ shall adopt rules to implement this section."
27

28 **Section 37.** Section 75-5-304, MCA, is amended to read:

1 **"75-5-304. Adoption of standards -- pretreatment, effluent, performance.** (1) The ~~board~~
2 department shall:

- 3 (a) adopt pretreatment standards for wastewater discharged into a municipal disposal system;
4 (b) adopt effluent standards as defined in 75-5-103;
5 (c) adopt toxic effluent standards and prohibitions;
6 (d) establish standards of performance for new point source discharges; and
7 (e) adopt rules necessary to ensure the primacy of the department to regulate cooling water intake
8 structures under 33 U.S.C. 1326(b).

9 (2) In taking action under subsection (1), the ~~board~~ department shall ensure that the standards are
10 cost-effective and economically, environmentally, and technologically feasible."
11

12 **Section 38.** Section 75-5-305, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"75-5-305. Adoption of requirements for treatment of wastes -- variance procedure -- appeals.**

14 (1) The ~~board~~ department may establish minimum requirements for the treatment of wastes. For cases in which
15 the federal government has adopted technology-based treatment requirements for a particular industry or
16 activity in 40 CFR, chapter I, subchapter N, the ~~board~~ department shall adopt those requirements by reference.
17 To the extent that the federal government has not adopted minimum treatment requirements for a particular
18 industry or activity, the ~~board~~ department may do so, through rulemaking, for parameters likely to affect
19 beneficial uses, ensuring that the requirements are cost-effective and economically, environmentally, and
20 technologically feasible. Except for the technology-based treatment requirements set forth in 40 CFR, chapter I,
21 subchapter N, minimum treatment may not be required to address the discharge of a parameter when the
22 discharge is considered nonsignificant under rules adopted pursuant to 75-5-301.

23 (2) (a) The ~~board~~ department shall establish minimum requirements for the control and disposal of
24 sewage from private and public buildings, including standards and procedures for variances from the
25 requirements.

26 (b) For gray water reuse systems, the ~~board~~ department shall establish rules that:

27 (i) allow the diversion of gray water from wastewater treatment systems and limit the amount of gray
28 water flow allowed by permit;

1 (ii) address the uses of gray water, including when and how gray water may be applied to land; and

2 (iii) include any other provisions that the ~~board~~-department considers necessary to ensure that gray
3 water reuse systems comply with laws and regulations and protect public health and the environment.

4 (3) An applicant for a variance from minimum requirements adopted by a local board of health
5 pursuant to 50-2-116 may appeal the local board of health's final decision to the department by submitting a
6 written request for a hearing within 30 days after the decision. The written request must describe the activity for
7 which the variance is requested, include copies of all documents submitted to the local board of health in
8 support of the variance, and specify the reasons for the appeal of the local board of health's final decision.

9 (4) The department shall conduct a hearing on the request pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.
10 Within 30 days after the hearing, the department shall grant, conditionally grant, or deny the variance. The
11 department shall base its decision on the ~~board's~~-department's standards for a variance.

12 (5) A decision of the department pursuant to subsection (4) is appealable to district court under the
13 provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, part 7."
14

15 **Section 39.** Section 75-5-307, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"75-5-307. Hearings required for classification, formulation of standards, and rulemaking.** (1)
17 Before streams are classified or standards established or modified or rules made, revoked, or modified, the
18 ~~board~~-department shall hold a public hearing. Notice of the hearing specifying the waters concerned and the
19 classification, standards, or modification of them and any rules proposed to be made, revoked, or modified ~~shall~~
20 must be published at least once a week for 3 consecutive weeks in a daily newspaper of general circulation in
21 the area affected. Notice ~~shall also~~-must be mailed directly to persons the ~~board~~-department believes may be
22 affected by the proposed action. The council ~~shall~~-must be given not less than 30 days prior to first publication
23 to comment on the proposed action.

24 (2) At a hearing held under this section, the ~~board~~-department shall give all interested persons
25 reasonable opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing. The ~~board~~-department may
26 make rules for the orderly conduct of the hearing but need not require compliance with the rules of evidence or
27 procedure applicable to hearings held under 75-5-611."
28

1 **Section 40.** Section 75-5-308, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"75-5-308. Short-term water authorizations -- water quality standards.** (1) Because these
3 activities promote the public interest, the department may, if necessary, authorize short-term exemptions from
4 the water quality standards for the following activities:

5 (a) emergency remediation activities that have been approved, authorized, or required by the
6 department; and

7 (b) application of a pesticide that is registered by the United States environmental protection agency
8 pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 136(a) when it is used to control nuisance aquatic organisms or to eliminate undesirable
9 and nonnative aquatic species.

10 (2) An authorization must include conditions that minimize, to the extent practicable, the magnitude of
11 any change in the concentration of the parameters affected by the activity and the length of time during which
12 any change may occur. The authorization must also include conditions that prevent significant risk to public
13 health and that ensure that existing and designated uses of state water are protected and maintained upon
14 completion of the activity. Authorizations issued under this section may include conditions that require water
15 quality or quantity monitoring and reporting. In the performance of its responsibilities under this section, the
16 department may negotiate operating agreements with other departments of state government that are intended
17 to minimize duplication in review of activities eligible for authorizations under this section.

18 (3) An authorization to use a pesticide does not relieve a person from the duty to comply with Title 80,
19 chapters 8 and 15. The department may not authorize an exemption from water quality standards for an activity
20 that requires a discharge permit under rules adopted ~~by the board~~ pursuant to 75-5-401."

21

22 **Section 41.** Section 75-5-310, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"75-5-310. Site-specific standards of water quality for aquatic life.** (1) Notwithstanding any other
24 provisions of this chapter and except as provided in subsection (2), the ~~board~~ department, upon application by
25 a permit applicant, permittee, or person potentially liable under any state or federal environmental remediation
26 statute, shall adopt site-specific standards of water quality for aquatic life, both acute and chronic, as the
27 standards of water quality required under 75-5-301(2) and (3). The site-specific standards of water quality must
28 be developed in accordance with the procedures set forth in draft or final federal regulations, guidelines, or

1 criteria.

2 (2) If the department, based upon its review of an application submitted under subsection (1) and
 3 sound scientific, technical, and available site-specific evidence, determines that the development of site-specific
 4 criteria in accordance with draft or final federal regulations, guidelines, or criteria would not be protective of
 5 beneficial uses, the department, within 90 days of the submission of an application under subsection (1), shall
 6 notify the applicant in writing of its determination and of all additional procedures that the applicant is required
 7 to comply with in the development of site-specific standards of water quality under this section. If there is a
 8 dispute between the department and the applicant as to the additional procedures, the ~~board-department~~ BOARD
 9 shall, on the request of the department or the applicant, hear and determine the dispute. The ~~board's~~
 10 ~~department's~~ BOARD'S decision must be based on sound scientific, technical, and available site-specific
 11 evidence."

12

13 **Section 42.** Section 75-5-311, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"75-5-311. Local water quality districts -- ~~board-department~~ approval -- local water quality**
 15 **programs.** (1) A county that establishes a local water quality district according to the procedures specified in
 16 Title 7, chapter 13, part 45, shall, in consultation with the department, undertake planning and information-
 17 gathering activities necessary to develop a proposed local water quality program.

18 (2) A county may implement a local water quality program in a local water quality district if the
 19 program is approved by the ~~board-department~~ after a hearing conducted under 75-5-202.

20 (3) In approving a local water quality program, the ~~board-department~~ shall determine that the program
 21 is consistent with the purposes and requirements of Title 75, chapter 5, and that the program will be effective in
 22 protecting, preserving, and improving the quality of surface water and ground water, considering the
 23 administrative organization, staff, and financial and other resources available to implement the program.

24 (4) Subject to ~~the board's~~ ~~department~~ approval, the commissioners and the governing bodies of cities
 25 and towns that participate in a local water quality district may adopt local ordinances to regulate the following
 26 specific facilities and sources of pollution:

27 (a) onsite wastewater disposal facilities;

28 (b) storm water runoff from paved surfaces;

1 (c) service connections between buildings and publicly owned sewer mains;

2 (d) facilities that use or store halogenated and nonhalogenated solvents, including hazardous
3 substances that are referenced in 40 CFR 261.31, United States environmental protection agency hazardous
4 waste numbers F001 through F005, as amended; and

5 (e) internal combustion engine lubricants.

6 (5) (a) For the facilities and sources of pollution included in subsection (4) and consistent with the
7 provisions of subsection (6), the local ordinances may:

8 (i) be compatible with or more stringent or more extensive than the requirements imposed by 75-5-
9 304, 75-5-305, and 75-5-401 through 75-5-404 and rules adopted under those sections to protect water quality,
10 establish waste discharge permit requirements, and establish best management practices for substances that
11 have the potential to pollute state waters;

12 (ii) provide for administrative procedures, administrative orders and actions, and civil enforcement
13 actions that are consistent with 75-5-601 through 75-5-604, 75-5-611 through 75-5-616, 75-5-621, and 75-5-
14 622 and rules adopted under those sections; and

15 (iii) provide for civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000 per violation, provided that each day of violation of
16 a local ordinance constitutes a separate violation, and criminal penalties not to exceed \$500 per day of violation
17 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

18 (b) ~~Board~~ Department approval of an ordinance or local law that is more stringent than the
19 comparable state law is subject to the provisions of 75-5-203.

20 (6) The local ordinances authorized by this section may not:

21 (a) duplicate the department's requirements and procedures relating to permitting of waste discharge
22 sources and enforcement of water quality standards;

23 (b) regulate any facility or source of pollution to the extent that the facility or source is:

24 (i) required to obtain a permit or other approval from the department or federal government or is the
25 subject of an administrative order, a consent decree, or an enforcement action pursuant to Title 75, chapter 5,
26 part 4; Title 75, chapter 6; Title 75, chapter 10; the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response,
27 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601 through 9675, as amended; or federal environmental,
28 safety, or health statutes and regulations;

1 (ii) exempted from obtaining a permit or other approval from the department because the facility or
2 source is required to obtain a permit or other approval from another state agency or is the subject of an
3 enforcement action by another state agency; or

4 (iii) subject to the provisions of Title 80, chapter 8 or chapter 15.

5 (7) If the boundaries of a district are changed after the ~~board~~ department has approved the local
6 water quality program for the district, the board of directors of the local water quality district shall submit a
7 program amendment to the ~~board~~ department and obtain ~~the board's~~ department approval of the program
8 amendment before implementing the local water quality program in areas that have been added to the district.

9 (8) The department shall monitor the implementation of local water quality programs to ensure that
10 the programs are adequate to protect, preserve, and improve the quality of the surface water and ground water
11 and are being administered in a manner consistent with the purposes and requirements of Title 75, chapter 5. ~~If~~
12 ~~the department finds that a local water quality program is not adequate to protect, preserve, and improve the~~
13 ~~quality of the surface water and ground water or is not being administered in a manner consistent with the~~
14 ~~purposes and requirements of Title 75, chapter 5, the department shall report to the board.~~

15 (9) If the ~~board~~ department determines that a local water quality program is inadequate to protect,
16 preserve, and improve the quality of the surface water and ground water in the local water quality district or that
17 the program is being administered in a manner inconsistent with Title 75, chapter 5, the ~~board~~ department shall
18 give notice and conduct a hearing on the matter.

19 (10) If after the hearing the ~~board~~ department determines that the program is inadequate to protect,
20 preserve, and improve the quality of the surface water and ground water in the local water quality district or that
21 it is not being administered in a manner consistent with the purposes of Title 75, chapter 5, the ~~board~~
22 department shall require that necessary corrective measures be taken within a reasonable time, not to exceed
23 60 days.

24 (11) If an ordinance adopted under this section conflicts with a requirement imposed by the
25 department's water quality program, the department's requirement supersedes the local ordinance.

26 (12) If the ~~board~~ department finds that, because of the complexity or magnitude of a particular water
27 pollution source, the control of the source is beyond the reasonable capability of a local water quality district or
28 may be more efficiently and economically performed at the state level, the ~~board may direct the department to~~

1 may assume and retain control over the source. A charge may not be assessed against the local water quality
 2 district for that source. Findings made under this subsection may be based on the nature of the source involved
 3 or on the source's relationship to the size of the community in which it is located."
 4

5 **Section 43.** Section 75-5-312, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"75-5-312. Temporary water quality standards.** (1) The ~~board~~department may, ~~upon~~
 7 ~~recommendation of the department~~on its own accord or upon a petition for rulemaking, as provided in 2-4-315,
 8 by a person, including a permit applicant or permittee, temporarily modify a water quality standard for a specific
 9 water body or segment on a parameter-by-parameter basis in those instances in which substantive information
 10 indicates that the water body or segment is not supporting its designated uses. When the ~~board~~department
 11 adopts temporary standards, the goal is to improve water quality to the point at which all the beneficial uses
 12 designated for that water body or segment are supported.

13 (2) As a condition for establishing temporary water quality standards for a particular water body or
 14 segment, the department or the petitioner, as applicable, shall prepare a support document and a preliminary
 15 implementation plan for use by the ~~board~~department in determining whether to adopt the proposed temporary
 16 water quality standards. A person shall submit a support document and a preliminary implementation plan to
 17 the department for its review at least 60 days prior to filing a petition with the ~~board~~department requesting the
 18 adoption of temporary water quality standards.

19 (3) The support document prepared by the department or the petitioner, as applicable, must describe:

- 20 (a) the chemical, biological, and physical condition of the water body or segment;
 21 (b) the specific water quality limiting factors affecting the water body or segment;
 22 (c) the existing water quality standards that are not being achieved;
 23 (d) the temporary modifications to the existing water quality standards being requested;
 24 (e) existing beneficial uses; and
 25 (f) the designated uses considered attainable in the absence of the water quality limiting factors.

26 (4) The preliminary implementation plan prepared by the department or the petitioner, as applicable,
 27 must contain:

- 28 (a) a description of the proposed actions that will eliminate the water quality limiting factors identified

1 in subsection (3)(b) to the extent considered achievable; and

2 (b) a schedule for implementing the proposed actions that ensures that the existing water quality
3 standards for the parameter or parameters at issue are met as soon as reasonably practicable.

4 (5) Within 30 days after the ~~board's~~ department's adoption of temporary water quality standards, the
5 department or the petitioner, as applicable, shall:

6 (a) modify the preliminary implementation plan and schedule to reflect the requirements and
7 timeframe adopted by the ~~board~~ department for the temporary standards; and

8 (b) develop a detailed work plan describing the implementation activities that will be conducted during
9 the first field season of the temporary standards. The work plan must be approved by the director of the
10 department.

11 (6) By March 1 of each year that the temporary water quality standards are in effect, the department
12 or the petitioner, as applicable, shall submit a detailed work plan describing the implementation activities that
13 will be conducted during that season. The annual work plans must be approved by the director of the
14 department. The department shall maintain copies of the implementation plan, schedule, and annual work plans
15 and any modifications to those plans and schedule.

16 (7) Upon the ~~board's~~ department's adoption of a temporary water quality standard, the department
17 shall ensure that reasonable conditions and limitations designed to achieve compliance with the implementation
18 plan are established in appropriate discharge permits.

19 (8) (a) A temporary modification of a water quality standard may not result in adverse impacts to
20 existing beneficial uses or be established for a total period longer than 20 years.

21 (b) During the period of the temporary modification, the ~~board~~ department may not allow a discharge
22 that will cause overall water quality to become worse than the overall quality of the water body or segment prior
23 to the discharge.

24 (9) If a state water is designated as having temporary standards, the department shall report ~~to the~~
25 ~~board~~ at least every 3 years ~~or upon request of the board~~ regarding whether adequate efforts have been made
26 to implement the plans submitted as the basis for the temporary standards.

27 (10) The ~~board~~ department shall review the temporary standards and implementation plan at least
28 every 3 years at a public hearing for which notice and an opportunity for comment have been provided. During

1 this review, the ~~board~~department shall consider the progress made in restoring water quality to a level that
 2 achieves the goal of the temporary water quality standards. The ~~board~~department may terminate or modify the
 3 temporary standards based on information submitted at the time of review.

4 (11) The ~~board~~department shall terminate a temporary standard for a parameter if:

5 (a) values for the modified parameter or parameters improve to conditions that support all designated
 6 uses for that classification;

7 (b) the state water for which the temporary standard is adopted is reclassified as provided for in 75-5-
 8 302; or

9 (c) the plan submitted in support of the temporary water quality standard is not being implemented
 10 according to the plan's schedule or modifications to that plan or schedule made by the ~~board~~or department.

11 (12) The ~~board or the~~ department may modify the implementation plan if there is convincing evidence
 12 that the plan needs modification.

13 (13) If a temporary standard for a parameter in a particular state water is terminated because the plan
 14 submitted in support of the temporary water quality standard is not being implemented according to the plan's
 15 schedule or modifications to that schedule made by the ~~board~~or department, a person may request a new
 16 temporary standard by submitting both a petition for rulemaking and an implementation plan that meet the
 17 requirements of subsection (4). However, the ~~board~~department may not adopt another temporary standard for
 18 the parameter in the state water that would cumulatively be in effect for a total period longer than 20 years for
 19 the parameter in the state water."
 20

21 **Section 44.** Section 75-5-313, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-5-313. Nutrient standards variances -- individual, general, and alternative.** (1) The
 23 department shall, on a case-by-case basis, approve the use of an individual nutrient standards variance in a
 24 discharge permit based upon adequate justification pursuant to subsection (2) that attainment of the base
 25 numeric nutrient standards is precluded due to economic impacts, limits of technology, or both.

26 (2) (a) The department, in consultation with the nutrient work group, shall develop guidelines for
 27 individual nutrient standards variances to ensure that the economic impacts from base numeric nutrient
 28 standards on public and private systems are equally and adequately addressed. In developing those guidelines,

1 the department and the nutrient work group shall consider economic impacts appropriate for application within
2 Montana, acknowledging that advanced treatment technologies for removing nutrients will result in significant
3 and widespread economic impacts.

4 (b) The department shall consult with the nutrient work group prior to recommending base numeric
5 nutrient standards ~~to the board~~ and shall continue to consult with the nutrient work group in implementing
6 individual nutrient standards variances.

7 (3) The department shall review each application for an individual nutrient standards variance on a
8 case-by-case basis to determine if there are reasonable alternatives, such as trading, permit compliance
9 schedules, or the alternatives provided in subsections (5), (10), and (11), that preclude the need for the
10 individual nutrient standards variance.

11 (4) Individual nutrient standards variances approved by the department become effective and may be
12 incorporated into a permit only after a public hearing and adoption by the department under the rulemaking
13 procedures of Title 2, chapter 4, part 3.

14 (5) (a) Because the treatment of wastewater to base numeric nutrient standards would result in
15 substantial and widespread economic impacts on a statewide basis, a permittee who meets the requirements
16 established in subsection (5)(b) may, subject to subsection (6), apply for a general nutrient standards variance.

17 (b) The department shall approve the use of a general nutrient standards variance for permittees with
18 wastewater treatment facilities that discharge to surface water:

19 (i) in an amount greater than or equal to 1 million gallons per day of effluent if the permittee treats the
20 discharge to, at a minimum, 1 milligram total phosphorus per liter and 10 milligrams total nitrogen per liter,
21 calculated as a monthly average during the period in which the base numeric nutrient standards apply;

22 (ii) in an amount less than 1 million gallons per day of effluent if the permittee treats the discharge to,
23 at a minimum, 2 milligrams total phosphorus per liter and 15 milligrams total nitrogen per liter, calculated as a
24 monthly average during the period in which the base numeric nutrient standards apply; or

25 (iii) from lagoons that were not designed to actively remove nutrients if the permittee maintains the
26 performance of the lagoon at a level equal to the performance of the lagoon on October 1, 2011.

27 (6) (a) The monthly average concentrations for total nitrogen and total phosphorus in subsection
28 (5)(b) are the highest concentrations allowed in each category and remain in effect until May 31, 2016.

1 (b) Categories and concentrations in subsection (5)(b) must be adopted by rule by May 31, 2016.

2 (7) (a) Immediately after May 31, 2016, and every 3 years thereafter, the department, in consultation
3 with the nutrient work group, shall revisit and update the concentration levels provided in subsection (5)(b).

4 (b) If more cost-effective and efficient treatment technologies are available, the concentration levels
5 provided in subsection (5)(b) must be updated pursuant to subsection (7)(c) to reflect those changes.

6 (c) The updates become effective and may be incorporated into a permit only after a public hearing
7 and adoption by the department under the rulemaking procedures of Title 2, chapter 4, part 3.

8 (8) An individual, general, or alternative nutrient standards variance may be established for a period
9 not to exceed 20 years and must be reviewed by the department every 3 years from the date of adoption to
10 ensure that the justification for its adoption remains valid.

11 (9) (a) Permittees receiving an individual, general, or alternative nutrient standards variance shall
12 evaluate current facility operations to optimize nutrient reduction with existing infrastructure and shall analyze
13 cost-effective methods of reducing nutrient loading, including but not limited to nutrient trading without
14 substantial investment in new infrastructure.

15 (b) The department may request that a permittee provide the results of an optimization study and
16 nutrient reduction analysis to the department within 2 years of receiving an individual, general, or alternative
17 nutrient variance.

18 (10) (a) A permittee may request that the department provide an alternative nutrient standards
19 variance if the permittee demonstrates that achieving nutrient concentrations established for an individual or
20 general nutrient standards variance would result in an insignificant reduction of instream nutrient loading.

21 (b) A permittee receiving an alternative nutrient standards variance shall comply with the
22 requirements of subsections (8) and (9) and shall demonstrate that the permittee's contribution to nutrient
23 concentrations in the watershed continues to remain insignificant.

24 (11) The department shall encourage the use of alternative effluent management methods to reduce
25 instream nutrient loading, including reuse, recharge, land application, and trading.

26 (12) On or before July 1 of each year, the department, in consultation with the nutrient work group,
27 shall report to the water policy committee established in 5-5-231 by providing a summary of the status of the
28 base numeric nutrient standards, the nutrient standards variances, and the implementation of those standards

1 and variances, including estimated economic impacts.

2 (13) On or before September 1 of each year preceding the convening of a regular session of the
3 legislature, the department, in consultation with the nutrient work group, shall summarize the two most recent
4 reports provided under subsection (12) and submit to the water policy committee established in 5-5-231 this
5 final summary in accordance with 5-11-210."

6

7 **Section 62.** Section 75-5-314, MCA, is amended to read:

8 ~~"75-5-314. Confidentiality of base numeric standards and nutrient standards variances. (1)~~

9 ~~Except as provided in 80-15-108 and subsection (2) of this section, information concerning base numeric~~
10 ~~nutrient standards or nutrient standards variances that is furnished to the board or department or that is~~
11 ~~obtained by either of them the department is a matter of public record and open to public use.~~

12 ~~(2) Information unique to the owner or operator of a source of a discharge related to base numeric~~
13 ~~nutrient standards or nutrient standards variances that would, if disclosed, reveal methods or processes entitled~~
14 ~~to protection as trade secrets as defined in 30-14-402 must be maintained as confidential if so determined by a~~
15 ~~court of competent jurisdiction.~~

16 ~~(3) (a) The owner or operator shall file a declaratory judgment action to establish the existence of a~~
17 ~~trade secret if the owner or operator wishes the information to remain confidential.~~

18 ~~(b) The department must be served in the action and may intervene as a party.~~

19 ~~(c) Information not intended to be public when submitted to the board or department must be~~
20 ~~submitted in writing and clearly marked as confidential."~~

21

22 **Section 45.** Section 75-5-315, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"75-5-315. Outstanding resource waters -- statement of purpose.** (1) The legislature,
24 understanding the requirements of applicable federal law and the uniqueness of Montana's water resource,
25 recognizes that certain state waters are of such environmental, ecological, or economic value that the state
26 should, upon a showing of necessity, prohibit, to the greatest extent practicable, changes to the existing water
27 quality of those waters. Outstanding resource waters must be afforded the greatest protection feasible under
28 state law, after thorough examination.

1 (2) The purpose of 75-5-316 and this section is to provide this protection, when necessary, and to
 2 provide guidance to the ~~board~~department in establishing rules to accomplish that level of protection."

3

4 **Section 46.** Section 75-5-316, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"75-5-316. Outstanding resource water classification -- rules -- criteria -- limitations --**
 6 **procedure -- definition.** (1) As provided under the provisions of 75-5-301 and this section, the ~~board~~
 7 department may adopt rules regarding the classification of waters as outstanding resource waters.

8 (2) The department may not:

9 (a) grant an authorization to degrade under 75-5-303 in outstanding resource waters; or

10 (b) allow a new or increased point source discharge that would result in a permanent change in the
 11 water quality of an outstanding resource water.

12 (3) (a) A person may petition the ~~board~~department for rulemaking to classify state waters as
 13 outstanding resource waters. The ~~board~~department shall initially review a petition against the criteria identified
 14 in subsection (3)(c) to determine whether the petition contains sufficient credible information for the ~~board~~
 15 department to accept the petition.

16 (b) The ~~board~~department may reject a petition without further review if it determines that the petition
 17 does not contain the sufficient credible information required by subsection (3)(a). If the ~~board~~department
 18 rejects a petition under this subsection (3)(b), it shall specify in writing the reasons for the rejection and the
 19 petition's deficiencies.

20 (c) The ~~board~~department may not adopt a rule classifying state waters as outstanding resource
 21 waters until it accepts a petition and makes a written finding containing the provisions enumerated in subsection
 22 (3)(d) that, based on a preponderance of the evidence:

23 (i) the waters identified in the petition constitute an outstanding resource based on the criteria
 24 provided in subsection (4);

25 (ii) the increased protection under the classification is necessary to protect the outstanding resource
 26 identified under subsection (3)(a) because of a finding that the outstanding resource is at risk of having one or
 27 more of the criteria provided in subsection (4) compromised as a result of pollution; and

28 (iii) classification as an outstanding resource water is necessary because of a finding that there is no

1 other effective process available that will achieve the necessary protection.

2 (d) The written finding provided for in subsection (3)(c) must:

3 (i) identify the criteria provided in subsection (4) that ~~the board believes serve~~serve as justification for
4 the determination that the water is an outstanding resource;

5 (ii) specifically identify the criteria that are at risk and explain why those criteria are at risk; and

6 (iii) specifically explain why other available processes, including the requirements of 75-5-303, will not
7 achieve the necessary protection.

8 (4) The ~~board~~department shall consider the following criteria in determining whether certain state
9 waters are outstanding resource waters. However, the ~~board~~department may determine that compliance with
10 one or more of these criteria is insufficient to warrant classification of the water as an outstanding resource
11 water. The ~~board~~department shall consider:

12 (a) whether the waters have been designated as wild and scenic;

13 (b) the presence of endangered or threatened species in the waters;

14 (c) the presence of an outstanding recreational fishery in the waters;

15 (d) whether the waters provide the only source of suitable water for a municipality or industry;

16 (e) whether the waters provide the only source of suitable water for domestic water supply; and

17 (f) other factors that indicate outstanding environmental or economic values not specifically

18 mentioned in this subsection (4).

19 (5) Before accepting a petition, the ~~board~~department shall:

20 (a) publish a notice and brief description of the petition in a daily newspaper of general circulation in
21 the area affected and make copies of the proposal available to the public. The cost of publication must be paid
22 by the petitioner.

23 (b) provide for a 30-day written public comment period regarding whether the petition contains
24 sufficient credible information, as provided in subsection (3)(b), prior to the hearing required in subsection
25 (5)(c);

26 (c) hold a public hearing regarding the petition and its contents and allow further written and oral
27 testimony at the hearing;

28 (d) issue a proposed decision, including:

- 1 (i) the written finding provided for in subsection (3)(c); and
- 2 (ii) the ~~board's~~ department's acceptance or rejection of the petition;
- 3 (e) provide for a 30-day public comment period regarding the ~~board's~~ department's proposed
- 4 decision; and
- 5 (f) issue a final decision on acceptance or rejection of the petition, which must include a response to
- 6 comments ~~that were~~ received by the ~~board,~~ department, and make copies of this decision available to the
- 7 public.
- 8 (6) (a) After acceptance of a petition, the ~~board shall direct the~~ department ~~to~~ shall prepare an
- 9 environmental impact statement, as provided under Title 75, chapter 1, part 2, and this section.
- 10 (b) (i) The petitioner is responsible for all of the costs associated with gathering and compiling data
- 11 and information, and completing the environmental impact statement.
- 12 (ii) Before the department may initiate work on the environmental impact statement, the petitioner shall
- 13 pay the estimated cost of completing the environmental impact statement, as determined by the department.
- 14 (iii) Upon completion of the environmental impact statement, the petitioner shall pay the department
- 15 any costs that exceeded the estimated cost. If the cost of the environmental impact statement was less than the
- 16 estimated cost paid by the petitioner, the department shall reimburse the difference to the petitioner.
- 17 (iv) The ~~board~~ department may not grant or deny a petition until full payment for the environmental
- 18 impact statement ~~has been~~ is received by the department.
- 19 (7) The ~~board~~ department shall consult with other relevant state agencies and county governments
- 20 when reviewing outstanding resource water classification petitions.
- 21 (8) (a) After completion of an environmental impact statement and consultation with state agencies
- 22 and local governments, the ~~board~~ department may deny an accepted outstanding resource water classification
- 23 petition if it finds that:
- 24 (i) the requirements of subsection (3)(c) have not been met; or
- 25 (ii) based on information available to the ~~board~~ department from the environmental impact statement or
- 26 otherwise, approving the outstanding resource waters classification petition would cause significant adverse
- 27 environmental, social, or economic impacts.
- 28 (b) If the ~~board~~ department denies the petition, it shall identify its reasons for petition denial.

1 (c) If the ~~board~~department grants the petition, the ~~board~~department shall initiate rulemaking to
2 classify the waters as outstanding resource waters.

3 (9) A rule classifying state waters as outstanding resource waters under this section may be adopted
4 but is not effective until approved by the legislature.

5 (10) The ~~board~~department may not postpone or deny an application for an authorization to degrade
6 state waters under 75-5-303 based on pending:

7 (a) ~~board~~department action on an outstanding resource water classification petition regarding those
8 waters; or

9 (b) legislative approval of ~~board~~department action designating those waters as outstanding resource
10 waters.

11 (11) As used in this section, "petitioner" means an individual, corporation, partnership, firm,
12 association, or other private or public entity that petitions the ~~board~~department to adopt rules to classify waters
13 as outstanding resource waters."
14

15 **Section 47.** Section 75-5-318, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"75-5-318. Short-term water quality standards for turbidity.** (1) Upon authorization by the
17 department or the department of fish, wildlife, and parks pursuant to subsection (4), the short-term water quality
18 standards for total suspended sediment and turbidity resulting from stream-related construction activities or
19 stream enhancement projects are the narrative standards for total suspended sediment adopted by the ~~board~~
20 department under 75-5-301. If a short-term narrative standard is authorized under this section, the numeric
21 standard for turbidity adopted by the ~~board~~department under 75-5-301 does not apply to the affected water
22 body during the term of the narrative standard.

23 (2) The department shall review each application for short-term standards on a case-by-case basis to
24 determine whether there are reasonable alternatives that preclude the need for a narrative standard. If the
25 department determines that the numeric standard for turbidity adopted ~~by the board~~ under 75-5-301 cannot be
26 achieved during the term of the activity and that there are no reasonable alternatives to achieve the numeric
27 standard, the department may authorize the use of a narrative standard for a specified term.

28 (3) Each authorization issued by the department must include conditions that minimize, to the extent

1 practicable, the magnitude of any change in water quality and the length of time during which any change may
 2 occur. The authorization must also include site-specific conditions that ensure that the activity is not harmful,
 3 detrimental, or injurious to public health and the uses of state waters and that ensure that existing and
 4 designated beneficial uses of state water are protected and maintained upon completion of the activity. The
 5 department may not authorize short-term narrative standards for activities requiring a discharge permit under
 6 rules adopted by the board pursuant to 75-5-401. Authorizations issued under this section may include
 7 conditions that require water quality or quantity monitoring and reporting.

8 (4) In the performance of its responsibilities under this section, the department may negotiate
 9 operating agreements with other departments of state government that are intended to minimize duplication in
 10 review of activities eligible for authorizations under this section. The department of fish, wildlife, and parks may,
 11 in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and (3), authorize short-term water quality standards for total
 12 suspended sediment and turbidity for any stream construction project that it reviews under Title 75, chapter 7,
 13 part 1, or Title 87, chapter 5, part 5."
 14

15 **Section 48.** Section 75-5-401, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"75-5-401. (Temporary) Board rules Rules for permits -- ground water exclusions.** (1) Except as
 17 provided in subsection (5), the ~~board~~department shall adopt rules:

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

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

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

26 (ii) the water discharged does not cause the receiving waters to exceed applicable standards for any
 27 parameters; and

28 (iii) to the extent that the receiving waters in their ambient state exceed standards for any parameters,

1 the discharge does not increase the concentration of the parameters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (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
9 82, chapter 4, part 3; or

10 (k) projects reviewed under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter
11 20.

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

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

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

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

24 **75-5-401. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) ~~Board rules~~ Rules for permits -- ground**
25 **water exclusions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5), the ~~board~~department shall adopt rules:

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

1 (b) governing the issuance, denial, modification, or revocation of permits. The ~~board~~department may
2 not require a permit for a water conveyance structure or for a natural spring if the water discharged to state
3 waters does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes. Discharge to surface water of ground water
4 that is not altered from its ambient quality does not constitute a discharge requiring a permit under this part if:

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

6 (ii) the water discharged does not cause the receiving waters to exceed applicable standards for any
7 parameters; and

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

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

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

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

25 (4) The ~~board~~department may adopt rules governing reclamation of sites disturbed by construction,
26 modification, or operation of permitted activities for which a bond is voluntarily filed by a permittee pursuant to
27 75-5-405, including rules for the establishment of criteria and procedures governing release of the bond or other
28 surety and release of portions of a bond or other surety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (f) agricultural irrigation facilities;

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

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

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

15 (j) mining operations subject to operating permits or exploration licenses in compliance with The Strip
16 and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, or the metal mine reclamation laws, Title
17 82, chapter 4, part 3;

18 (k) projects reviewed under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter
19 20; or

20 (l) a carbon dioxide injection well for which a permit has been issued pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11,
21 part 1.

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

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

28 (8) The ~~board~~ department may adopt rules identifying other activities or operations from which a

1 discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters is not subject to the ground
2 water permit requirements adopted under subsections (1) through (4).

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

6

7 **Section 49.** Section 75-5-402, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"75-5-402. Duties of department.** The department shall:

9 (1) issue, suspend, revoke, modify, or deny permits to discharge sewage, industrial wastes, or other
10 wastes into state waters, consistently with rules made by the ~~board~~ department;

11 (2) examine plans and other information needed to determine whether a permit should be issued or
12 suggest changes in plans as a condition to the issuance of a permit;

13 (3) clearly specify in any permit any limitations imposed as to the volume, strength, and other
14 significant characteristics of the waste to be discharged; and

15 (4) establish as conditions to the issuance of permits for which a performance bond or other surety is
16 filed under 75-5-405 certain reclamation requirements sufficient to prevent pollution of state waters during and
17 after operation of the project or activity for which a permit is issued."

18

19 **Section 68.** Section 75-5-403, MCA, is amended to read:

20 ~~"75-5-403. Denial or modification of permit -- time for review of permit application. (1) The~~
21 ~~department shall review for completeness all applications for new permits within 60 days of the receipt of the~~
22 ~~initial application and within 30 days of receipt of responses to notices of deficiencies. The initial completeness~~
23 ~~notice must note all major deficiency issues, based on the information submitted. The department and the~~
24 ~~applicant may extend these timeframes, by mutual agreement, by not more than 75 days. An application is~~
25 ~~considered complete unless the applicant is notified of a deficiency within the appropriate review period.~~

26 (2) ~~If the department denies an application for a permit or modifies a permit, the department shall~~
27 ~~give written notice of its action to the applicant or holder and the applicant or holder may request a hearing~~
28 ~~before the board~~ department, in the manner stated in 75-5-611, for the purpose of petitioning the board

1 ~~department~~ to reverse or modify the action of the department. The hearing must be held within 30 days after
 2 receipt of written request. After the hearing, the board ~~department~~ shall affirm, modify, or reverse the action of
 3 the department. If the holder does not request a hearing before the board, modification of a permit is effective 30
 4 days after receipt of notice by the holder unless the department specifies a later date. If the holder does request
 5 a hearing before the board, an order modifying the permit is not effective until 20 days after receipt of notice of
 6 the action of the board ~~department~~."

7

8 **Section 69.** Section 75-5-404, MCA, is amended to read:

9 ~~"75-5-404. **Suspension or revocation of permit -- procedure.** If the department suspends or~~
 10 ~~revokes a permit because it has reason to believe that the holder has violated this chapter, the department may~~
 11 ~~specify that the suspension or revocation is effective immediately if the department finds that the violation is~~
 12 ~~likely to continue and will cause pollution, the harmful effects of which will not be remedied immediately on the~~
 13 ~~cessation of the violation. Upon petition by the holder of the permit, the board ~~department~~ shall grant the holder~~
 14 ~~a hearing, to be conducted in the manner specified in 75-5-611, and shall issue an order affirming, modifying, or~~
 15 ~~reversing the action of the department. The order of the board shall be is effective immediately unless the board~~
 16 ~~department directs otherwise."~~

17

18 **Section 50.** Section 75-5-502, MCA, is amended to read:

19 ~~"75-5-502. **Board-Department authorized to accept loans and grants.** The board-department may~~
 20 ~~accept loans and grants from the federal government and other sources to carry out the provisions of this~~
 21 ~~chapter."~~

22

23 **Section 51.** Section 75-5-514, MCA, is amended to read:

24 ~~"75-5-514. **When board-department to establish rates and collect charges.** (1) In the event a~~
 25 ~~municipality or other entity operating sewage systems fails, neglects, or refuses when required by the~~
 26 ~~department to adopt the system of charges and rates authorized by 75-5-511, the board-department may adopt~~
 27 ~~a system of charges and rates as provided for in 75-5-511(1) and collect, administer, and apply such revenues~~
 28 ~~for the purposes of 75-5-512.~~

1 (2) In lieu of proceeding in the manner set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the department may
 2 institute proceedings at law or in equity to enforce compliance with or restrain violations of 75-5-511 through 75-
 3 5-513."
 4

5 **Section 52.** Section 75-5-515, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"75-5-515. Determination of costs payable by users.** In determining the amount of treatment works
 7 costs to be paid by recipients of treatment works services, the municipality or other entity operating sewage
 8 systems or, if applicable, the ~~board~~department shall consider the strength, volume, types, and delivery flow
 9 rate characteristics of the waste; the nature, location, and type of treatment works; the receiving waters; and
 10 ~~such other factors as deemed necessary.~~"
 11

12 **Section 53.** Section 75-5-516, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"75-5-516. Fees authorized for recovery -- process -- rulemaking.** (1) Except as provided in
 14 subsections (12) and (13), the ~~board~~department shall by rule prescribe fees ~~to be assessed by the department~~
 15 ~~that are~~ sufficient to cover the ~~board's and~~ department's documented costs, both direct and indirect, of:

16 (a) reviewing and acting upon an application for a permit, permit modification, permit renewal,
 17 certificate, license, or other authorization required by rule under 75-5-201 or 75-5-401;

18 (b) reviewing and acting upon a petition for a degradation allowance under 75-5-303;

19 (c) reviewing and acting upon an application for a permit, certificate, license, or other authorization for
 20 which an exclusion is provided by rule from the permitting requirements established under 75-5-401;

21 (d) enforcing the terms and conditions of a permit or authorization identified in subsections (1)(a)
 22 through (1)(c). If the permit or authorization is not issued, the department shall return this portion of any
 23 application fee to the applicant.

24 (e) conducting compliance inspections and monitoring effluent and ambient water quality; and

25 (f) preparing water quality rules or guidance documents.

26 (2) Except as provided in subsection (12), the rules promulgated ~~by the board~~ under this section must
 27 include:

28 (a) a fee on all applications for permits or authorizations, as identified in subsections (1)(a) through

1 (1)(c), that recovers to the extent permitted by this subsection (2) the department's cost of reviewing and acting
2 upon the applications. This fee may not be more than \$5,000 per discharge point for an application addressed
3 under subsection (1), except that an application with multiple discharge points may be assessed a lower fee for
4 those points according to ~~board~~-rule.

5 (b) an annual fee to be assessed according to the volume and concentration of waste discharged into
6 state waters. The annual fee may not be more than \$3,000 per million gallons discharged per day on an annual
7 average for any activity under permit or authorization, as described in subsection (1), except that:

8 (i) a permit or authorization with multiple discharge points may be assessed a lower fee for those
9 points according to ~~board~~-rule; and

10 (ii) a facility that consistently discharges effluent at less than or equal to one-half of its effluent
11 limitations and that is in compliance with other permit requirements, using the previous calendar year's
12 discharge data, is entitled to a 25% reduction in its annual permit fee. Proportionate reductions of up to 25% of
13 the permit fee may be given to facilities that consistently discharge effluent at levels between 50% and 100% of
14 their effluent limitations. However, a new permittee is not eligible for a fee reduction in its first year of operation,
15 and a permittee with a violation of any effluent limit during the previous calendar year is not eligible for a fee
16 reduction for the following year.

17 (3) To the extent permitted under subsection (2)(b), the annual fee must be sufficient to pay the
18 department's estimated cost of conducting all tasks described under subsection (1) after subtracting:

19 (a) the fees collected under subsection (2)(a);

20 (b) state general fund appropriations for functions administered under this chapter; and

21 (c) federal grants for functions administered under this chapter.

22 (4) For purposes of subsection (3), the department's estimated cost of conducting the tasks described
23 under subsection (1) is the amount authorized by the legislature for the department's water quality discharge
24 permit programs.

25 (5) If the applicant or holder fails to pay a fee assessed under this section or rules adopted under this
26 section within 90 days after the date established by rule for fee payment, the department may:

27 (a) impose an additional assessment consisting of not more than 20% of the fee plus interest on the
28 required fee computed as provided in 15-1-216; or

1 (b) suspend the permit or exclusion. The department may lift the suspension at any time up to 1 year
2 after the suspension occurs if the holder has paid all outstanding fees, including all penalties, assessments, and
3 interest imposed under subsection (5)(a).

4 (6) Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in an account in the special revenue
5 fund type pursuant to 75-5-517.

6 (7) The department shall give written notice to each person assessed a fee under this section of the
7 amount of fee that is assessed and the basis for the department's calculation of the fee. This notice must be
8 issued at least 30 days prior to the due date for payment of the assessment.

9 (8) A holder of or an applicant for a permit, certificate, or license may appeal the department's fee
10 assessment to the ~~board~~ ~~department~~ BOARD within 20 days after receiving written notice of the ~~department's~~ fee
11 determination under subsection (7). The appeal ~~to the board~~ must include a written statement detailing the
12 reasons that the permit holder or applicant considers the department's fee assessment to be erroneous or
13 excessive.

14 (9) If part of the department's fee assessment is not in dispute in an appeal filed under subsection (8),
15 the undisputed portion of the fee must be paid to the department upon written request of the department.

16 (10) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title
17 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the ~~board~~ ~~department~~ BOARD under this section.

18 (11) A municipality may raise rates to cover costs associated with the fees prescribed in this section for
19 a public sewer system without the hearing required in 69-7-111.

20 (12) (a) The application fee assessed pursuant to this section for a suction dredge, as described in 82-
21 4-310(2), may not be more than:

22 (i) \$25 if it is owned and operated by a resident of this state; or

23 (ii) \$100 if it is owned and operated by a nonresident of this state.

24 (b) The annual fee assessed pursuant to this section for a suction dredge, as described in 82-4-
25 310(2), may not be more than:

26 (i) \$25 if it is owned and operated by a resident of this state; or

27 (ii) \$100 if it is owned and operated by a nonresident of this state.

28 (13) A county, an incorporated city or town, or a conservation district formed pursuant to Title 76,

1 chapter 15, is not subject to fees for authorizations pursuant to 75-5-318 or certifications related to section 401
2 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341."

3

4 **Section 74.** Section 75-5-611, MCA, is amended to read:

5 ~~"75-5-611. Violation of chapter -- administrative actions and penalties -- notice and hearing. (1)~~

6 ~~When the department has reason to believe that a violation of this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, or~~
7 ~~a condition of a permit or authorization required by a rule adopted under this chapter has occurred, it may have~~
8 ~~a written notice letter served personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The~~
9 ~~notice letter must state:~~

10 ~~(a) the provision of statute, rule, permit, or approval alleged to be violated;~~

11 ~~(b) the facts alleged to constitute the violation;~~

12 ~~(c) the specific nature of corrective action that the department requires;~~

13 ~~(d) as applicable, the amount of the administrative penalty that will be assessed by order under~~
14 ~~subsection (2) if the corrective action is not taken within the time provided under subsection (1)(e); and~~

15 ~~(e) as applicable, the time within which the corrective action is to be taken or the administrative~~
16 ~~penalty will be assessed. For the purposes of this chapter, service by certified mail is complete on the date of~~
17 ~~receipt. Except as provided in subsection (2)(a)(ii), an administrative penalty may not be assessed until the~~
18 ~~provisions of subsection (1) have been complied with.~~

19 ~~(2) (a) The department may issue an administrative notice and order in lieu of the notice letter~~
20 ~~provided under subsection (1) if the department's action:~~

21 ~~(i) does not involve assessment of an administrative penalty; or~~

22 ~~(ii) seeks an administrative penalty only for an activity that it believes and alleges has violated or is~~
23 ~~violating 75-5-605.~~

24 ~~(b) A notice and order issued under this section must meet all of the requirements specified in~~
25 ~~subsection (1).~~

26 ~~(3) In a notice and order given under subsection (1), the department may require the alleged violator~~
27 ~~to appear before the board for a public hearing and to answer the charges. The hearing must be held no sooner~~
28 ~~than 15 days after service of the notice and order, except that the board department may set an earlier date for~~

1 hearing if it is requested to do so by the alleged violator. The board department may set a later date for hearing
2 at the request of the alleged violator if the alleged violator shows good cause for delay.

3 (4) ~~If the department does not require an alleged violator to appear before the board for a public
4 hearing, the alleged violator may request the board department to conduct the hearing. The request must be in
5 writing and must be filed with the department no later than 30 days after service of a notice and order under
6 subsection (2). If a request is filed, a hearing must be held within a reasonable time. If a hearing is not
7 requested within 30 days after service upon the alleged violator, the opportunity for a contested case appeal to
8 the board department under Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, is waived.~~

9 (5) ~~If a contested case hearing is held under this section, it must be public and must be held in the
10 county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred or in Lewis and Clark County.~~

11 (6) (a) ~~After a hearing, the board department shall make findings and conclusions that explain its
12 decision.~~

13 (b) ~~If the board department determines that a violation has occurred, it shall also issue an appropriate
14 order for the prevention, abatement, or control of pollution, the assessment of administrative penalties, or both.~~

15 (c) ~~If the order requires abatement or control of pollution, the board department shall state the date or
16 dates by which a violation must cease and may prescribe timetables for necessary action in preventing,
17 abating, or controlling the pollution.~~

18 (d) ~~If the order requires payment of an administrative penalty, the board department shall explain
19 how it determined the amount of the administrative penalty.~~

20 (e) ~~If the board department determines that a violation has not occurred, it shall declare the
21 department's notice void.~~

22 (7) ~~The alleged violator may petition the board department for a rehearing on the basis of new
23 evidence, which petition the board department may grant for good cause shown.~~

24 (8) ~~Instead of issuing an order, the board may direct the department to may initiate appropriate action
25 for recovery of a penalty under 75-5-631, 75-5-632, 75-5-633, or 75-5-635.~~

26 (9) (a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (9)(d), an action initiated under this section may include an
27 administrative penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each day of each violation; however, the maximum penalty
28 may not exceed \$100,000 for any related series of violations.~~

1 ~~(b) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the general fund.~~

2 ~~(c) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed to a person, the department and board shall~~
3 ~~consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001, rules promulgated under 75-5-201, and subsection (9)(d).~~

4 ~~(d) A person who commits a violation that adversely affects the department's administration of this~~
5 ~~chapter, a rule adopted pursuant to this chapter, or a condition of a permit or authorization issued under this~~
6 ~~chapter but does not harm or have the potential to harm human health, the environment, or the department's~~
7 ~~ability to protect human health or the environment may not be assessed a penalty of more than \$500 for each~~
8 ~~day of the violation, not to exceed \$5,000 for all days of the same violation.~~

9 ~~(e) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title~~
10 ~~2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section."~~

11
12 **Section 75.** Section 75-5-614, MCA, is amended to read:

13 ~~"75-5-614. Injunctions authorized. (1) Except as provided in 81-9-240, the department is authorized~~
14 ~~to commence a civil action seeking appropriate relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, for a~~
15 ~~violation that would be subject to a compliance order under 75-5-613. An action under this subsection may be~~
16 ~~commenced in the district court of the county where a violation occurs or is threatened, and the court has~~
17 ~~jurisdiction to restrain the violation and to require compliance.~~

18 ~~(2) Except as provided in 81-9-240, the department may bring an action for an injunction against the~~
19 ~~continuation of an alleged violation of the terms or conditions of a permit issued by the department or any rule~~
20 ~~or effluent standard promulgated under this chapter or against a person who fails to comply with an emergency~~
21 ~~order issued by the department under 75-5-621 or a final order of the board department. The court to which the~~
22 ~~department applies for an injunction may issue a temporary injunction if it finds that there is reasonable cause~~
23 ~~to believe that the allegations of the department are true, and it may issue a temporary restraining order~~
24 ~~pending action on the temporary injunction."~~

25
26 **Section 76.** Section 75-5-621, MCA, is amended to read:

27 ~~"75-5-621. Emergencies. (1) Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, if the department finds~~
28 ~~that a person is committing or is about to commit an act in violation of this chapter or an order or rule issued~~

1 under this chapter that, if it occurs or continues, will cause substantial pollution the harmful effects of which will
 2 not be remedied immediately after the commission or cessation of the act, the department may order the
 3 person to stop, avoid, or moderate the act so that the substantial injury will not occur. The order is effective
 4 immediately upon receipt by the person to whom it is directed, unless the department provides otherwise.

5 (2) ~~Notice of the order must conform to the requirements of 75-5-611(1) so far as practicable. The~~
 6 ~~notice must indicate that the order is an emergency order.~~

7 (3) ~~Upon issuing an order, the department shall fix a place and time for a hearing before the board,~~
 8 ~~not later than 5 days after issuing the order unless the person to whom the order is directed requests a later~~
 9 ~~time. The department may deny a request for a later time if it finds that the person to whom the order is directed~~
 10 ~~is not complying with the order. The hearing must be conducted in the manner specified in 75-5-611. As soon~~
 11 ~~as practicable after the hearing, the board department shall affirm, modify, or set aside the order of the~~
 12 ~~department. The order of the board must be accompanied by the information required in 75-5-611(6). An action~~
 13 ~~for review of the order of the board may be initiated in the manner specified in 75-5-641. Except as provided in~~
 14 ~~81-9-240, the initiation of an action or taking of an appeal may not stay the effectiveness of the order unless the~~
 15 ~~court finds that the board department did not have reasonable cause to issue an order under this section."~~

16

17 **Section 77.** Section 75-5-641, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"75-5-641. Appeals from board DEPARTMENT orders -- review by district court.** (1) An appeal of an
 19 order of the board department must be in the district court of the county in which the alleged source of pollution
 20 is located.

21 (2) A person interested in the order may intervene, in the manner provided by the rules of civil
 22 procedure, if the person shows good cause. An intervenor is a party for the purposes of this chapter.

23 (3) ~~The attorney general shall represent the board department if requested, or the department may~~
 24 ~~appoint special counsel for the proceedings, subject to the approval of the attorney general.~~

25 (4) ~~Except as provided in 81-9-240, the initiation of an action for review or the taking of an appeal~~
 26 ~~does not stay the effectiveness of an order of the board unless the court finds that there is probable cause to~~
 27 ~~believe:~~

28 (a) ~~that refusal to grant a stay will cause serious harm to the affected party; and~~

1 (b) ~~that a violation found by the board department will not continue or, if it does continue, the harmful~~
2 ~~effects on state waters will be remedied immediately on the cessation of the violation.~~

3 (5) ~~If a court does not stay the effectiveness of an order of the board, it may enforce compliance with~~
4 ~~that order by issuing a temporary restraining order or an injunction at the request of the board department.~~"

5

6 **Section 78.** Section 75-5-702, MCA, is amended to read:

7 ~~"75-5-702. **Monitoring -- water quality assessment listing -- costs payable by department --**~~

8 ~~**statewide advisory group.** (1) The department shall monitor state waters to assess the quality of those waters~~
9 ~~and to identify surface water bodies or segments of surface water bodies that are threatened or impaired. The~~
10 ~~department shall use the monitoring results to revise the list of water bodies that are identified as threatened or~~
11 ~~impaired and to establish a priority ranking for TMDL development for those waters in accordance with~~
12 ~~subsections (4) and (7).~~

13 (2) ~~In revising the list prepared pursuant to this section, the department shall use all currently~~
14 ~~available data, including information or data obtained from federal, state, and local agencies, private entities, or~~
15 ~~individuals with an interest in water quality protection. Except as provided in subsection (6), the department~~
16 ~~may modify the list only if there is sufficient credible data to support the modification. Prior to publishing a final~~
17 ~~list, the department shall provide public notice and allow 60 days for public comment on the draft list. The~~
18 ~~department shall make available for public review, upon request, documentation used in the determination to~~
19 ~~list or delist a particular water body, including, at a minimum, a description of the information, data, and~~
20 ~~methodology used. The department may charge a reasonable fee for the documentation, commensurate with~~
21 ~~the cost of providing the documentation to the requestor.~~

22 (3) ~~A person may request that the department add or remove a water body or reprioritize a water~~
23 ~~body on a draft or published list by providing the data or information necessary to support the request. The~~
24 ~~department shall review the data within 60 days from its submittal. If the department determines that there is~~
25 ~~sufficient credible data to grant the request, the department shall provide public notice of its intended action and~~
26 ~~allow 60 days for public comment prior to taking action on the request. A person aggrieved by the department's~~
27 ~~decision to grant or deny the request may appeal the department's decision to the board department.~~

28 (4) ~~The department shall, in consultation with local conservation districts and watershed advisory~~

1 groups pursuant to 75-5-704, review and revise the list and priority rankings of water bodies identified as
2 threatened or impaired. The department shall review and revise the list at intervals not to exceed 5 years. The
3 department shall make available for public review the data and information used in making any changes in its
4 list of threatened or impaired water bodies that is developed and maintained pursuant to this section.

5 ~~(5) By October 1, 1999, and in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group established~~
6 ~~pursuant to subsection (10), the department shall develop and maintain a data management system that can be~~
7 ~~used to assess the validity and reliability of the data used in the listing and priority ranking process. The~~
8 ~~department shall make available to the public, upon request, data from its data management system. The~~
9 ~~department may charge a reasonable fee for the data, commensurate with its cost of providing the data to the~~
10 ~~requestor.~~

11 ~~(6) By October 1, 1999, and in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, the department~~
12 ~~shall use the data management system developed and maintained pursuant to subsection (5) to revise the list~~
13 ~~and to remove any water body that lacks sufficient credible data to support its listing. If the department removes~~
14 ~~a water body because there is a lack of sufficient credible data to support its listing, the department shall~~
15 ~~monitor and assess that water body during the next field season or as soon as possible thereafter to determine~~
16 ~~whether it is a threatened water body or an impaired water body.~~

17 ~~(7) Except as provided in subsection (9), in prioritizing water bodies for TMDL development, the~~
18 ~~department shall, in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, take into consideration the following:~~

19 ~~(a) the beneficial uses established for a water body;~~

20 ~~(b) the extent that natural factors over which humans have no control are contributing to any~~
21 ~~impairment;~~

22 ~~(c) the impacts to human health and aquatic life;~~

23 ~~(d) the degree of public interest and support;~~

24 ~~(e) the character of the pollutant and the severity and magnitude of water quality standard~~
25 ~~noncompliance;~~

26 ~~(f) whether the water body is an important high-quality resource in an early stage of degradation;~~

27 ~~(g) the size of the water body not achieving standards;~~

28 ~~(h) immediate programmatic needs, such as waste load allocations for new permits or permit~~

1 renewals and load allocations for new nonpoint sources;

2 (i) ~~court orders and decisions relating to water quality;~~

3 (j) ~~state policies and priorities, including the protection and restoration of native fish when appropriate;~~

4 (k) ~~the availability of technology and resources to correct the problems;~~

5 (l) ~~whether actions or voluntary programs that are likely to correct the impairment of a particular water~~
6 ~~body are currently in place; and~~

7 (m) ~~the recreational, economic, and aesthetic importance of a particular water body.~~

8 (8) ~~Except as provided in subsection (9), the department shall, in consultation with the statewide~~
9 ~~TMDL advisory group, develop a method of rating water bodies according to the criteria and considerations~~
10 ~~described in subsection (7) in order to rank the listed water bodies as high priority, moderate priority, or low~~
11 ~~priority for TMDL development. The department may not rank a water body as a high priority under this section~~
12 ~~without first validating the data necessary to support the ranking.~~

13 (9) (a) ~~When the department receives an application for a new individual permit to discharge into a~~
14 ~~surface water body or a segment of a surface water body pursuant to 75-5-401, the surface water body or~~
15 ~~segment of a surface water body has been listed pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the discharge would~~
16 ~~contain a pollutant for which the water body or segment is threatened or impaired, and a TMDL has not been~~
17 ~~developed for that water body or segment, the department shall:~~

18 (i) ~~within 30 days of the department's receipt of the application, initiate the development of a TMDL on~~
19 ~~the water body or segment; and~~

20 (ii) ~~except as provided in subsection (9)(b), within 180 days of the department's receipt of the~~
21 ~~application, complete development of the TMDL pursuant to 75-5-703.~~

22 (b) ~~If the department is not able to complete development of the TMDL in accordance with subsection~~
23 ~~(9)(a)(ii), the department shall, within 30 days of the department's receipt of the application, specify in writing to~~
24 ~~the applicant why the department is not able to complete development of a TMDL in accordance with~~
25 ~~subsection (9)(a)(ii). The department and the applicant shall make reasonable efforts to mutually agree in~~
26 ~~writing to a timeframe in which the department shall complete development of the TMDL. If the department~~
27 ~~specifies a lack of resources as a reason why the department cannot complete development of the TMDL in~~
28 ~~accordance with subsection (9)(a)(ii), the department shall clearly explain in its written specification what~~

1 ~~resources are not available, why those resources are not available, and when those resources will be available.~~

2 ~~(c) If the department and the applicant cannot mutually agree to a timeframe in accordance with~~
3 ~~subsection (9)(b), the department shall, within 60 days of the department's receipt of the application, specify in~~
4 ~~writing to the applicant the timeframe in which the TMDL will be completed by the department and the reasons~~
5 ~~why that timeframe is appropriate. If the department specifies a lack of resources as a reason why the~~
6 ~~department's timeframe is appropriate, the department may request the applicant provide funding for the~~
7 ~~development of the TMDL in order to accelerate the completion of the TMDL.~~

8 ~~(d) The applicant may, within 15 days of the department's written specification provided in~~
9 ~~accordance with subsection (9)(c), request in writing a hearing before the board department for the purpose of~~
10 ~~petitioning the board to reverse or modify the department's decision. The contested case provisions of the~~
11 ~~Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the board under this~~
12 ~~subsection. If the parties to the contested case waive a formal proceeding pursuant to 2-4-603, the informal~~
13 ~~proceeding must be conducted within 30 days after the board's receipt of the written request. After the hearing~~
14 ~~and in a reasonable time, the board department shall affirm, modify, or reverse the its action of the department,~~
15 ~~and the board shall make findings and conclusions that explain its decision. Pending the board's decision, the~~
16 ~~department shall develop the TMDL in accordance with the timeframe specified in subsection (9)(a)(ii).~~

17 ~~(e) The department may not declare an application incomplete or deficient because a TMDL has not~~
18 ~~been prepared.~~

19 ~~(f) If on April 27, 2015, an application for a new individual permit to discharge into a surface water~~
20 ~~body or a segment of a surface water body pursuant to 75-5-401 is pending, the surface water body or segment~~
21 ~~of a surface water body has been listed pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the discharge would contain~~
22 ~~a pollutant for which the water body or segment is threatened or impaired, and a TMDL has not been developed~~
23 ~~for the water body or segment, the department shall, except as provided in subsection (9)(g), complete a TMDL~~
24 ~~for the water body or segment within 180 days of April 27, 2015.~~

25 ~~(g) If the department is not able to complete development of the TMDL within 180 days of April 27,~~
26 ~~2015, pursuant to subsection (9)(f), then the timeframes established in accordance with subsections (9)(b),~~
27 ~~(9)(c), and (9)(d) apply to the application, but the timeframes are measured from April 27, 2015, not from the~~
28 ~~date the department receives an application.~~

1 ~~(10) (a) The department shall establish a statewide TMDL advisory group to serve in the~~
 2 ~~consultation capacity set forth in 75-5-703, 75-5-704, and this section. Fourteen members, and any replacement~~
 3 ~~members that may be necessary, must be appointed by the director, based upon one nomination from each of~~
 4 ~~the following interests:~~

5 ~~(i) livestock-oriented agriculture;~~

6 ~~(ii) farming-oriented agriculture;~~

7 ~~(iii) conservation or environmental interests;~~

8 ~~(iv) water-based recreationists;~~

9 ~~(v) the forestry industry;~~

10 ~~(vi) municipalities;~~

11 ~~(vii) point source dischargers;~~

12 ~~(viii) mining;~~

13 ~~(ix) federal land management agencies;~~

14 ~~(x) state trust land management agencies;~~

15 ~~(xi) supervisors of soil and water conservation districts for counties east of the continental divide;~~

16 ~~(xii) supervisors of soil and water conservation districts for counties west of the continental divide;~~

17 ~~(xiii) the hydroelectric industry; and~~

18 ~~(xiv) fishing-related businesses.~~

19 ~~(b) If the director receives more than one nomination from a particular interest, the director shall notify~~
 20 ~~the respective nominators and request that they agree on one nominee.~~

21 ~~(11) The department shall provide public notice of meetings of the statewide TMDL advisory group and~~
 22 ~~shall solicit, document, and consider public comments provided during the deliberations of the advisory group."~~

23
 24 **Section 54.** Section 75-5-802, MCA, is amended to read:

25 "**75-5-802. Permitting -- concentrated animal feeding operation.** (1) For the purpose of permitting
 26 concentrated animal feeding operations, the ~~board~~department shall adopt, by reference, the federal regulations
 27 and definitions contained in 40 CFR, parts 122.23 and 412.

28 (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), concentrated animal feeding operations that meet the

1 requirements of 40 CFR, part 412, must be authorized by the department under a general permit.

2 (3) If, upon review of an application for a general permit authorization for a concentrated animal
3 feeding operation production area, the department discovers site-specific information that indicates that a
4 general permit authorization is not sufficiently protective of water quality, the department shall require an
5 individual permit."

6

7 **Section 80.** Section 75-6-102, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"75-6-102. — Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
9 following definitions apply:

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

11 (2)(1) ~~"Certified source water protection area" means an area certified by the department that
12 identifies the surface and subsurface area surrounding a source of water for a public water supply system
13 through which contaminants may move toward and reach the source of supply.~~

14 (3)(2) ~~"Community water system" means a public water supply system that serves at least 15 service
15 connections used by year-round residents or that regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.~~

16 (4)(3) ~~"Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial waste, or
17 other waste creating a hazard to human health.~~

18 (5)(4) ~~"Cross-connection" means a connection between a public water supply system and another
19 water supply system, either public or private, or a wastewater or sewerline or other potential source of
20 contamination so that a flow of water into or contamination of the public water supply system from the other
21 source of water or contamination is possible.~~

22 (6)(5) ~~"Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3504.~~

23 (7)(6) ~~"Drainage" means rainfall, surface, and subsoil water.~~

24 (8)(7) ~~"Industrial waste" means any waste substance from the processes of business or industry or
25 from the development of a natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.~~

26 (9)(8) ~~"Maximum contaminant level" means the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water
27 that is delivered to a user of a public water supply system.~~

28 (10)(9) ~~"Other waste" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, lime,~~

1 sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or discarded
2 equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

3 ~~(11)(10)~~ "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town,
4 local government entity, federal agency, or any other governmental or private entity, whether organized for
5 profit or not.

6 ~~(12)(11)~~ (a) "Pollution" means contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological
7 properties of state waters that exceeds that which is permitted by Montana water quality standards, including
8 but not limited to standards relating to change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor or the discharge or
9 introduction of a liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substance into state water that will or is likely to
10 create a nuisance or render the waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to public health, recreation, safety, or
11 welfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other wildlife.

12 ~~(b)~~ A discharge that is authorized under the pollution discharge permit rules of the board department is
13 not pollution under this chapter.

14 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Public sewage system" means a system of collection, transportation, treatment, or disposal of
15 sewage that serves 15 or more families or 25 or more persons daily for any 60 or more days in a calendar year.

16 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Public water supply system" means a system for the provision of water for human
17 consumption from a community well, water hauler for cisterns, water bottling plant, water dispenser, or other
18 water supply that has at least 15 service connections or that regularly serves at least 25 persons daily for any
19 60 or more days in a calendar year.

20 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Reclaimed wastewater" means wastewater that is treated by a public sewage system for
21 reuse for private, public, or commercial purposes.

22 ~~(16)(15)~~ "Safe Drinking Water Act" means 42 U.S.C. 300f and regulations set forth in 40 CFR, parts
23 141 and 142.

24 ~~(17)(16)~~ "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, institutions,
25 or other buildings, including discharge from human beings, together with ground water infiltration and surface
26 water present.

27 ~~(18)(17)~~ "Source water protection program" means a program administered by the department to
28 certify source water protection delineation and assessment reports and source water protection plans and to

1 ~~review source water protection ordinances.~~

2 ~~(19)(18) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or~~
 3 ~~underground.~~

4 ~~(20)(19) "Transient noncommunity water system" means a public water supply system that is not a~~
 5 ~~community water system and that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons for at least 6~~
 6 ~~months a year."~~

7

8 **Section 55.** Section 75-6-104, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"75-6-104. Duties of department.** (1) The department has general supervision over all state waters
 10 that are directly or indirectly being used by a person for a public water supply system, for domestic purposes, or
 11 as a source of ice.

12 (2) The department shall, subject to the provisions of 75-6-116 and as provided in 75-6-131, adopt
 13 rules and standards concerning:

14 (a) maximum contaminant levels for waters that are or will be used for a public water supply system;

15 (b) fees, as described in 75-6-108, for services rendered by the department;

16 (c) monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting by persons who own or operate public water supply
 17 systems;

18 (d) requiring public notice to all users of a public water supply system when a person has been
 19 granted a variance or exemption or is in violation of this part or a rule or order issued pursuant to this part;

20 (e) the siting, construction, operation, and modification of a public water supply system or public
 21 sewage system, including requirements to remedy:

22 (i) defects in the design, operation, or maintenance of a public water supply system or public sewage
 23 system in order to prevent or correct introduction of contamination into water used for a public water supply
 24 system, for domestic purposes, or as a source of ice;

25 (ii) fecal contamination in water used by a public water supply system; or

26 (iii) failure or malfunction of the sources, treatment, storage, or distribution portion of a public water
 27 supply system in order to prevent or correct introduction of contamination into water used for a public water
 28 supply system, for domestic purposes, or as a source of ice;

1 (f) the review of the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of a proposed public water supply
2 system or public sewage system, as necessary to ensure the capability of the system to meet the requirements
3 of this part;

4 (g) the collection and analysis of samples of water used for drinking or domestic purposes;

5 (h) the issuance of variances and exemptions as authorized by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act
6 and this part;

7 (i) administrative enforcement procedures and administrative penalties authorized under this part;

8 (j) standards and requirements for the review and approval of programs that may be voluntarily
9 submitted by suppliers of public water supply systems to prevent water supply contamination from a cross-
10 connection, including provisions to exempt cross-connections from the standards and requirements if all
11 connected systems are department-approved public water supply systems;

12 (k) (i) allowable uses of reclaimed wastewater and classification of those uses;

13 (ii) treatment, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting standards and requirements tailored to each
14 classification that must be met by the public sewage system to protect the uses of the reclaimed wastewater
15 and any receiving water;

16 (iii) prohibition of reclaimed wastewater uses that are not allowable under subsection (2)(k)(i) or for
17 which the reclaimed wastewater has not been treated in compliance with rules adopted under subsection
18 (2)(k)(ii); and

19 (iv) a requirement that an applicant who proposes to use reclaimed wastewater pursuant to this
20 subsection (2)(k) has obtained any necessary authorizations required under Title 85 from the department of
21 natural resources and conservation; and

22 (l) any other requirement necessary for the protection of public health as described in this part.

23 (3) Department rules must provide for the following:

24 (a) except as provided in 75-6-131, a water supply or water distribution facility reviewed and approved
25 by the department is not subject to changes in department design and construction criteria for a period of 36
26 months after written approval of the facility is issued by the department;

27 (b) except for facilities subject to permit requirements under Title 75, chapter 5, part 4, and except as
28 provided under rules adopted pursuant to 75-6-131, a system of water supply, drainage, wastewater, or sewage

1 reviewed and approved under this section is not subject to changes in department design or construction
2 criteria for a period of 36 months after written approval is issued by the department;

3 (c) plans and specifications for a portion of a facility or system subject to a 36-month limit on criteria
4 changes pursuant to subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) but not constructed within the 36-month timeframe must be
5 resubmitted for department review and approval before construction of that portion of the facility;

6 (d) the provisions of this subsection (3) may not limit an applicant's ability to alter a proposed project
7 that is otherwise in conformance with applicable laws, rules, standards, and criteria.

8 (4) The department OR THE BOARD may issue orders necessary to fully implement the provisions of
9 this part.

10 (5) The department shall:

11 (1)(a) upon its own initiative or complaint to the department, to the mayor or health officer of a
12 municipality, or to the managing board or officer of a public institution, make an investigation of alleged pollution
13 of a water supply system and, if required, prohibit the continuance of the pollution by ordering removal of the
14 cause of pollution;

15 (2)(b) have waters examined to determine their quality and the possibility that they may endanger
16 public health;

17 (3)(c) consult and advise authorities of cities and towns and persons having or about to construct
18 systems for water supply, drainage, wastewater, and sewage as to the most appropriate source of water supply
19 and the best method of ensuring its quality;

20 (4)(d) advise persons as to the best method of treating and disposing of their drainage, sewage, or
21 wastewater with reference to the existing and future needs of other persons and to prevent pollution;

22 (5)(e) consult with persons engaged in or intending to engage in manufacturing or other business
23 whose drainage or sewage may tend to pollute waters as to the best method of preventing pollution;

24 (6)(f) collect fees, as described in 75-6-108, for services and deposit the fees collected in the public
25 drinking water special revenue fund established in 75-6-115;

26 (7)(g) establish and maintain experiment stations and conduct experiments to study the best methods
27 of treating water, drainage, wastewater, and sewage to prevent pollution, including investigation of methods
28 used in other states;

1 ~~(8)~~(h) enter on premises at reasonable times to determine sources of pollution or danger to water
 2 supply systems and whether rules and standards of the ~~board~~ department are being obeyed;
 3 ~~(9)~~(i) enforce and administer the provisions of this part;
 4 ~~(10)~~(j) establish a plan for the provision of safe drinking water under emergency circumstances;
 5 ~~(11)~~(k) maintain an inventory of public water supply systems and establish a program for conducting
 6 sanitary surveys; and
 7 ~~(12)~~(l) enter into agreements with local boards of health whenever appropriate for the performance of
 8 surveys and inspections under the provisions of this part."

9

10 **Section 56.** Section 75-6-105, MCA, is amended to read:

11 "**75-6-105. Records required for wells drilled to supply water to public.** Every person drilling a
 12 water well to furnish water for public consumption shall keep a complete record of the depth, thickness, and
 13 character of different strata and other information prescribed by the ~~board~~ department. Data ~~shall~~ must be
 14 furnished to the department on forms prescribed by it. These data are available to the public at all reasonable
 15 times."

16

17 **Section 57.** Section 75-6-106, MCA, is amended to read:

18 "**75-6-106. Laboratory license required.** A laboratory analysis of water taken from a public water
 19 supply system or any report of an analysis required by this part or a rule adopted under this part may not be
 20 accepted by the department ~~or board~~ unless the analysis or report is made by the department of public health
 21 and human services' laboratory or by a laboratory licensed by the department of public health and human
 22 services for water analysis purposes."

23

24 **Section 58.** Section 75-6-107, MCA, is amended to read:

25 "**75-6-107. Variances and exemptions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the department
 26 may grant a variance or exemption from the requirements of this part or the rules adopted under this part
 27 pursuant to the terms and conditions of the variance and exemption rules adopted by the ~~board~~ department.

28 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a variance or exemption granted pursuant to this section

1 must be accompanied by a compliance plan specifying a time schedule for compliance.

2 (3) The department may grant for a period of up to 5 years a variance or exemption for a public water
3 system to use bottled water to achieve compliance with a maximum contaminant level for nitrate. The variance
4 or exemption must include the requirement that the owner of the public water system warn the public that the
5 tap water is not potable and could pose a health risk if consumed by:

6 (a) posting signs at locations required by the variance or exemption for the period granted by the
7 variance or exemption; and

8 (b) delivering annual notices as required by the variance or exemption to users of the public water
9 system.

10 (4) A person aggrieved by a decision of the department to grant, deny, revoke, or modify a variance
11 or exemption may appeal the department's decision to the ~~board~~ department ~~BOARD~~ as provided in the Montana
12 Administrative Procedure Act."

13

14 **Section 59.** Section 75-6-108, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"75-6-108. ~~Board~~ Department to prescribe fees -- opportunity for appeal.** (1) The ~~board~~
16 department shall by rule prescribe fees to be assessed annually by the ~~department~~ on owners of public water
17 supply systems to recover department costs in providing services under this part. The annual fee for a public
18 water supply system is no more than \$2.25 for each service connection to the public water supply system for
19 the biennium beginning July 1, 1991, and ending June 30, 1993, and thereafter is no more than \$2 for each
20 service connection to the public water supply system, although the minimum fee for any system is \$100, except
21 that the fee for a transient noncommunity water system is \$50.

22 (2) Public water supply systems in a municipality may raise the rates to recover costs associated with
23 the fees prescribed in this section without the public hearing required in 69-7-111.

24 (3) The ~~board~~ department shall by rule prescribe fees to be assessed by the ~~department~~ on persons
25 who submit plans and specifications for construction, alteration, or extension of a public water supply system or
26 public sewage system. The fees must be commensurate with the cost to the department of reviewing the plans
27 and specifications.

28 (4) Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in the public drinking water special

1 revenue fund established in 75-6-115.

2 (5) (a) The department shall notify the owner of a public water supply system in writing of the amount
3 of the fee to be assessed and the basis for the assessment. The owner may appeal the fee assessment in
4 writing ~~to the board~~ TO THE BOARD within 20 days after receipt of the written notice.

5 (b) An appeal must be based on the allegation that the fee is erroneous or excessive. An appeal may
6 not be based only on the fee schedule adopted by the ~~board~~ department.

7 (c) If any part of the fee assessment is not appealed, it must be paid to the department upon receipt
8 of the notice provided for in subsection (5)(a)."

9

10 **Section 86.** Section ~~75-6-109~~, MCA, is amended to read:

11 ~~"75-6-109. Administrative enforcement. (1) If the department believes that a violation of this part, a~~
12 ~~rule adopted under this part, or a condition of approval issued under this part has occurred, it may serve written~~
13 ~~notice of the violation, by certified mail, on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify~~
14 ~~the provision of this part, the rule, or the condition of approval alleged to have been violated and the facts~~
15 ~~alleged to constitute a violation. The notice must include an order to take necessary corrective action within a~~
16 ~~reasonable period of time. The time period must be stated in the order. Service by mail is complete on the date~~
17 ~~of filing.~~

18 ~~(2) If the alleged violator does not request a hearing before the board within 30 days of the date of~~
19 ~~service, the order becomes final. Failure to comply with a final order may subject the violator to an action~~
20 ~~commenced pursuant to 75-6-104, 75-6-113, or 75-6-114.~~

21 ~~(3) If the alleged violator requests a hearing before the board within 30 days of the date of service,~~
22 ~~the board department shall schedule a hearing. After the hearing is held, the board department may:~~

23 ~~(a) affirm or modify the department's order issued under subsection (1) if the board department finds~~
24 ~~that a violation has occurred; or~~

25 ~~(b) rescind the department's order if the board department finds that a violation has not occurred.~~

26 ~~(4) An order issued by the department or the board may set a date by which the violation must cease~~
27 ~~and set a time limit for action to correct a violation.~~

28 ~~(5) As an alternative to issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may:~~

1 ~~(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board for a hearing, at a time and place specified~~
2 ~~in the notice, to answer the charges complained of; or~~

3 ~~(b) initiate an action under 75-6-111(2), 75-6-113, or 75-6-114.~~

4 ~~(6) (a) An action initiated under this part may include an administrative penalty not to exceed:~~

5 ~~(i) \$1,000 for each day of a violation pertaining to a public water system, other than a water hauler or~~
6 ~~a water bottling plant, that serves a population of more than 10,000; and~~

7 ~~(ii) \$500 for each day of violation for other violations.~~

8 ~~(b) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.~~

9 ~~(7) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed to a person, the department or the board, as~~
10 ~~appropriate, shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001 and the rules promulgated under 75-6-103(2)(i). 75-~~
11 ~~6-104(2)(i).~~

12 ~~(8) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title~~
13 ~~2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing under 75-6-108 or this section."~~

14

15 **Section 60.** Section 75-6-112, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"75-6-112. Prohibited acts.** A person may not:

17 (1) commence or continue construction, alteration, extension, or operation of a system of water
18 supply or water distribution that is intended to be used as a public water supply system or a system that is
19 intended to be used as a public sewage system before the person submits to the department necessary maps,
20 plans, and specifications for its review and the department approves those maps, plans, and specifications;

21 (2) operate or maintain a public water supply system that exceeds a maximum contaminant level
22 established by the ~~board~~ department unless the person has been granted or has an application pending for a
23 variance or exemption pursuant to this part;

24 (3) violate any provision of this part or a rule adopted under this part; or

25 (4) violate any condition or requirement of an approval issued pursuant to this part."
26

26

27 **Section 88.** Section ~~75-6-113~~, MCA, is amended to read:

28 ~~"75-6-113. Penalty.~~ Any person violating this part or any rule or order of the board or department

1 issued under the provisions of this part shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not
 2 less than \$50 or more than \$500. Each day upon which a violation of this part occurs shall be considered a
 3 separate offense."

4

5 **Section 61.** Section 75-6-116, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"75-6-116. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines.** (1) After
 7 April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless required by state law, the ~~board~~
 8 department may not adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than the comparable federal
 9 regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The ~~board~~ department may incorporate by
 10 reference comparable federal regulations or guidelines.

11 (2) The ~~board~~ department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than
 12 comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if the ~~board~~ department makes a written finding after a public
 13 hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:

14 (a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment of the state;
 15 and

16 (b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or
 17 environment and is achievable under current technology.

18 (3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in
 19 the record that forms the basis for the ~~board's~~ department's conclusion. The written finding must also include
 20 information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable
 21 to the proposed state standard or requirement.

22 (4) (a) A person affected by a rule of the board of environmental review adopted after January 1,
 23 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable federal
 24 regulations or guidelines may petition the ~~board~~ department to review the rule. If the ~~board~~ department
 25 determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines, the ~~board~~
 26 department shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform to the federal regulations or
 27 guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under subsection (2), within a reasonable period of
 28 time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. A petition under this section does not relieve the

1 petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged rule. The ~~board~~department may charge a petition filing fee
2 in an amount not to exceed \$250.

3 (b) A person may also petition the ~~board~~department for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if the
4 ~~board~~ board of environmental review or the department adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which
5 no federal regulations or guidelines existed and the federal government subsequently establishes comparable
6 regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted ~~board~~-rule.

7 (5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking provisions of 2-4-
8 303(1)."

9

10 **Section 62.** Section 75-6-121, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"75-6-121. Delegation of review of small public water and sewer construction.** (1) If a local
12 government requests a delegation and the appropriate division of the local government has established
13 satisfactory review programs, the department may delegate to the division of local government review of:

14 (a) small public water and sewer systems; and

15 (b) extensions or alterations of existing public water and sewer systems that involve 50 or fewer
16 connections.

17 (2) The ~~board~~department may adopt rules regarding the delegation of review authority to divisions of
18 local government."

19

20 **Section 63.** Section 75-6-131, MCA, is amended to read:

21 **"75-6-131. Rules for regional public water supply systems.** The ~~board~~department shall adopt
22 rules for approval of regional public water supply systems established by a regional water authority pursuant to
23 Title 75, chapter 6, part 3. The rules must:

24 (1) include procedures for the construction of regional public water supply systems, including
25 regulatory provisions for a series of project segments over the construction period of the project as contained in
26 the final engineering report, as may be amended and approved by the United States bureau of reclamation, that
27 addresses the:

28 (a) approval of design and construction standards that may not be subject to change for 72 months;

- 1 (b) issuance of deviations from design and construction standards to remain in effect for 72 months;
 2 and
 3 (c) approval of an individual regional water supply system's standard construction contract documents
 4 and provisions for amendments to those documents to remain in effect for the construction period of the project;
 5 (2) implement plan and specification review periods or deviation request approval periods for storage,
 6 pumping, and distribution portions of a regional public water supply system of not more than 40 calendar days
 7 for the initial review by the department and not more than 20 working days for any subsequent reviews;
 8 (3) avoid duplicate processes and regulations by coordinating and incorporating the review and
 9 approval process applicable to a regional public water supply system by the United States bureau of
 10 reclamation."
 11

12 **Section 92.** Section 75-10-103, MCA, is amended to read:

13 ~~"75-10-103. Definitions.~~ Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, in this part, the following
 14 definitions apply:

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

16 (2)(1) ~~"Container site" means a solid waste management facility that:~~

17 (a) ~~is generally open to the public for the collection of solid waste that is generated by more than one~~
 18 ~~household or firm and that is collected in a refuse container with a total capacity of not more than 50 cubic~~
 19 ~~yards; or~~

20 (b) ~~receives waste from waste collection vehicles and:~~

21 (i) ~~receives no more than 3,000 tons of waste each year;~~

22 (ii) ~~has control measures in place, including onsite staffing, to adequately contain solid wastes and~~
 23 ~~blowing litter on the site and to minimize spills and leakage of liquid wastes; and~~

24 (iii) ~~is a site at which a local government unit requires commercial waste haulers to deposit wastes at~~
 25 ~~the site only during hours that the site is staffed.~~

26 (3)(2) ~~"Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

27 (4)(3) ~~"Local government" means a county, incorporated city or town, or solid waste management~~
 28 ~~district organized under the laws of this state.~~

1 ~~(5)(4)~~ "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town,
2 or local governmental entity or any other state, federal, or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

3 ~~(6)(5)~~ "Resource recovery facility" means any facility at which solid waste is processed for the
4 purpose of extracting, converting to energy, or otherwise separating and preparing solid waste for reuse.

5 ~~(7)(6)~~ (a) "Solid waste" means all putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, including but not limited to
6 garbage, rubbish, refuse, ashes, sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or air
7 pollution control facilities; construction and demolition wastes; dead animals, including offal; discarded home
8 and industrial appliances; and wood products or wood byproducts and inert materials.

9 ~~(b)~~ Solid waste does not mean municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes
10 regulated under the mining and reclamation laws administered by the department, slash and forest debris
11 regulated under laws administered by the department of natural resources and conservation, or marketable
12 byproducts.

13 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Solid waste management system" means any system that controls the storage, treatment,
14 recycling, recovery, or disposal of solid waste. For the purposes of this definition, a container site is not a
15 component of a solid waste management system.

16 ~~(9)(8)~~ "State solid waste management and resource recovery plan" means the statewide plan
17 formulated by the department as authorized by this part."

18

19 **Section 64.** Section 75-10-104, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"75-10-104. Duties of department.** The department shall:

21 (1) prepare, adopt, and implement a state solid waste management and resource recovery plan as
22 required by 75-10-111 and 75-10-807;

23 (2) ~~prepare~~ adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this part ~~for submission to the board,~~
24 including but not limited to rules:

25 (a) governing the submission of plans for a solid waste management system;

26 (b) (i) establishing, for the purpose of determining the tonnage or volume-based solid waste
27 management fee that a facility is subject to under 75-10-115(1)(c), methods for determining or estimating the
28 amount of solid waste incinerated or disposed of at a facility; and

- 1 (ii) governing the application fee, flat annual license renewal fee, and tonnage or volume-based
 2 renewal fee for solid waste management systems;
- 3 (c) establishing the license application fee that a facility is subject to under 75-10-115(1)(a);
 4 (d) establishing the flat annual license renewal fee that a facility is subject to under 75-10-115(1)(b);
 5 (e) establishing the tonnage or volume-based annual renewal fee that a facility is subject to under 75-
 6 10-115(1)(c); and
- 7 (f) providing procedures for the quarterly collection of the solid waste management fee provided for in
 8 75-10-204(6);
- 9 (3) provide technical assistance to persons within the state for planning, designing, constructing,
 10 financing, and operating:
- 11 (a) a solid waste management system in order to ensure that the system conforms to the state plan;
 12 (b) integrated waste management programs; and
 13 (c) collection, disposal, reduction, and educational programs for household hazardous waste and
 14 small quantities of hazardous waste that are exempt from regulation under Title 75, chapter 10, part 4;
 15 (4) enforce and administer the provisions of this part;
 16 (5) approve plans for a proposed solid waste management system submitted by a local government;
 17 and
- 18 (6) serve as a clearinghouse for information on waste reduction and reuse, recycling technology and
 19 markets, composting, and household hazardous waste disposal, including chemical compatibility."
 20

21 **Section 65.** Section 75-10-112, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-10-112. Powers and duties of local government.** A local government may:

- 23 (1) plan, develop, and implement a solid waste management system consistent with the state's solid
 24 waste management and resource recovery plan and propose modifications to the state's solid waste
 25 management and resource recovery plan;
- 26 (2) upon adoption of the state plan ~~by the board~~, pass an ordinance or resolution to exempt the local
 27 jurisdiction from complying with the state plan and subsequent rules implementing the state plan. The
 28 ordinance or resolution must include a means to provide solid waste disposal to the citizens of the jurisdiction

1 as required in part 2 of this chapter.

2 (3) employ appropriate personnel to carry out the provisions of this part;

3 (4) purchase, rent, or execute leasing agreements for equipment and material necessary for the
4 implementation of a solid waste management system;

5 (5) cooperate with and enter into agreements with any persons in order to implement an effective
6 solid waste management system;

7 (6) receive gifts, grants, or donations or acquire by gift, deed, or purchase land necessary for the
8 implementation of any provision of this part;

9 (7) enforce the rules of the department or a local board of health pertaining to solid waste
10 management through the appropriate county attorney;

11 (8) apply for and utilize state, federal, or other available money for developing or operating a solid
12 waste management system;

13 (9) borrow from any lending agency funds available for assistance in planning a solid waste
14 management system;

15 (10) finance a solid waste management system by:

16 (a) subject to 15-10-420, fixing the assessment of a tax as authorized by state law; and

17 (b) as provided in 7-13-4108, fixing and collecting by ordinance or resolution the rates, rentals, and
18 charges for a solid waste management system on system customers;

19 (11) sell on an installment sales contract or lease to a person all or a portion of a solid waste
20 management system that the local government plans, designs, or constructs for the consideration and upon the
21 terms established by the local governments and consistent with the loan requirements set forth in this part and
22 rules adopted to implement this part;

23 (12) procure insurance against any loss in connection with property, assets, or activities;

24 (13) mortgage or otherwise encumber all or a portion of a solid waste management system when the
25 local government finds that the action is necessary to implement the purposes of this part, as long as the action
26 is consistent with the loan requirements set forth in this part and rules adopted to implement this part;

27 (14) hold or dispose of real property and, subject to agreements with lessors and lessees, develop or
28 alter the property by making improvements or betterments for the purpose of enhancing the value and

1 usefulness of the property;

2 (15) finance, design, construct, own, and operate a solid waste management system or contract for
3 any or all of the powers authorized under this part;

4 (16) control the disposition of solid waste generated within the jurisdiction of the local government,
5 except that, in the absence of an imminent threat to public health, safety, or the environment, a local
6 government may not adopt a flow control or similar ordinance to require use of a specific transfer station or
7 landfill for disposal of solid waste;

8 (17) enter into long-term contracts with local governments and private entities for:

9 (a) financing, designing, constructing, and operating a solid waste management system;

10 (b) marketing all raw or processed material recovered from solid waste;

11 (c) marketing energy products or byproducts resulting from processing or utilization of solid waste;

12 (18) finance an areawide solid waste management system through the use of any of the sources of
13 revenue available to the implementation entity for public works projects, by the use of revenue bonds issued by
14 the city or county, or by fees levied by a solid waste management district, whichever is appropriate;

15 (19) enter into interlocal agreements in order to achieve and implement the powers enumerated in this
16 part;

17 (20) regulate the siting and operation of container sites."
18

19 **Section 66.** Section 75-10-115, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"75-10-115. Solid waste management fee.** (1) The department may ~~prepare-adopt~~ adopt rules for adoption
21 ~~by the board~~, pursuant to 75-10-104 and ~~75-10-106~~, that set fees for the management and regulation of solid
22 waste at facilities subject to regulation pursuant to part 2 of this chapter. Upon adoption ~~by the board~~, the
23 department may collect the fees. These fees may include:

24 (a) a license application fee that reflects the cost of reviewing a new solid waste management system
25 or a substantial change to an existing facility from the time an application is made until the license is issued or
26 denied;

27 (b) a flat annual license renewal fee that reflects a minimal base fee related to the fixed costs of an
28 annual inspection and license renewal. The initial annual fee year for a new facility commences on the date that

1 the facility initially receives waste. The fee must be based upon the categorization of solid waste management
2 systems into separate classes identified by the following criteria:

- 3 (i) the quantity of solid waste received by the solid waste management system;
- 4 (ii) the nature of the solid waste received; and
- 5 (iii) the nature of the waste management occurring within the solid waste management system.
- 6 (c) a tonnage or volume-based fee on solid waste disposal.

7 (2) All fees collected must be deposited in the solid waste management account provided for in 75-
8 10-117."

9

10 **Section 96.** Section 75-10-203, MCA, is amended to read:

11 ~~"75-10-203. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions~~
12 ~~apply:~~

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

14 (2)(1) ~~"Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

15 (3)(2) ~~"Dispose" or "disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or~~
16 ~~placing of any solid waste into or onto the land so that the solid waste or any constituent of it may enter the~~
17 ~~environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters, including ground water.~~

18 (4)(3) ~~"Household hazardous waste" means products commonly used in the home that due to~~
19 ~~corrosivity, ignitability, reactivity, toxicity, or other chemical or physical properties are dangerous to human~~
20 ~~health or the environment. Household hazardous waste includes but is not limited to cleaning, home~~
21 ~~maintenance, automobile, personal care, and yard maintenance products.~~

22 (5)(4) ~~"Household waste" means any solid waste derived from households, including single and~~
23 ~~multiple residences, hotels, and motels, crew quarters, and campgrounds and other public recreation and public~~
24 ~~land management facilities.~~

25 (6)(5) (a) ~~"Municipal solid waste landfill" means any publicly or privately owned landfill or landfill unit~~
26 ~~that receives household waste or other types of waste, including commercial waste, nonhazardous sludge, and~~
27 ~~industrial solid waste.~~

28 (b) ~~The term does not include land application units, surface impoundments, injection wells, or waste~~

1 piles.

2 ~~(7)(6)~~ "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town,
3 local governmental entity, or any other governmental or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

4 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Resource recovery" means the recovery of material or energy from solid waste.

5 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Resource recovery facility" means a facility at which solid waste is processed for the purpose
6 of extracting, converting to energy, or otherwise separating and preparing solid waste for reuse.

7 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Resource recovery system" means a solid waste management system that provides for the
8 collection, separation, recycling, or recovery of solid wastes, including disposal of nonrecoverable waste
9 residues.

10 ~~(11)(10)~~ (a) "Solid waste" means all putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, including but not limited to
11 garbage; rubbish; refuse; ashes; sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or air
12 pollution control facilities; construction and demolition wastes; dead animals, including offal; discarded home
13 and industrial appliances; and wood products or wood byproducts and inert materials.

14 ~~(b)~~ Solid waste does not mean municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes
15 regulated under the mining and reclamation laws administered by the department of environmental quality,
16 slash and forest debris regulated under laws administered by the department of natural resources and
17 conservation, or marketable byproducts.

18 ~~(12)(11)~~ "Solid waste management system" means a system that controls the storage, treatment,
19 recycling, recovery, or disposal of solid waste. For the purposes of this definition, a container site, as defined
20 in 75-10-103, is not a component of a solid waste management system.

21 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Storage" means the actual or intended containment of wastes, either on a temporary basis or
22 for a period of years.

23 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Transport" means the movement of wastes from the point of generation to any intermediate
24 points and finally to the point of ultimate storage or disposal.

25 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Treatment" means a method, technique, or process, including neutralization, designed to
26 change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any solid waste so as to neutralize the
27 waste or so as to render it safer for transport, amenable for recovery, amenable for storage, or reduced in
28 volume.

1 ~~(16)(15) "Waste tire" means a tire that is no longer suitable for its original intended purpose because of~~
2 ~~wear, damage, or defect."~~

3

4 **Section 97.** Section 75-10-206, MCA, is amended to read:

5 ~~"75-10-206. Variance. (1) A person may apply to the board department for a variance from rules~~
6 ~~adopted by the department pursuant to 75-10-204, except for rules adopted pursuant to 75-10-204(6). The~~
7 ~~board department may grant a variance if it finds that:~~

8 ~~(a) failure to comply with the rules does not result in a danger to public health or safety; or~~

9 ~~(b) compliance with the rules from which a variance is sought would produce hardship without~~
10 ~~producing benefits to the health and safety of the public that outweigh the hardship.~~

11 ~~(2) A variance may not be granted pursuant to this section except after a hearing pursuant to the~~
12 ~~Montana Administrative Procedure Act and consideration by the board department of the relative interests of~~
13 ~~the applicant and owners of the property likely to be affected by the waste disposal system under consideration.~~

14 ~~(3) This section may not be construed as relieving the board department from the obligation to~~
15 ~~comply with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, or as allowing the board~~
16 ~~department to grant a variance less restrictive than that act."~~

17

18 **Section 67.** Section 75-10-221, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"75-10-221. License required -- application.** (1) Except as provided in 75-10-214, a person may not
20 dispose of solid waste or operate a solid waste management system without a license from the department.

21 (2) The department shall provide application forms for a license as provided in this part.

22 (3) The application must contain the name and business address of the applicant, the location of the
23 proposed solid waste management system, a plan of operation and maintenance, and other information that the
24 department may by rule require.

25 (4) The license provided for in this section is for a period not to exceed 12 months unless renewed by
26 the department.

27 (5) The department may require submission of a new application if the department determines that
28 the plan of operation, the management of the solid waste system, or the geological or ground water conditions

1 have changed since the license was initially approved.

2 (6) In preparing rules ~~for board adoption~~ that establish fees for licenses and the review of applications
3 pursuant to 75-10-104(2), the department shall consider the tonnage or volume of waste to be managed and
4 the size of the proposed solid waste management system. The fees adopted ~~by the board~~ must encourage
5 reduction in the tonnage or volume of waste to be managed and cover the costs to the department of initially
6 reviewing and annually licensing the solid waste management system."

7

8 **Section 99.** Section 75-10-223, MCA, is amended to read:

9 ~~"75-10-223. Refusal by local health officer -- appeal to board DEPARTMENT.~~ (1) The local health
10 officer may refuse to validate a license issued under this part only upon a finding that the requirements of this
11 part and the rules implementing this part cannot be satisfied. If the local health officer refuses to validate the
12 license, the local health officer shall notify the applicant, the department, and any other interested person in
13 writing.

14 (2) ~~The applicant or any person aggrieved by the decision of the local health officer not to validate a~~
15 ~~license may appeal the decision to the board department within 30 days after receiving written notice of the~~
16 ~~local health officer's decision.~~

17 (3) ~~The hearing before the board must be held pursuant to the contested case provisions of the~~
18 ~~Montana Administrative Procedure Act."~~

19

20 **Section 100.** Section 75-10-224, MCA, is amended to read:

21 ~~"75-10-224. Revocation or denial of license by department.~~ The department may deny or revoke
22 a license to operate a solid waste management system after giving the applicant and the local health officer
23 written notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the board department. ~~The decision to deny or revoke a~~
24 ~~license may be made only after a finding that a solid waste management system cannot be operated or is not~~
25 ~~being operated in compliance with this part or a rule or order issued pursuant to this part. The hearing held~~
26 ~~before the board on a denial or revocation shall must be held pursuant to the provisions of the Montana~~
27 ~~Administrative Procedure Act."~~

28

1 **Section 101.** Section 75-10-227, MCA, is amended to read:

2 ~~"75-10-227. **Administrative enforcement.** (1) When the department believes that a violation of part~~
 3 ~~1 or this part, a violation of a rule adopted under part 1 or this part, a violation of an order issued under this part,~~
 4 ~~or a violation of a permit provision has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation on the alleged~~
 5 ~~violation or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of law, rule, or permit alleged to be violated~~
 6 ~~and the facts alleged to constitute a violation and may include an order to take necessary corrective action~~
 7 ~~within a reasonable period of time stated in the order, an order assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to~~
 8 ~~75-10-228, or both. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person~~
 9 ~~named requests in writing a hearing before the board department. On receipt of the request, the board~~
 10 ~~department shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.~~

11 ~~(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board department finds that a violation has~~
 12 ~~occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or by the~~
 13 ~~board may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular~~
 14 ~~action. If, after a hearing, the board department finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the~~
 15 ~~department's order.~~

16 ~~(3) Instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may either:~~

17 ~~(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board department for a hearing at a time and~~
 18 ~~place specified in the notice and answer the charges; or~~

19 ~~(b) initiate action under part 1 or this part.~~

20 ~~(4) This section does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtain voluntary~~
 21 ~~compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.~~

22 ~~(5) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
 23 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section."~~

24

25 **Section 102.** Section 75-10-403, MCA, is amended to read:

26 ~~"75-10-403. **Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions~~
 27 ~~apply:~~

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

1 ~~(2)(1)~~ "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

2 ~~(3)(2)~~ "Dispose" or "disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or
3 placing of any hazardous waste into or onto the land or water so that the hazardous waste or any constituent of
4 the hazardous waste may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters,
5 including ground water.

6 ~~(4)(3)~~ "Environmental protection law" means a law contained in or an administrative rule adopted
7 pursuant to Title 75, chapter 2, 5, 10, or 11.

8 ~~(5)(4)~~ "Facility" or "hazardous waste management facility" means all contiguous land and structures,
9 other appurtenances, and improvements on the land used for treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous
10 waste. A facility may consist of several treatment, storage, or disposal operational units.

11 ~~(6)(5)~~ "Generation" means the act or process of producing waste material.

12 ~~(7)(6)~~ "Generator" means any person, by site, whose act or process produces hazardous waste or
13 whose act first causes a hazardous waste to become subject to regulation under this part.

14 ~~(8)(7)~~ (a) "Hazardous waste" means a waste or combination of wastes that, because of its quantity,
15 concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may:

16 ~~(i)~~ cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or
17 incapacitating reversible illness; or

18 ~~(ii)~~ pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly
19 treated, stored, transported, or disposed of or otherwise managed.

20 ~~(b)~~ Hazardous wastes do not include those substances governed by Title 82, chapter 4, part 2.

21 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Hazardous waste management" means the management of the collection, source separation,
22 storage, transportation, processing, treatment, recovery, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

23 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Hazardous waste transfer facility" means any land, structure, or improvement, including
24 loading docks, parking areas, holding sites, and other similar areas, used for the transfer and temporary
25 storage of hazardous wastes and where shipments of hazardous waste are temporarily held for a period of 10
26 days or less during the normal course of transportation up to but not including the point of ultimate treatment,
27 storage, or disposal.

28 ~~(11)(10)~~ "Manifest" means the shipping document that is originated and signed by the generator and

1 that is used to identify the hazardous waste and its quantity, origin, and destination during its transportation.

2 ~~(12)(11)~~ "Person" means the United States, an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company,
3 association, corporation, city, town, local governmental entity, or any other governmental or private entity,
4 whether organized for profit or not.

5 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Remediation waste" means, for the purposes of fee assessment only, all hazardous waste,
6 debris, and media, including ground water, surface water, soils, and sediments, that are managed for
7 implementing cleanup.

8 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Storage" means the actual or intended containment of hazardous wastes, either on a
9 temporary basis or for a period of years.

10 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Transportation" means the movement of hazardous wastes from the point of generation to
11 any intermediate points and finally to the point of ultimate storage or disposal.

12 ~~(16)(15)~~ "Transporter" means a person engaged in the offsite transportation of hazardous waste by air,
13 rail, highway, or water.

14 ~~(17)(16)~~ "Treatment" means a method, technique, or process, including neutralization, designed to
15 change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any hazardous waste so as to
16 neutralize the waste or so as to render it nonhazardous, safer for transportation, amenable for recovery,
17 amenable for storage, or reduced in volume.

18 ~~(18)(17)~~ "Used oil" means any oil that has been refined from crude oil or any synthetic oil, either of
19 which has been used and as a result of that use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities."

20

21 **Section 103.** Section 75-10-406, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-10-406. Permits.** (1) A person may not construct or operate a hazardous waste management
23 facility without first obtaining a permit from the department for the facility, except that the department may, by
24 rule, prescribe conditions under which specified hazardous wastes or specified quantities of hazardous waste
25 may be disposed of at solid waste disposal sites licensed by the department pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10,
26 part 2.

27 (2) Any person who wishes to construct or operate a hazardous waste management facility shall
28 apply to the department for a permit on forms provided by the department. An application must contain, at a

1 minimum, the name and business address of the applicant, the location of the proposed facility, a plan of
2 operation and maintenance, and a description of pertinent site characteristics.

3 (3) ~~A permit may be issued for a period specified by the department and is subject to renewal by the
4 department upon a showing that the facility has been operated in accordance with the terms of the permit and
5 the rules applicable to the facility and in compliance with the provisions of this part and any applicable order of
6 the board or department.~~

7 (4) ~~Any permit issued is subject to revocation by the department for failure of the permittee to comply
8 with the terms and conditions of the permit, the department rules, an order of the board or the department, or
9 the provisions of this part. Any person who is denied a permit by the department or who has a permit revoked
10 or modified shall must be afforded an opportunity for a hearing before the board department upon written
11 application made within 30 days after service of notice of denial, revocation, or modification by mail. Service by
12 mail is complete upon mailing.~~

13 (5) ~~Notwithstanding any other provisions of this part, the department may, in the event of an imminent
14 and substantial danger to public health or the environment, issue a temporary emergency permit to any person
15 for treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste or to any facility to handle hazardous waste not covered
16 by the existing facility permit. Emergency permits may be oral or written, may not exceed 90 days in duration,
17 and may be terminated by the department at any time prior to 90 days.~~

18 (6) ~~The department may, as it considers appropriate, grant permits by rule to classes or categories of
19 hazardous waste management facilities where the facility owner or operator is already licensed or permitted by
20 the department pursuant to other state environmental statutes or where an interim period exists until final
21 administrative disposition of a permit application is made.~~

22 (7) ~~In permits issued under this section, the department shall require corrective action for all releases
23 of hazardous waste or constituents at a treatment, storage, or disposal facility, including corrective action for
24 releases that extend beyond the facility boundaries if necessary to protect public health or the environment. A
25 permit must contain a schedule of compliance for corrective action and requirements for assurance of financial
26 responsibility for completion of the corrective action.~~

27 (8) ~~Each permit issued by the department to a person owning or operating a facility must contain the
28 terms and conditions the department considers necessary to protect human health and the environment."~~

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Section 104. Section 75-10-408, MCA, is amended to read:

~~"75-10-408. Variances -- renewals. (1) A person who is a generator or transporter of hazardous wastes or who owns or operates a hazardous waste management facility may apply to the board department for a variance or partial variance from the application of or compliance with any requirement of this part or any rule adopted under this part. The board department may grant a variance or partial variance if it finds that:~~

~~(a) the applicant's actions or proposed actions regarding generation, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes do not constitute a danger to public health or safety or cause substantially adverse environmental effects; and~~

~~(b) the application of or compliance with the requirement or rule would produce unreasonable hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public.~~

~~(2) No variance or partial variance may be granted except after public hearing on due notice and until the board has considered department considers the relative interests of the applicant, other persons specifically affected, and the general public.~~

~~(3) No variance or partial variance may be granted for a period to exceed 1 year, but the variance or partial variance may be renewed for like periods if no complaint is made to the board department because of it or if, after the complaint has been made and duly considered at a public hearing held by the board department on due notice, the board department finds that renewal is justified. No renewal may be granted except on application therefor for renewal. An application for renewal shall must be made in the manner and upon such notice as specified in rules promulgated under this part. A renewal pursuant to this subsection shall must be on the same grounds and subject to the same limitations and requirements as provided in subsection (1).~~

~~(4) A variance, partial variance, or renewal thereof is not a right of the applicant or holder thereof of the variance, partial variance, or renewal but shall must be granted at the discretion of the board department. However, a person adversely affected by a variance, partial variance, or renewal granted by the board department may obtain judicial review thereof as provided by the judicial review of contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.~~

~~(5) Nothing in this section and no variance, partial variance, or renewal granted pursuant to this section may be construed to prevent or limit the application of the emergency provisions and procedures of 75-~~

1 10-415.

2 (6) ~~Under no conditions may a variance be granted by the board department that would result in a~~
 3 ~~less stringent requirement or degree of control than would be imposed by the applicable federal regulations~~
 4 ~~adopted under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act."~~

5

6 **Section 105.** Section 75-10-409, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **~~"75-10-409. Compliance monitoring and reporting.~~** (1) ~~The department may, as a condition of a~~
 8 ~~permit, require the owner or operator of a facility to install equipment, collect and analyze samples, and~~
 9 ~~maintain records in order to monitor and demonstrate compliance with this part, rules adopted under this part,~~
 10 ~~any order of the board or department, and permit conditions.~~

11 (2) ~~The department may require the owner or operator of a facility to submit reports on the~~
 12 ~~compliance monitoring activities, including notice to the department of any noncompliance with permit~~
 13 ~~conditions, rules adopted under this part, the provisions of this part, or any orders of the department or board."~~

14

15 **Section 106.** Section 75-10-413, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **~~"75-10-413. Administrative enforcement.~~** (1) ~~When the department believes that a violation of this~~
 17 ~~part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit provision has occurred, it may serve written notice of the~~
 18 ~~violation personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify~~
 19 ~~the provision of this part, the rule, or the permit provision alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to~~
 20 ~~constitute a violation and may include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of~~
 21 ~~time stated in the order. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person~~
 22 ~~named requests, in writing, a hearing before the board department. On receipt of the request, the board~~
 23 ~~department shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.~~

24 (2) ~~If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board department finds that a violation has~~
 25 ~~occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or by the~~
 26 ~~board may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular~~
 27 ~~action. If, after hearing, the board department finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the~~
 28 ~~department's order.~~

- 1 ~~(3) In addition to or instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may:~~
- 2 ~~(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board or department, by subpoena or subpoena~~
- 3 ~~duces tecum, for a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice to answer the charges complained of or to~~
- 4 ~~provide information regarding the alleged violation or its actual or potential impact on public health and welfare~~
- 5 ~~or the environment; or~~
- 6 ~~(b) initiate action under 75-10-414, 75-10-417, or 75-10-418.~~
- 7 ~~(4) In the case of disobedience of any subpoena issued and served under this section or of the~~
- 8 ~~refusal of any witness to testify as to any material matter with regard to which the witness may be interrogated~~
- 9 ~~in a hearing or investigation before the board or the department, the board or department may apply to any~~
- 10 ~~district court in the state for an order to compel compliance with the subpoena or the giving of testimony. The~~
- 11 ~~court shall hear the matter as expeditiously as possible. If the disobedience or refusal is found to be unjustified,~~
- 12 ~~the court shall enter an order requiring compliance. Disobedience of the order is punishable by contempt of~~
- 13 ~~court in the same manner and by the same procedures as is provided for like conduct committed in the course~~
- 14 ~~of civil actions in district court.~~
- 15 ~~(5) This section does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtain voluntary~~
- 16 ~~compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means."~~

17

18 **Section 107.** Section 75-10-414, MCA, is amended to read:

19 ~~"75-10-414. Injunctions. The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state actions~~

20 ~~for injunctive relief as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:~~

21 ~~(1) immediately restrain any person from engaging in any unauthorized activity which is endangering~~

22 ~~or causing damage to public health or the environment;~~

23 ~~(2) enjoin a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, an order of the department or the~~

24 ~~board, or a permit provision without the necessity of prior revocation of the permit; or~~

25 ~~(3) require compliance with this part, a rule adopted under this part, an order of the department or the~~

26 ~~board, or a permit provision."~~

27

28 **Section 108.** Section 75-10-417, MCA, is amended to read:

1 ~~"75-10-417. — Civil penalties. (1) A person who violates any provision of this part, a rule adopted~~
 2 ~~under this part, an order of the department or the board, or a permit is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed~~
 3 ~~\$10,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation. Penalties assessed under this~~
 4 ~~section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.~~

5 ~~(2) The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings~~
 6 ~~under this section. Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county of~~
 7 ~~violation shall petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty. An action to recover~~
 8 ~~penalties must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred or, if mutually agreed~~
 9 ~~on by the parties in the action, in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County.~~

10 ~~(3) Action under this section does not bar:~~

11 ~~(a) enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part, orders of the department or the board, or~~
 12 ~~permits by injunction or other appropriate remedy; or~~

13 ~~(b) action under 75-10-418.~~

14 ~~(4) Money collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund."~~

15

16 **Section 109.** Section 75-10-418, MCA, is amended to read:

17 ~~"75-10-418. — Criminal penalties. (1) A person is guilty of an offense under this section if the person~~
 18 ~~knowingly:~~

19 ~~(a) transports any hazardous waste to an unpermitted facility;~~

20 ~~(b) treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste subject to regulation under this part or the rules~~
 21 ~~adopted under this part without a permit or contrary to a material permit condition;~~

22 ~~(c) omits material information or makes any false statement or representation in any application, label,~~
 23 ~~manifest, record, report, permit, or other document filed, maintained, or used for compliance with provisions of~~
 24 ~~this part or rules adopted under this part pertaining to the handling of hazardous waste;~~

25 ~~(d) generates, stores, treats, transports, disposes of, or otherwise handles any used oil or hazardous~~
 26 ~~waste regulated under this part or rules adopted under this part and knowingly destroys, alters, conceals, or~~
 27 ~~fails to file any record, application, manifest, report, or other document required to be maintained or filed in~~
 28 ~~compliance with the provisions of this part, an order issued under this part, or rules adopted under this part; or~~

1 ~~(e) transports or causes to be transported without a manifest any hazardous waste required to be~~
2 ~~accompanied by a manifest.~~

3 ~~(2) A person who is guilty of an offense under subsection (1) is subject to a fine of not more than~~
4 ~~\$25,000 per violation or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 3 years, or both. Each day of violation~~
5 ~~constitutes a separate violation.~~

6 ~~(3) A person who knowingly violates any requirement of this part or any rule or material permit~~
7 ~~condition issued pursuant to this part (except those violations specified in subsection (1)) regarding any~~
8 ~~hazardous waste that is subject to regulation is guilty of an offense and subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 per~~
9 ~~violation or subject to imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a~~
10 ~~separate violation.~~

11 ~~(4) Upon a second conviction for a violation of this section, the maximum penalties specified in this~~
12 ~~section must be doubled.~~

13 ~~(5) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this part, rules made under this part, orders~~
14 ~~of the department or the board, or permits by injunction or other appropriate remedy.~~

15 ~~(6) Money collected under this section, except money collected in a justice's court, must be deposited~~
16 ~~in the state general fund."~~

17

18 **Section 110.** ~~Section 75-10-424, MCA, is amended to read:~~

19 ~~"75-10-424. Administrative penalty. (1) The department may assess a person who violates a~~
20 ~~provision of this part or a rule adopted under this part an administrative penalty, not to exceed \$10,000 for each~~
21 ~~violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation, but the maximum penalty may not exceed~~
22 ~~\$100,000 for any related series of violations. Assessment of an administrative penalty under this section must~~
23 ~~be made in conjunction with an order or administrative action authorized by this chapter.~~

24 ~~(2) An administrative penalty may not be assessed under this section unless the alleged violator is~~
25 ~~given notice and opportunity for a hearing before the board department pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.~~

26 ~~(3) In determining the appropriate amount of an administrative penalty, the department shall consider~~
27 ~~the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.~~

28 ~~(4) If the department is unable to collect the administrative penalty or if a person fails to pay all or any~~

1 portion of the administrative penalty as determined by the department, the department may file an action to
 2 recover the amount not paid. The action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation
 3 occurred or, if mutually agreed on by the parties in the action, in the district court of the first judicial district,
 4 Lewis and Clark County.

5 ~~(5) Action under this section does not bar action under 75-10-413 through 75-10-418 or any other~~
 6 ~~appropriate remedy.~~

7 ~~(6) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund."~~

8

9 **Section 111.** Section 75-10-501, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"75-10-501. (Temporary) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the
 11 following definitions apply:

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

13 ~~(2)(1) "Component part" means any identifiable part of a discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled~~
 14 ~~motor vehicle, including but not limited to fenders, doors, hoods, engine blocks, motor parts, transmissions,~~
 15 ~~frames, axles, wheels, tires, and passenger compartment fixtures.~~

16 ~~(3)(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3504.~~

17 ~~(4)(3) "Junk mobile home" means a mobile home as defined in 15-24-201 that is wrecked, ruined,~~
 18 ~~dismantled, or abandoned and is no longer fit for human habitation.~~

19 ~~(5)(4) "Junk nonmotorized vehicle" means an inoperative vehicle that is not constructed with a motor~~
 20 ~~and that is discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled.~~

21 ~~(6)(5) (a) "Junk vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including component parts:~~

22 ~~(i) that is discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled;~~

23 ~~(ii) that, except as provided in subsection (6)(b)(5)(b), is not lawfully and validly licensed; and~~

24 ~~(iii) that remains inoperative or incapable of being driven.~~

25 ~~(b) If a vehicle is permanently registered under 61-3-562 and meets the criteria for a junk vehicle~~
 26 ~~under subsection (6)(a), (5)(a), the vehicle is a junk vehicle.~~

27 ~~(7)(6) "Motor vehicle graveyard" means a collection point established by a county for junk motor~~
 28 ~~vehicles prior to their disposal.~~

1 ~~(8)(7)~~ (a) "Motor vehicle wrecking facility" means:

2 (i) ~~a facility buying, selling, or dealing in four or more vehicles a year, of a type required to be~~
 3 ~~licensed, for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially changing the form of the~~
 4 ~~motor vehicle; or~~

5 (ii) ~~a facility that buys or sells component parts, in whole or in part, and deals in secondhand motor~~
 6 ~~vehicle parts. A facility that buys or sells component parts of a motor vehicle, in whole or in part, is a motor~~
 7 ~~vehicle wrecking facility whether or not the buying or selling price is based upon weight or any other type of~~
 8 ~~classification.~~

9 (b) ~~The term does not include a garage where wrecked or disabled motor vehicles are temporarily~~
 10 ~~stored for a reasonable period of time for inspection, repairs, or subsequent removal to a junkyard.~~

11 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town,
 12 local governmental entity, or other governmental or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

13 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Public view" means any point 6 feet above the surface of the center of a public road from
 14 which junk vehicles can be seen.

15 ~~(11)(10)~~ "Shielding" means the construction or use of fencing or constructed or natural barriers to
 16 conceal junk vehicles from public view. (Terminates June 30, 2021--sec. 5, Ch. 427, L. 2019.)

17 **75-10-501. (Effective July 1, 2021) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part,
 18 the following definitions apply:

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

20 (2) ~~(1)~~ "Component part" means any identifiable part of a discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled
 21 motor vehicle, including but not limited to fenders, doors, hoods, engine blocks, motor parts, transmissions,
 22 frames, axles, wheels, tires, and passenger compartment fixtures.

23 (3) ~~(2)~~ "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3504.

24 (4) ~~(3)~~ (a) "Junk vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including component parts:

25 (i) ~~that is discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled;~~

26 (ii) ~~that, except as provided in subsection (4)(b), (3)(b), is not lawfully and validly licensed; and~~

27 (iii) ~~that remains inoperative or incapable of being driven.~~

28 (b) ~~If a vehicle is permanently registered under 61-3-562 and meets the criteria for a junk vehicle~~

1 under subsection ~~(4)(a),(3)(a)~~, the vehicle is a junk vehicle.

2 ~~(5)(4)~~ "Motor vehicle graveyard" means a collection point established by a county for junk motor
3 vehicles prior to their disposal.

4 ~~(6)(5)~~ (a) "Motor vehicle wrecking facility" means:

5 (i) a facility buying, selling, or dealing in four or more vehicles a year, of a type required to be
6 licensed, for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially changing the form of the
7 motor vehicle; or

8 (ii) a facility that buys or sells component parts, in whole or in part, and deals in secondhand motor
9 vehicle parts. A facility that buys or sells component parts of a motor vehicle, in whole or in part, is a motor
10 vehicle wrecking facility whether or not the buying or selling price is based upon weight or any other type of
11 classification.

12 (b) The term does not include a garage where wrecked or disabled motor vehicles are temporarily
13 stored for a reasonable period of time for inspection, repairs, or subsequent removal to a junkyard.

14 ~~(7)(6)~~ "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town,
15 local governmental entity, or other governmental or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

16 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Public view" means any point 6 feet above the surface of the center of a public road from
17 which junk vehicles can be seen.

18 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Shielding" means the construction or use of fencing or constructed or natural barriers to
19 conceal junk vehicles from public view."

20

21 **Section 112.** Section 75-10-515, MCA, is amended to read:

22 "**75-10-515. Appeals.** A decision by the department to issue, deny, or revoke a motor vehicle
23 wrecking facility or graveyard license may be appealed to the board department within 30 days after receipt of
24 official notice of the department's decision."

25

26 **Section 113.** Section 75-10-540, MCA, is amended to read:

27 "**75-10-540. Administrative enforcement.** (1) When the department determines that a violation of
28 this part, a violation of a rule adopted or an order issued under this part, or a violation of a license provision has

1 occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice
 2 must specify the law, rule, or license provision alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute a
 3 violation and may include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time, an
 4 order assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to 75-10-542, or both. The order becomes final 30 days
 5 after the notice is served unless the person named requests, in writing, a hearing before the board ~~department~~.
 6 On receipt of the request for a hearing, the board ~~department~~ shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is
 7 complete on the date of mailing.

8 (2) ~~If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board department finds that a violation has~~
 9 ~~occurred, it shall either affirm or change the department's order. An order may prescribe the date by which the~~
 10 ~~violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular action. If, after a hearing, the board department~~
 11 ~~finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the department's order.~~

12 (3) ~~The department shall make efforts to obtain voluntary compliance through warning, conference, or~~
 13 ~~any other appropriate means before issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1).~~

14 (4) ~~The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
 15 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section."~~

16

17 **Section 114.** Section 75-10-714, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **~~75-10-714. Administrative penalties.~~** (1) ~~In lieu of proceeding under 75-10-711(5), the department~~
 19 ~~may assess penalties of not more than \$1,000 a day for each violation against a person liable under 75-10-~~
 20 ~~715(1) for a release or threat of release who has failed or refused to comply with an order issued by the~~
 21 ~~department pursuant to 75-10-711(4) or against a person who has failed or refused to comply with an order~~
 22 ~~issued by the department pursuant to 75-10-707(5).~~

23 (2) ~~In determining the amount of any penalty assessed pursuant to this section, the department shall~~
 24 ~~take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the noncompliance and, with respect to the~~
 25 ~~person liable under 75-10-715(1):~~

26 (a) ~~the person's ability to pay;~~

27 (b) ~~any prior history of violations;~~

28 (c) ~~the degree of culpability;~~

1 ~~(d) the economic benefit or savings, if any, resulting from the noncompliance; and~~

2 ~~(e) any other matters that justice may require.~~

3 ~~(3) An administrative penalty may not be collected pursuant to this section unless the person charged~~
 4 ~~with the noncompliance is given notice and opportunity for a hearing with respect to the noncompliance. The~~
 5 ~~hearing is before the board of environmental review the department. A hearing may be requested by submitting~~
 6 ~~a written request stating the reason for the request within 30 days after receipt of the notice of penalty~~
 7 ~~assessment.~~

8 ~~(4) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
 9 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.~~

10 ~~(5) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the environmental~~
 11 ~~quality protection fund established in 75-10-704."~~

12

13 **Section 115.** Section 75-10-727, MCA, is amended to read:

14 ~~"75-10-727. Institutional controls. (1) An owner of real property may, with department approval,~~
 15 ~~restrict the use of the owner's real property to mitigate the risk posed to the public health, safety, and welfare~~
 16 ~~and the environment by imposing on the real property, without conveying the property or creating a dominant~~
 17 ~~and servient estate, an appropriate institutional control.~~

18 ~~(2) An institutional control restricting present and future real property rights is placed on a property by~~
 19 ~~filling a written instrument evidencing the restrictions to be placed on the use of the property with the county~~
 20 ~~clerk in the county in which the property is located.~~

21 ~~(3) An institutional control that restricts real property runs with the land and is binding on all~~
 22 ~~successors in interest to real property until the institutional control is removed.~~

23 ~~(4) An institutional control must be removed if there is not an unacceptable risk posed to public~~
 24 ~~health, safety, and welfare and the environment. An owner may request department approval to remove all or a~~
 25 ~~portion of the institutional controls from the real property. The department shall review the request and provide~~
 26 ~~the owner with its decision to approve or deny the request within 120 days from the department's receipt of the~~
 27 ~~request. If the department denies the request, it shall provide the owner with a written explanation of the denial.~~
 28 ~~A department decision to deny the request may be appealed to the board of environmental review department~~

1 and conducted as a contested case proceeding pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4.

2 (5) ~~If the department or the board approves an owner's request to remove all or a portion of the~~
 3 ~~institutional controls, the owner shall file the approval with the county clerk in the county in which the real~~
 4 ~~property is located."~~

5

6 **Section 116.** Section 75-10-732, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **~~"75-10-732. Eligibility.~~** (1) ~~A facility where there has been a release or threatened release of a~~
 8 ~~hazardous or deleterious substance that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public~~
 9 ~~health, safety, or welfare or the environment may be eligible for voluntary cleanup procedures under this part,~~
 10 ~~except for facilities that meet one of the following criteria at the time of application for a voluntary cleanup plan:~~

11 (a) ~~a facility that is listed or proposed for listing on the national priorities list pursuant to 42 U.S.C.~~

12 ~~9601, et seq.;~~

13 (b) ~~a facility for which an order has been issued or consent decree has been entered into pursuant to~~
 14 ~~this part;~~

15 (c) ~~a facility that is the subject of an agency order or an action filed in district court by any state~~
 16 ~~agency that addresses the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance; or~~

17 (d) ~~a facility where the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance is~~
 18 ~~regulated by the Montana Hazardous Waste Act and regulations under that act; or~~

19 (e) ~~a facility that is the subject of pending action under this part because the facility has been issued a~~
 20 ~~notice commencing a specified period of negotiations on an administrative order on consent.~~

21 (2) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1)(b) through (1)(e), the department may agree to~~
 22 ~~accept and may approve an application for a voluntary cleanup plan for a facility.~~

23 (3) ~~The department may determine that a facility that is potentially eligible for voluntary cleanup~~
 24 ~~exhibits complexities regarding protection of public health, safety, and welfare and the environment and that the~~
 25 ~~complexities should be addressed under an administrative order or consent decree pursuant to this part. This~~
 26 ~~determination may be made only after consultation with any person desiring to conduct a voluntary cleanup at~~
 27 ~~the facility.~~

28 (4) ~~If an applicant who submits an application for a voluntary cleanup plan disagrees with the~~

1 department's decision to reject the filing of the application under subsection (1) or (3) or disagrees with the
 2 department's decision to disapprove the voluntary cleanup plan submitted pursuant to 75-10-736, the applicant
 3 may, within 30 days of receipt of the department's written decision pursuant to 75-10-736, submit a written
 4 request for a hearing before the board of environmental review department. In reviewing a department decision
 5 to reject an application under subsection (1) or (3) or to disapprove a voluntary cleanup plan submitted
 6 pursuant to 75-10-736, the board department shall apply the standards of review specified in 2-4-704. The
 7 hearing must be held within 2 months at the regular meeting of the board or at the time mutually agreed to by
 8 the board, the department, and the applicant. The hearing and any appeals must be conducted in accordance
 9 with the contested case proceedings pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, parts 6 and 7. A hearing before the board
 10 may not be requested regarding a decision of the department made pursuant to subsection (2)."

11

12 **Section 117.** Section 75-10-736, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"75-10-736. Approval of voluntary cleanup plan -- time limits -- content of notice -- expiration**
 14 **of approval.** (1) The department shall review for completeness, including adequacy and accuracy, in
 15 accordance with the requirements of 75-10-734, the environmental assessment component of a voluntary
 16 cleanup plan and shall provide a written completeness notice to the applicant within 30 days of receipt. The
 17 completeness notice must note all deficiencies identified in the information submitted.

18 (2) Once the department determines that the environmental assessment component of a voluntary
 19 cleanup plan is complete, the applicant may submit the remediation proposal component. The department shall
 20 review the remediation proposal for completeness, including adequacy and accuracy, in accordance with the
 21 requirements of 75-10-734, and shall provide a written completeness notice to the applicant within 30 days of
 22 receipt. The completeness notice must note all deficiencies identified in the information submitted.

23 (3) Once the department determines that the application for a voluntary cleanup plan is complete
 24 pursuant to subsections (1) and (2), the department shall provide formal written notification of approval or
 25 disapproval within 60 days unless the applicant and the department agree to an extension of the review to a
 26 date certain. The review must be limited to a review of the materials submitted by the applicant, public
 27 comments, and documents or information readily available to the department. The department shall
 28 communicate with the applicant during the review period to ensure that the applicant has the opportunity to

1 address the public comments.

2 ~~(4) (a) If the department receives five applications for review of either component of a voluntary~~
3 ~~cleanup plan in a calendar month, including applications deferred from prior months, the department may notify~~
4 ~~any additional applicants in that month that their plans must be reviewed in the order received. The 60-day~~
5 ~~period for department completeness review of deferred applications must begin on the first day of the~~
6 ~~subsequent month that each plan is eligible for review.~~

7 ~~(b) The department shall discontinue accepting either component of voluntary cleanup applications~~
8 ~~when 15 applications are pending and are being reviewed by the department. The department shall establish a~~
9 ~~waiting list for applications and shall consider the applications in order of submittal.~~

10 ~~(c) If the department has received multiple applications for a voluntary cleanup at the same facility,~~
11 ~~the department shall notify all of the applicants and offer them the opportunity to submit a joint application.~~

12 ~~(5) Consistent with the provisions of 75-10-707, the department may access the facility during review~~
13 ~~of either component of the application and implementation of the voluntary cleanup plan to confirm information~~
14 ~~provided by the applicant and verify that the cleanup is being conducted consistent with the approved plan.~~

15 ~~(6) (a) The department shall approve a voluntary cleanup plan if the department concludes that the~~
16 ~~plan meets the requirements specified in 75-10-734 and will attain a degree of cleanup and control of~~
17 ~~hazardous or deleterious substances that complies with the requirements of 75-10-721.~~

18 ~~(b) Except for the period necessary for the operation and maintenance of the approved remediation~~
19 ~~proposal, the department may not approve a voluntary remediation proposal that would:~~

20 ~~(i) take longer than 60 months after department approval to achieve the cleanup levels proposed by~~
21 ~~the applicant under 75-10-734(3)(a)(i) and approved by the department; or~~

22 ~~(ii) take longer than 120 months after department approval to achieve the cleanup levels for ground~~
23 ~~water proposed by the applicant under 75-10-734(3)(a)(i) and approved by the department, including ground~~
24 ~~water standards identified as applicable or relevant state or federal environmental requirements, criteria, or~~
25 ~~limitations pursuant to 75-10-721.~~

26 ~~(7) If a voluntary cleanup plan is not approved by the department, the department shall promptly~~
27 ~~provide the applicant with a written statement of the reasons for denial. The denial may be appealed to the~~
28 ~~board of environmental review department in accordance with the provisions of 75-10-732(4).~~

1 ~~(8) The approval of a voluntary cleanup plan by the department applies only to conditions at the~~
2 ~~facility that are known to the department at the time of department approval. If a voluntary remediation proposal~~
3 ~~is not initiated within 12 months and, except for the period necessary for the operation and maintenance of the~~
4 ~~approved remediation proposal, is not completed within 60 months after approval by the department, the~~
5 ~~department's approval lapses. However, the department may grant an extension of the time limit for completion~~
6 ~~of the voluntary cleanup plan.~~

7 ~~(9) If conditions are discovered during implementation of a voluntary cleanup plan that were not~~
8 ~~identified in the environmental assessment component pursuant to subsection (1), affect the risk to public~~
9 ~~health, safety, or welfare or the environment, and change the scope of the approved plan, the applicant shall~~
10 ~~notify the department within 10 days of discovery. The department may require the applicant to submit an~~
11 ~~amendment to the approved plan to address the conditions or may determine that a voluntary cleanup plan is~~
12 ~~no longer appropriate pursuant to 75-10-732(3).~~

13 ~~(10) Departmental approval is void if the applicant or the applicant's agents:~~

14 ~~(a) fail to materially comply with the voluntary cleanup plan;~~

15 ~~(b) submit materially misleading information in the application or during implementation of the~~
16 ~~voluntary cleanup plan; or~~

17 ~~(c) fail to report any newly discovered information to the department during the application process or~~
18 ~~implementation of the voluntary cleanup plan regarding releases or threatened releases of hazardous or~~
19 ~~deleterious substances within 10 days of discovery of that information.~~

20 ~~(11) Within 60 days after completion of the approved remediation proposal described in the voluntary~~
21 ~~cleanup plan approved by the department, the applicant shall provide to the department a certification from a~~
22 ~~qualified environmental professional that the plan has been fully implemented, including all documentation~~
23 ~~necessary to demonstrate the successful implementation of the plan, such as confirmation sampling, if~~
24 ~~necessary.~~

25 ~~(12) Except as provided in 75-10-738(2)(b), the department may not require financial assurance under~~
26 ~~this part for voluntary cleanup plans approved under this section.~~

27 ~~(13) If a person who would otherwise not be a liable person under 75-10-715(1) elects to undertake an~~
28 ~~approved voluntary cleanup plan, the person may not become a liable person under 75-10-715(1) by~~

1 ~~undertaking a voluntary cleanup if the person materially complies with the voluntary cleanup plan approved by~~
 2 ~~the department pursuant to this section.~~

3 ~~(14) Immunity from liability under this section does not apply to a release that is caused by conduct~~
 4 ~~that is negligent or grossly negligent or that constitutes intentional misconduct."~~

5

6 **Section 118.** Section 75-10-1201, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **~~"75-10-1201. Definitions.~~** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

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

9 ~~(2)(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

10 ~~(3)(2) "Disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of~~
 11 ~~septage into or onto the land or water.~~

12 ~~(4)(3) "Domestic sewage" means waste and wastewater from humans or household operations that~~
 13 ~~are discharged to or otherwise enter a treatment works.~~

14 ~~(5)(4) "Industrial wastewater" means wastewater generated in a commercial or industrial process.~~

15 ~~(6)(5) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, city, town, local~~
 16 ~~government entity, or other government or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.~~

17 ~~(7)(6) (a) "Septage" means liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, portable~~
 18 ~~toilet, or similar treatment works that receives only domestic sewage.~~

19 ~~(b) Septage does not include material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, or similar treatment~~
 20 ~~works that receives industrial wastewater and does not include grease removed from a grease trap at a~~
 21 ~~restaurant.~~

22 ~~(8)(7) "Treatment works" means a publicly owned or privately owned device or system used to treat,~~
 23 ~~including to recycle and to reclaim, either domestic sewage or a combination of domestic sewage and industrial~~
 24 ~~waste of a liquid nature."~~

25

26 **Section 119.** Section 75-10-1221, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **~~"75-10-1221. Department revocation or denial of license.~~** The department may deny or revoke a
 28 ~~license after giving the applicant written notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the board. The decision~~

1 to deny or revoke a license may be made only after a finding that a business or disposal site cannot be
 2 operated or is not being operated in compliance with this part or a rule or order issued pursuant to this part. The
 3 hearing held before the board on a denial or revocation must be held pursuant to the provisions of the Montana
 4 Administrative Procedure Act."

5

6 **Section 120.** Section 75-10-1222, MCA, is amended to read:

7 ~~"75-10-1222. **Administrative enforcement.** (1) If the department believes that a violation of this part,~~
 8 ~~a rule adopted under this part, or an order issued under this part has occurred, it may serve written notice of the~~
 9 ~~violation, by certified mail, on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision~~
 10 ~~of this part, the rule, or the condition of approval alleged to have been violated and the facts alleged to~~
 11 ~~constitute a violation. The notice must include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable~~
 12 ~~period of time. The time period must be stated in the order. Service is complete on the date of mailing.~~

13 ~~(2) If the alleged violator does not request a hearing before the board department within 30 days of~~
 14 ~~the date of service, the order is final. Failure to comply with a final order may subject the violator to an action~~
 15 ~~commenced pursuant to 75-10-1224.~~

16 ~~(3) If the alleged violator requests a hearing before the board within 30 days of the date of service,~~
 17 ~~the board department shall schedule a hearing. After the hearing is held, the board department may:~~

18 ~~(a) affirm or modify the department's order issued under subsection (1) if the board department finds~~
 19 ~~that a violation has occurred; or~~

20 ~~(b) rescind the department's order if the board department finds that a violation has not occurred.~~

21 ~~(4) An order issued by the department or the board may set a date by which the violation must cease~~
 22 ~~and set a time limit for the violator to correct the violation.~~

23 ~~(5) (a) An action initiated by the department under this section may include an administrative penalty~~
 24 ~~not to exceed \$500 for each day of violation. Administrative penalties collected under this section must be~~
 25 ~~deposited in the account provided for in 75-10-1203.~~

26 ~~(b) Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors~~
 27 ~~in 75-1-1001.~~

28 ~~(6) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title~~

1 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing under this section."

2

3 **Section 121.** Section 75-11-203, MCA, is amended to read:

4 ~~"75-11-203. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following~~
5 ~~definitions apply:~~

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

7 ~~(2)(1) "Closure" or "to close" means the process of properly removing or filling in place an~~
8 ~~underground storage tank that is no longer in service.~~

9 ~~(3)(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

10 ~~(4)(3) "Inspection" means activities to inspect all or part of an underground storage tank system,~~
11 ~~including records relating to installation, operation, maintenance, and closure to determine compliance with~~
12 ~~applicable laws and rules relating to operation and maintenance.~~

13 ~~(5)(4) "Inspector" means an individual who performs inspections of underground storage tank~~
14 ~~systems.~~

15 ~~(6)(5) (a) "Installation" or "to install" means the placement of an underground storage tank system,~~
16 ~~including excavation, tank placement, backfilling, and piping of underground portions of the underground~~
17 ~~storage tank system that store or convey regulated substances. Installation includes repair or modification of an~~
18 ~~underground storage tank system through such means as tank relining or the repair or replacement of valves,~~
19 ~~fillpipes, piping, vents, or in-tank liquid-level monitoring systems. Installation also means installation, repair, or~~
20 ~~modification of a leak detection device that is external to and not attached to the underground storage tank~~
21 ~~system and the installation, repair, or modification of a cathodic protection system.~~

22 ~~(b) The terms do not include the process of conducting a precision (tightness) test to establish the~~
23 ~~integrity of the underground storage tank system.~~

24 ~~(7)(6) "Installer" means an individual who installs or closes underground storage tank systems.~~

25 ~~(8)(7) "License" means a license issued by the department under 75-11-204 or 75-11-210 to conduct~~
26 ~~the inspection, installation, or closure of underground storage tank systems.~~

27 ~~(9)(8) "Licensed inspector" means an individual who holds a valid underground storage tank system~~
28 ~~inspector license.~~

1 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Licensed installer" means an individual who holds a valid underground storage tank system
2 installer license.

3 ~~(11)(10)~~ "Operator" means a person in control of or having responsibility for the operation,
4 maintenance, or management of an underground storage tank system.

5 ~~(12)(11)~~ "Owner" means a person who owns an underground storage tank system used for the
6 storage, use, or dispensing of regulated substances.

7 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Person" means an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company, association,
8 corporation (whether organized for profit or not), city, town, local governmental entity, or any other
9 governmental or private entity.

10 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Regulated substance" means a regulated substance as defined in 75-11-503.

11 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Underground storage tank" or "underground storage tank system" means an underground
12 storage tank, as defined in 75-11-503, and, for purposes of this part, includes ancillary equipment designed to
13 prevent, detect, or contain a release from an underground storage tank system."

14

15 **Section 122.** Section 75-11-211, MCA, is amended to read:

16 ~~"75-11-211. Denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of installer or inspector license --~~

17 **grounds.** ~~(1) The department may deny, modify, condition, suspend, or revoke a license if the installer or~~
18 ~~inspector:~~

19 ~~(a) fails to achieve a passing grade on a written examination;~~

20 ~~(b) fails to pay the license fee imposed under this part;~~

21 ~~(c) commits fraud or deceit with respect to the license or permit application or an inspection report~~
22 ~~submitted to the department;~~

23 ~~(d) has had suspended or revoked:~~

24 ~~(i) a license issued under this part; or~~

25 ~~(ii) a similar license in another state or territory; or~~

26 ~~(e) violates any state or federal law, rule, permit, or order relating to the installation or closure of an~~
27 ~~underground storage tank system.~~

28 ~~(2) If the department modifies, conditions, suspends, or revokes a license, it shall inform the~~

1 applicant or license holder in writing of the reason for the action. The applicant or license holder may request a
2 hearing before the board department. If the board department grants a hearing, the hearing must be held in
3 accordance with the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act."

4

5 **Section 123.** Section 75-11-218, MCA, is amended to read:

6 ~~"75-11-218. Administrative enforcement. (1) When the department believes that a person has~~
7 ~~violated this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit provision, it may serve written notice of the violation~~
8 ~~on the person or the person's agent. The notice must specify the alleged violation and the facts that constitute~~
9 ~~the alleged violation. The notice may include an order to provide information pertaining to the installation,~~
10 ~~closure, or inspection, an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable time as stated in the~~
11 ~~order, or an order assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to 75-11-223. A notice and order must be~~
12 ~~signed by the director of the department or the director's designee and must be served personally or by certified~~
13 ~~mail upon the person or the person's agent. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is~~
14 ~~served, the person requests in writing a hearing before the board department. On receipt of the request, the~~
15 ~~board department shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.~~

16 ~~(2) If, pursuant to a hearing held under subsection (1), the board department finds that a violation has~~
17 ~~occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or the board~~
18 ~~may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular action. If,~~
19 ~~after a hearing, the board department finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the department's~~
20 ~~order.~~

21 ~~(3) In addition to or instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may either:~~

22 ~~(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board department for a hearing at a time and~~
23 ~~place specified in the notice and answer the charges described in the notice of violation; or~~

24 ~~(b) initiate action under 75-11-219, 75-11-223, or 75-11-224.~~

25 ~~(4) This section does not prevent the board or department from attempting to obtain voluntary~~
26 ~~compliance through issuance of a warning, a conference, or any other appropriate administrative or judicial~~
27 ~~means.~~

28 ~~(5) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~

1 part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section."

2

3 **Section 124.** Section 75-11-219, MCA, is amended to read:

4 ~~"75-11-219. **Injunctions.** The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state actions~~
5 ~~for injunctive relief as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:~~

6 ~~(1) immediately restrain any person from engaging in unauthorized activity that is endangering public~~
7 ~~health or causing damage to the environment;~~

8 ~~(2) enjoin a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the~~
9 ~~board; or~~

10 ~~(3) require compliance with this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or~~
11 ~~the board."~~

12

13 **Section 125.** Section 75-11-223, MCA, is amended to read:

14 ~~"75-11-223. **Civil and administrative penalties.** (1) (a) A person who violates a provision of this~~
15 ~~part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the board is subject to an administrative~~
16 ~~penalty not to exceed \$500 for each violation or a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation. If an~~
17 ~~installer or an inspector who is an employee is in violation, the employer of that installer or that inspector is the~~
18 ~~entity that is subject to the provisions of this section unless the violation is the result of a grossly negligent or~~
19 ~~willful act. Each day of violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order constitutes a separate~~
20 ~~violation.~~

21 ~~(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance with the penalty~~
22 ~~factors in 75-1-1001.~~

23 ~~(2) The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings~~
24 ~~under this section. The enforcement or collection action must be brought in the district court of the county in~~
25 ~~which the violation occurred or, if mutually agreed upon by the parties, in the district court of the first judicial~~
26 ~~district, Lewis and Clark County. Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of~~
27 ~~the county where the violation occurred shall petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil~~
28 ~~penalty.~~

- 1 ~~(3) Action under this section does not bar:~~
 2 ~~(a) enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part, orders of the department or the board, or~~
 3 ~~terms of a license or permit by injunction or other appropriate remedy; or~~
 4 ~~(b) action under 75-11-224."~~

5
 6 **Section 126.** Section 75-11-224, MCA, is amended to read:

7 ~~"75-11-224. Criminal penalties. (1) Any owner or operator who knowingly installs or closes an~~
 8 ~~underground storage tank system without a permit and either an inspection or the use of the services of a~~
 9 ~~licensed installer as required in 75-11-209; any installer who knowingly installs or closes an underground~~
 10 ~~storage tank system without being licensed; or any person who knowingly makes any false statements or~~
 11 ~~representations in any application, permit, report, licensing form, or other document filed or maintained as~~
 12 ~~required by this part or required by rules adopted under this part is subject to a fine not to exceed \$10,000 for~~
 13 ~~each violation or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a separate~~
 14 ~~violation.~~

15 ~~(2) A person convicted of a second or subsequent criminal violation is subject to a fine not to exceed~~
 16 ~~\$20,000 for each violation or imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a~~
 17 ~~separate violation.~~

18 ~~(3) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part,~~
 19 ~~orders of the department or the board, or terms of a license or permit by injunction or other appropriate remedy."~~

20
 21 **Section 127.** Section 75-11-503, MCA, is amended to read:

22 ~~"75-11-503. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions~~
 23 ~~apply:~~

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

25 ~~(2)(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

26 ~~(3)(2) "Dispose" or "disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or~~
 27 ~~placing of any regulated substance into or onto the land or water so that the regulated substance or any~~
 28 ~~constituent of the regulated substance may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into~~

1 any waters, including ground water.

2 ~~(4)(3)~~ "Person" means the United States, an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company,
3 association, corporation, city, town, local governmental entity, or any other governmental or private entity,
4 whether organized for profit or not.

5 ~~(5)(4)~~ "Petroleum mixing zone" means an area where water quality standards for petroleum and
6 petroleum constituents may be exceeded subject to the conditions of 75-11-508 and consistent with rules
7 adopted under 75-11-318, 75-11-319, and 75-11-505.

8 ~~(6)(5)~~ "Regulated substance":

9 (a) means:

10 (i) a hazardous substance as defined in 75-10-602; or

11 (ii) petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil, that is liquid at standard conditions of
12 temperature and pressure (60 degrees F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute);

13 (b) does not include a substance regulated as a hazardous waste under Title 75, chapter 10, part 4.

14 ~~(7)(6)~~ "Storage" means the actual or intended containment of regulated substances, either on a
15 temporary basis or for a period of years.

16 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Underground storage tank" or "tank":

17 (a) means, except as provided in subsections (8)(b)(i) through (8)(b)(xii) subsection (7)(b):

18 (i) any one or a combination of tanks used to contain a regulated substance, the volume of which is
19 10% or more beneath the surface of the ground;

20 (ii) any underground pipes used to contain or transport a regulated substance and connected to a
21 storage tank, whether the storage tank is entirely above ground, partially above ground, or entirely under
22 ground; and

23 (iii) ancillary equipment designed to prevent, detect, or contain a release from an underground storage
24 tank;

25 (b) does not include:

26 (i) a farm or residential tank that was installed as of April 27, 1995, that has a capacity of 1,100
27 gallons or less and that is used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes;

28 (ii) a farm or residential tank that was installed as of April 27, 1995, that has a capacity of 1,100 gallons

1 or less and that is used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where it is stored;

2 (iii) ~~farm or residential underground pipes that were installed as of April 27, 1995, and that are used to~~
 3 ~~contain or to transport motor fuels for noncommercial purposes or heating oil for consumptive use on the~~
 4 ~~premises where it is stored from an aboveground storage tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less;~~

5 (iv) ~~a septic tank;~~

6 (v) ~~a pipeline facility, including gathering lines, regulated under:~~

7 (A) ~~the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, 49 U.S.C. 1671, et seq.;~~

8 (B) ~~the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, 49 U.S.C. 2001, et seq.; or~~

9 (C) ~~state law comparable to the provisions of law referred to in subsection (8)(b)(v)(A) or~~
 10 ~~(8)(b)(v)(B)(7)(b)(v)(A) or (7)(b)(v)(B) if the facility is intrastate;~~

11 (vi) ~~a surface impoundment, pit, pond, or lagoon;~~

12 (vii) ~~a storm water or wastewater collection system;~~

13 (viii) ~~a flow-through process tank;~~

14 (ix) ~~a liquid trap or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering~~
 15 ~~operations;~~

16 (x) ~~a storage tank situated in an underground area, such as a basement, cellar, mine, draft, shaft, or~~
 17 ~~tunnel, if the storage tank is situated upon or above the surface of the floor;~~

18 (xi) ~~any pipe connected to a tank described in subsections (8)(b)(i) through (8)(b)(ix)(7)(b)(i) through~~
 19 ~~(7)(b)(ix); or~~

20 (xii) ~~underground pipes connected to an aboveground storage tank at a petroleum refinery that is~~
 21 ~~subject to:~~

22 (A) ~~facilitywide corrective action permit provisions under 75-10-406 or the federal Resource~~
 23 ~~Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6987, as amended; or~~

24 (B) ~~a facilitywide corrective action order under 75-10-425 or the federal Resource Conservation and~~
 25 ~~Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6987, as amended."~~

26
 27 **Section 68.** Section 75-11-505, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"75-11-505. Administrative rules -- underground storage tanks -- petroleum mixing zones. (1)**

1 The department may adopt, amend, or repeal rules for the prevention and correction of leakage from
 2 underground storage tanks, including:

3 (a) reporting by owners and operators;

4 (b) financial responsibility;

5 (c) release detection, prevention, and corrective action;

6 (d) procedures and standards for the issuance, nonissuance, renewal, nonrenewal, modification,
 7 revocation, suspension, and enforcement of permits authorizing the operation of underground storage tanks;

8 (e) standards for design, construction, installation, and closure;

9 (f) development of a schedule of annual fees, not to exceed \$108 for a tank over 1,100 gallons and
 10 not to exceed \$36 for a tank 1,100 gallons or less, for each tank, for tank registration to defray state and local
 11 costs of implementing an underground storage tank program. The department may prorate fees to cover
 12 periods not equal to 12 months in order to provide staggered scheduling of renewal dates.

13 (g) a system for assessment of administrative penalties, notice, and appeals under 75-11-525; and

14 (h) delegation of authority and funds to local agents for inspections and implementation. The
 15 delegation of authority to local agents must complement and may not duplicate existing authority for
 16 implementation of rules adopted by the department of justice that relate to underground storage tanks.

17 (2) In accordance with 75-11-508, the department:

18 (a) shall adopt rules governing the inclusion of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, in a
 19 corrective action plan; and

20 (b) may incorporate by reference rules adopted by the board of environmental review pursuant to 75-
 21 5-301 and 75-5-303 related to mixing zones for ground water."

22

23 **Section 69.** Section 75-11-508, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"75-11-508. Corrective action -- petroleum mixing zones.** (1) A corrective action plan prepared
 25 pursuant to 75-11-309 may include the use of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, in conjunction
 26 with the final remediation and resolution of a petroleum release.

27 (2) If a petroleum mixing zone is included in a corrective action plan, it may be established only when:

28 (a) all source material has been removed to the maximum extent practicable;

1 (b) the extent of petroleum contamination has been defined;

2 (c) natural breakdown or attenuation is occurring within the plume; and

3 (d) no further corrective action is reasonably required at the site.

4 (3) The boundary of a petroleum mixing zone established in accordance with this section must be
5 contained within the boundary of the property on which the petroleum release originated unless a recorded
6 easement, a restrictive covenant, or another institutional control approved by the department on an adjoining
7 property allows the petroleum mixing zone to extend onto the adjoining property.

8 (4) Monitoring of a petroleum mixing zone may not be required unless there is a unique, overriding,
9 site-specific, impact-related reason to require monitoring.

10 (5) At the downgradient boundary of a petroleum mixing zone, the concentration of any petroleum
11 constituent, including benzene, may not exceed a water quality standard adopted by the board pursuant to 75-
12 5-301.

13 (6) If a petroleum mixing zone is established and maintained:

14 (a) the petroleum release is considered to be resolved;

15 (b) no further corrective action for the petroleum release is required; and

16 (c) the department shall issue a no-further-action letter to the owner or operator stating that a
17 petroleum mixing zone has been established for the release and describing any conditions required to maintain
18 the petroleum mixing zone.

19 (7) A corrective action plan approved by the department pursuant to 75-11-309 may be amended to
20 include a petroleum mixing zone in accordance with this section, including a corrective action plan approved
21 prior to April 15, 2011."

22

23 **Section 130.** ~~Section 75-11-509, MCA, is amended to read:~~

24 ~~"75-11-509. Inspections -- permits. (1) The owner or operator of an active underground storage~~
25 ~~tank must have the tank inspected for compliance with this part by January 1, 2002, and at least once every 3~~
26 ~~years thereafter by an inspector who is licensed pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 2, to perform~~
27 ~~underground storage tank inspections. The inspector may not be:~~

28 (a) ~~the owner or operator of the tank;~~

1 ~~(b) an employee of the owner or operator; or~~

2 ~~(c) for the first inspection required by this subsection (1) and for a period of 3 years after the~~
3 ~~installation or modification of the tank was completed, the installer who installed or modified the tank and whose~~
4 ~~name or signature was on the permit required by 75-11-212.~~

5 ~~(2) The owner or operator of an inactive underground storage tank shall comply with requirements for~~
6 ~~testing, inspection, recordkeeping, and reporting provided in rules adopted pursuant to this part.~~

7 ~~(3) The department may by rule authorize temporary permits for the installation, testing, and operation~~
8 ~~of underground storage tanks. The requirements in subsection (8) for a 3-year permit term and for permit~~
9 ~~issuance only after inspection by a licensed inspector do not apply to temporary permits.~~

10 ~~(4) The department shall by rule provide:~~

11 ~~(a) requirements for the scope and timing of inspections; and~~

12 ~~(b) requirements for testing, inspection, recordkeeping, and reporting for inactive tanks to ensure that~~
13 ~~these tanks do not pose a threat to public health, safety, or the environment while inactive or upon their return~~
14 ~~to active status.~~

15 ~~(5) The inspector shall provide the owner or operator with an inspection report that meets the~~
16 ~~requirements of rules adopted by the department to ensure compliance with this part and rules adopted~~
17 ~~pursuant to this part.~~

18 ~~(6) The owner or operator shall retain the original inspection report and mail a copy to the department.~~

19 ~~(7) If the inspection report indicates violations, the owner or operator shall correct the violations and~~
20 ~~obtain a followup inspection. Followup inspection reports must be provided to the owner or operator and to the~~
21 ~~department.~~

22 ~~(8) A person may not place a regulated substance in an underground storage tank unless the owner~~
23 ~~or operator has been issued a valid permit from the department for the tank. Permits must be issued for a term~~
24 ~~of 3 years. The department may not issue or renew a permit unless the owner or operator has filed with the~~
25 ~~department an inspection report by a licensed inspector. Prior to issuing or renewing a permit, the department~~
26 ~~shall determine, on the basis of the inspection report and other relevant information, whether the operation and~~
27 ~~maintenance of the tank were in compliance with this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part on the date of~~
28 ~~inspection.~~

1 (9) ~~The department may determine to not issue or not renew a permit for a tank if the department~~
 2 ~~finds that there has been significant noncompliance with this part or with rules, permits, or orders issued~~
 3 ~~pursuant to this part. If the department proposes to not issue or not renew a permit, it must have a written~~
 4 ~~notice letter served personally or by certified mail on the owner or operator informing the owner or operator of~~
 5 ~~the reason for the action. The owner or operator may request a hearing before the board department. The~~
 6 ~~hearing request must be in writing and must be filed with the board no later than 30 days after the service of the~~
 7 ~~notice letter. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title~~
 8 ~~2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section."~~

9

10 **Section 131.** Section 75-11-512, MCA, is amended to read:

11 ~~"75-11-512. **Administrative enforcement.** (1) When the department believes that a violation of this~~
 12 ~~part or a rule adopted under this part has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation personally or by~~
 13 ~~certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of this part or~~
 14 ~~the rule alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation and may include an order to take~~
 15 ~~necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time stated in the order. The order becomes final~~
 16 ~~unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person named requests, in writing, a hearing before the~~
 17 ~~board department. On receipt of the request, the board department shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is~~
 18 ~~complete on the date of receipt.~~

19 (2) ~~If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board department finds that a violation has~~
 20 ~~occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or by the~~
 21 ~~board may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular~~
 22 ~~action. If, after hearing, the board department finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the~~
 23 ~~department's order.~~

24 (3) ~~In addition to or instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may:~~

25 (a) ~~require the alleged violator to appear before the board or department, by subpoena or subpoena~~
 26 ~~duces tecum, for a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice to answer the charges complained of or to~~
 27 ~~provide information regarding the alleged violation or its actual or potential impact on the public health and~~
 28 ~~welfare or the environment;~~

1 (b) ~~initiate action under 75-11-513, 75-11-514, or 75-11-516; or~~

2 (c) ~~assess administrative penalties and issue corrective action orders under 75-11-525.~~

3 (4) ~~In the case of disobedience of any subpoena issued and served under this section or of the~~
 4 ~~refusal of any witness to testify as to any material matter with regard to which the witness may be interrogated~~
 5 ~~in a hearing or investigation before the board or the department, the board or department may apply to any~~
 6 ~~district court in the state for an order to compel compliance with the subpoena or the giving of testimony. The~~
 7 ~~court shall hear the matter as expeditiously as possible. If the disobedience or refusal is found to be unjustified,~~
 8 ~~the court shall enter an order requiring compliance. Disobedience of the order is punishable by contempt of~~
 9 ~~court in the same manner and by the same procedures as is provided for like conduct committed in the course~~
 10 ~~of civil actions in district court.~~

11 (5) ~~If a person fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to subsection (1) or (3) within the time~~
 12 ~~allowed in the order, the department may enter the property on which the underground storage tank that is in~~
 13 ~~violation is located and temporarily close the tank. If the department finds that permanent closure is necessary~~
 14 ~~to prevent substantial environmental harm or because the owner or operator is unlikely to comply with the~~
 15 ~~order, it may permanently close the tank.~~

16 (6) ~~This section does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtain voluntary~~
 17 ~~compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means."~~

18

19 **Section 132.** Section 75-11-513, MCA, is amended to read:

20 "**75-11-513. Injunctions.** The department may institute and maintain, in the name of the state,
 21 actions for injunctive relief as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:

22 (1) ~~immediately restrain any person from engaging in any unauthorized activity that is endangering or~~
 23 ~~causing damage to the public health or to the environment;~~

24 (2) ~~enjoin a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the~~
 25 ~~board; or~~

26 (3) ~~require compliance with this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or~~
 27 ~~the board."~~

28

1 **Section 133.** Section 75-11-516, MCA, is amended to read:

2 ~~"75-11-516. **Civil penalties.** (1) (a) A person who violates any provision of this part, a rule adopted~~
 3 ~~under this part, or an order of the department or the board is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for~~
 4 ~~each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.~~

5 ~~(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance with the penalty~~
 6 ~~factors in 75-1-1001.~~

7 ~~(2) The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings~~
 8 ~~under this section. Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county of~~
 9 ~~violation shall petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty. Penalties are also~~
 10 ~~recoverable in an action brought by the department. The action must be brought in the district court of the~~
 11 ~~county in which the violation occurred or, if mutually agreed on by the parties in the action, in the district court of~~
 12 ~~the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County.~~

13 ~~(3) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part, or~~
 14 ~~orders of the department or the board.~~

15 ~~(4) Money collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund."~~

16

17 **Section 134.** Section 75-11-525, MCA, is amended to read:

18 ~~"75-11-525. **Administrative penalties for violations -- appeals -- venue.** (1) (a) A person who~~
 19 ~~violates any of the provisions of this part or any rules promulgated under the authority of this part may be~~
 20 ~~assessed and ordered by the department to pay an administrative penalty not to exceed \$500 for each~~
 21 ~~violation. This limitation on administrative penalties applies only to penalties assessed under this section. Each~~
 22 ~~occurrence of the violation and each day that it remains uncorrected constitutes a separate violation. The~~
 23 ~~department may suspend a portion of the administrative penalty assessed under this section if the condition~~
 24 ~~that caused the assessment of the penalty is corrected within a specified time. Assessment of an administrative~~
 25 ~~penalty under this section may be made in conjunction with any order or other administrative action authorized~~
 26 ~~by this chapter.~~

27 ~~(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance with the penalty~~
 28 ~~factors in 75-1-1001.~~

1 ~~(2) When the department assesses an administrative penalty under this section, it must have written~~
2 ~~notice served personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. For purposes of this~~
3 ~~chapter, service by mail is complete on the day of receipt. The notice must state:~~

4 ~~(a) the provision alleged to be violated;~~

5 ~~(b) the facts alleged to constitute the violation;~~

6 ~~(c) the amount of the administrative penalty assessed under this section;~~

7 ~~(d) the amount, if any, of the penalty to be suspended upon correction of the condition that caused the~~
8 ~~assessment of the penalty;~~

9 ~~(e) the nature of any corrective action that the department requires, whether or not a portion of the~~
10 ~~penalty is to be suspended;~~

11 ~~(f) as applicable, the time within which the corrective action is to be taken and the time within which~~
12 ~~the administrative penalty is to be paid; and~~

13 ~~(g) the right to appeal or to a hearing to mitigate the penalty assessed.~~

14 ~~(3) A person assessed a penalty under this section may request a hearing before the board~~
15 ~~department to either contest the alleged violation or request mitigation of the penalty. The contested case~~
16 ~~provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a~~
17 ~~hearing conducted under this section. If a hearing is held under this section, it must be held in Lewis and Clark~~
18 ~~County or the county in which the alleged violation occurred.~~

19 ~~(4) If the department is unable to collect an administrative penalty assessed under this section or if a~~
20 ~~person fails to pay all or any portion of an administrative penalty assessed under this section, the department~~
21 ~~may take action in district court to recover the penalty amount and any additional amounts assessed or sought~~
22 ~~under this chapter. The action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred~~
23 ~~or, if mutually agreed on by the parties in the action, in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and~~
24 ~~Clark County.~~

25 ~~(5) Action under this section does not bar action under this chapter or any other remedy available to~~
26 ~~the department for violations of underground storage tank laws or rules promulgated under those laws.~~

27 ~~(6) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund."~~

28

1 **Section 135.** Section 75-20-104, MCA, is amended to read:

2 ~~"75-20-104. Definitions.~~ In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following
3 definitions apply:

4 (1) ~~"Addition thereto"~~ means the installation of new machinery and equipment that would significantly
5 change the conditions under which the facility is operated.

6 (2) ~~"Application"~~ means an application for a certificate submitted in accordance with this chapter and
7 the rules adopted under this chapter.

8 (3) ~~(a) "Associated facilities"~~ includes but is not limited to transportation links of any kind, aqueducts,
9 diversion dams, pipelines, storage ponds, reservoirs, and any other device or equipment associated with the
10 delivery of the energy form or product produced by a facility.

11 ~~(b) The term does not include a transmission substation, a switchyard, voltage support, or other
12 control equipment or a facility or a natural gas or crude oil gathering line 25 inches or less in inside diameter.~~

13 (4) ~~"Board"~~ means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

14 ~~(5)(4) "Certificate"~~ means the certificate of compliance issued by the department under this chapter
15 that is required for the construction or operation of a facility.

16 ~~(6)(5) "Commence to construct"~~ means:

17 ~~(a) any clearing of land, excavation, construction, or other action that would affect the environment of
18 the site or route of a facility but does not mean changes needed for temporary use of sites or routes for
19 nonutility purposes or uses in securing geological data, including necessary borings to ascertain foundation
20 conditions;~~

21 ~~(b) the fracturing of underground formations by any means if the activity is related to the possible
22 future development of a gasification facility or a facility employing geothermal resources but does not include
23 the gathering of geological data by boring of test holes or other underground exploration, investigation, or
24 experimentation;~~

25 ~~(c) the commencement of eminent domain proceedings under Title 70, chapter 30, for land or rights-
26 of-way upon or over which a facility may be constructed;~~

27 ~~(d) the relocation or upgrading of an existing facility defined by subsection (9)(a) or (9)(b)(8)(a) or
28 (8)(b), including upgrading to a design capacity covered by subsection (9)(a), (8)(a), except that the term does~~

1 not include normal maintenance or repair of an existing facility.

2 ~~(7)(6)~~ (a) "Commencement of acquisition of right of way" means the actual, defined legal transfer of
3 property.

4 ~~(b)~~ The term does not mean preliminary discussions, option agreements that are not within 60 days of
5 commencement of acquisition, letters of intent, or other documents that do not conclusively result in the legal
6 transfer of property.

7 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

8 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Facility" means, subject to 75-20-1202:

9 ~~(a)~~ each electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of more than 69
10 kilovolts, except that the term:

11 ~~(i)~~ does not include an electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of 230
12 kilovolts or less and 10 miles or less in length;

13 ~~(ii)~~ does not include an electric transmission line with a design capacity of more than 69 kilovolts for
14 which the person planning to construct the line has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-
15 way from more than 75% of the owners who collectively own more than 75% of the property along the
16 centerline;

17 ~~(iii)~~ does not include electric transmission lines that are collectively less than 150 miles in length and
18 are required under state or federal regulations and laws, with respect to reliability of service, for an electrical
19 generation facility, as defined in 15-24-3001(4), or a wind generation facility, biomass generation facility, or
20 energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157, to interconnect to a regional transmission grid or secure firm
21 transmission service to use the grid for which the person planning to construct the line or lines has obtained
22 right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more than 75% of the owners who collectively own
23 more than 75% of the property along the centerline or centerlines;

24 ~~(iv)~~ does not include an upgrade to an existing transmission line of a design capacity of 50 kilovolts or
25 more to increase that line's capacity, including construction outside the existing easement or right-of-way.
26 Except for a newly acquired easement or right-of-way necessary to comply with electromagnetic field
27 standards, a newly acquired easement or right-of-way outside the existing easement or right-of-way as
28 described in this subsection ~~(9)(a)(iv)(8)(a)(iv)~~ may not exceed a total of 10 miles in length or be more than 10%

1 of the existing transmission right-of-way, whichever is greater, and the purpose of the easement must be to
 2 avoid sensitive areas or inhabited areas or conform to state or federal safety, reliability, and operational
 3 standards designed to safeguard the transmission network and protect electrical workers and the public.

4 (v) ~~does not include a transmission substation, a switchyard, voltage support, or other control~~
 5 ~~equipment;~~

6 (vi) ~~does not include an energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157;~~

7 (b) (i) ~~each pipeline, whether partially or wholly within the state, greater than 25 inches in inside~~
 8 ~~diameter and 50 miles in length, and associated facilities, except that the term does not include:~~

9 (A) ~~a pipeline within the boundaries of the state that is used exclusively for the irrigation of agricultural~~
 10 ~~crops or for drinking water; or~~

11 (B) ~~a pipeline greater than 25 inches in inside diameter and 50 miles in length for which the person~~
 12 ~~planning to construct the pipeline has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more~~
 13 ~~than 75% of the owners who collectively own more than 75% of the property along the centerline;~~

14 (ii) ~~each pipeline, whether partially or wholly within the state, greater than 17 inches in inside diameter~~
 15 ~~and 30 miles in length, and associated facilities used to transport coal suspended in water;~~

16 (c) ~~any use of geothermal resources, including the use of underground space in existence or to be~~
 17 ~~created, for the creation, use, or conversion of energy, designed for or capable of producing geothermally~~
 18 ~~derived power equivalent to 50 megawatts or more or any addition thereto, except pollution control facilities~~
 19 ~~approved by the department and added to an existing plant, except that the term does not include a~~
 20 ~~compressed air energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157; or~~

21 (d) ~~for the purposes of 75-20-204 only, a plant, unit, or other facility capable of generating 50~~
 22 ~~megawatts of hydroelectric power or more or any addition thereto.~~

23 (10)(9) ~~"Person" means any individual, group, firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company,~~
 24 ~~cooperative, association, government subdivision, government agency, local government, or other organization~~
 25 ~~or entity.~~

26 (11)(10) ~~"Sensitive areas" means government-designated areas that have been recognized for their~~
 27 ~~importance to Montana's wildlife, wilderness, culture, and historic heritage, including but not limited to national~~
 28 ~~wildlife refuges, state wildlife management areas, federal areas of critical environmental concern, state parks~~

1 and historic sites, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, designated wild and scenic rivers, or
 2 national parks, monuments, or historic sites.

3 ~~(12)(11)~~ "Transmission substation" means any structure, device, or equipment assemblage, commonly
 4 located and designed for voltage regulation, circuit protection, or switching necessary for the construction or
 5 operation of a proposed transmission line.

6 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Transmission reliability agencies" means the federal energy regulatory commission, the
 7 western electricity coordinating council, the national electric reliability council, and the midwest reliability
 8 organization.

9 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Upgrade" means to increase the electrical carrying capacity of a transmission line by actions
 10 including but not limited to:

- 11 ~~(a)~~ installing larger conductors;
- 12 ~~(b)~~ replacing insulators;
- 13 ~~(c)~~ replacing pole or tower structures;
- 14 ~~(d)~~ changing structure spacing, design, or guying; or
- 15 ~~(e)~~ installing additional circuits.

16 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Utility" means any person engaged in any aspect of the production, storage, sale, delivery, or
 17 furnishing of heat, electricity, gas, hydrocarbon products, or energy in any form for ultimate public use."

18

19 **Section 70.** Section 75-20-105, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"75-20-105. Adoption of rules.** The ~~board~~ department may adopt rules implementing the provisions
 21 of this chapter."

22

23 **Section 137.** Section ~~75-20-201~~, MCA, is amended to read:

24 ~~"75-20-201. Certificate required -- operation in conformance -- certificate for nuclear facility --~~
 25 **applicability to federal facilities.** (1) Except for a facility under diligent onsite physical construction or in
 26 operation on January 1, 1973, a person may not commence to construct a facility in the state without first
 27 applying for and obtaining a certificate of compliance issued with respect to the facility by the department.

28 ~~(2) A facility with respect to which a certificate is issued may not be constructed, operated, or~~

1 maintained except in conformity with the certificate and any terms, conditions, and modifications contained
 2 within the certification.

3 ~~(3) A certificate may only be issued pursuant to this chapter.~~

4 ~~(4) If the department decides to issue a certificate for a nuclear facility, it shall report the
 5 recommendation to the applicant and may not issue the certificate until the recommendation is approved by a
 6 majority of the voters in a statewide election called by initiative or referendum according to the laws of this
 7 state.~~

8 ~~(5) A person that proposes to construct an energy-related project that is not defined as a facility
 9 pursuant to 75-20-104(9) 75-20-104(8) may petition the department to review the energy-related project under
 10 the provisions of this chapter. The construction or installation of an energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-
 11 157, is not considered an energy-related project under the provisions of this chapter. A certificate for the
 12 construction or installation of an energy storage facility is not required under this chapter.~~

13 ~~(6) This chapter applies, to the fullest extent allowed by federal law, to all federal facilities and to all
 14 facilities over which an agency of the federal government has jurisdiction.~~

15 ~~(7) All judicial challenges of certificates for projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of
 16 more than \$1 million must have precedence over any civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If
 17 the court determines that the challenge was without merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to
 18 cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney
 19 fees and costs incurred in defending the action."~~

20

21 **Section 138.** Section 75-20-207, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-20-207. Notice requirement for certain electric transmission lines.** Whenever a person plans
 23 to construct an electric transmission line or associated facilities under the provisions of ~~75-20-104(9)(a)(ii)~~75-
 24 20-104(8)(a)(ii), it must provide public notice to persons residing in the area in which any portion of the electric
 25 transmission facility may be located and to the department. This notice must be made no less than 60 days
 26 prior to the commencement of acquisition of right-of-way as defined in 75-20-104 by publication of a summary
 27 describing the transmission facility and the proposed location of the facility in those newspapers that will
 28 substantially inform those persons of the construction and by mailing a summary to the department. The notice

1 must inform the property owners of their rights under this chapter concerning the location of the facility and that
 2 more information concerning their rights may be obtained from the department."

3

4 **Section 139.** Section 75-20-208, MCA, is amended to read:

5 ~~"75-20-208. Certain electric transmission lines -- verification of requirements.~~ (1) Prior to
 6 constructing a transmission line under ~~75-20-104(9)(a)(ii)~~75-20-104(8)(a)(ii), the person planning to construct
 7 the line shall provide to the department within 36 months of the date of the public notice provided under 75-20-
 8 207, unless extended by the department for good cause:

9 (a) ~~copies of the right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way containing sufficient information~~
 10 ~~to establish landowner consent to construct the line; and~~

11 (b) ~~sufficient information for the department to verify that the requirements of 75-20-104(9)(a)(ii)~~75-
 12 20-104(8)(a)(ii) are satisfied.

13 (2) ~~The provisions of 75-20-104(9)(a)(ii)~~75-20-104(8)(a)(ii) do not apply to any facility for which public
 14 notice under 75-20-207 has been given but for which the requirements of subsection (1) of this section have not
 15 been complied with."

16

17 **Section 140.** Section 75-20-211, MCA, is amended to read:

18 ~~"75-20-211. Application -- filing and contents -- proof of service and notice.~~ (1) (a) An applicant
 19 shall file with the department an application for a certificate under this chapter and for the permits required
 20 under the laws administered by the department in the form that is required under applicable rules, containing
 21 the following information:

22 (i) ~~a description of the proposed location and of the facility to be built;~~

23 (ii) ~~a summary of any preexisting studies that have been made of the impact of the facility;~~

24 (iii) ~~for facilities defined in 75-20-104(9)(a) and (9)(b)~~75-20-104(8)(a) and (8)(b), a statement
 25 explaining the need for the facility, a description of reasonable alternate locations for the facility, a general
 26 description of the comparative merits and detriments of each location submitted, and a statement of the
 27 reasons why the proposed location is best suited for the facility;

28 (iv) (A) ~~for facilities as defined in 75-20-104(9)(a) and (9)(b)~~75-20-104(8)(a) and (8)(b), baseline data

1 for the primary and reasonable alternate locations; or

2 (B) ~~for facilities as defined in 75-20-104(9)(c), 75-20-104(8)(c), baseline data for the proposed~~
 3 ~~location and, at the applicant's option, any alternative locations acceptable to the applicant for siting the facility;~~

4 ~~(v) at the applicant's option, an environmental study plan to satisfy the requirements of this chapter;~~
 5 and

6 ~~(vi) other information that the applicant considers relevant or that the department by order or rule may~~
 7 ~~require.~~

8 ~~(b) If a copy or copies of the studies referred to in subsection (1)(a)(ii) are filed with the department,~~
 9 ~~the copy or copies must be available for public inspection.~~

10 ~~(2) An application may consist of an application for two or more facilities in combination that are~~
 11 ~~physically and directly attached to each other and are operationally a single operating entity.~~

12 ~~(3) The copy of the application must be accompanied by a notice specifying the date on or about~~
 13 ~~which the application is to be filed.~~

14 ~~(4) An application must also be accompanied by proof that public notice of the application was given~~
 15 ~~to persons residing in the county in which any portion of the proposed facility is proposed or is alternatively~~
 16 ~~proposed to be located, by publication of a summary of the application in those newspapers that will~~
 17 ~~substantially inform those persons of the application."~~

18

19 **Section 141.** Section 75-20-215, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **~~"75-20-215. Filing fee -- accountability -- refund -- use.~~** (1) (a) A filing fee must be deposited in the
 21 state special revenue fund for the use of the department in administering Title 75, chapter 1, and this chapter.
 22 The applicant shall pay to the department a filing fee as provided in this section based upon the department's
 23 estimated costs of processing the application under this chapter. The fee may not exceed the following scale
 24 based upon the estimated cost of the facility:

25 (i) ~~6% of any estimated cost up to \$1 million; plus~~

26 (ii) ~~1% of any estimated cost over \$1 million and up to \$5 million; plus~~

27 (iii) ~~0.8% of any estimated cost over \$5 million and up to \$10 million; plus~~

28 (iv) ~~0.5% of any estimated cost over \$10 million and up to \$20 million; plus~~

1 (v) ~~0.25% of any estimated cost over \$20 million and up to \$100 million; plus~~

2 (vi) ~~0.125% of any estimated cost over \$100 million and up to \$500 million; plus~~

3 (vii) ~~0.05% of any estimated cost over \$500 million and up to \$1 billion; plus~~

4 (viii) ~~0.025% of any estimated cost over \$1 billion.~~

5 (b) ~~The department may allow in its discretion a credit against the fee payable under this section for~~
6 ~~the development of information or providing of services required under this chapter or required for preparation~~
7 ~~of an environmental impact statement or assessment under the Montana or national environmental policy acts.~~
8 ~~The applicant may submit the information to the department, together with an accounting of the expenses~~
9 ~~incurred in preparing the information. The department shall evaluate the applicability, validity, and usefulness of~~
10 ~~the data and determine the amount that may be credited against the filing fee payable under this section. Upon~~
11 ~~30 days' notice to the applicant, this credit may at any time be reduced if the department determines that it is~~
12 ~~necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter.~~

13 (2) ~~(a) The department may contract with an applicant for the development of information, provision~~
14 ~~of services, and payment of fees required under this chapter. The contract may continue an agreement entered~~
15 ~~into pursuant to 75-20-106. Payments made to the department under a contract must be credited against the fee~~
16 ~~payable pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the revenue derived from the~~
17 ~~filing fee must be sufficient to enable the department, the board, and the agencies listed in 75-20-216(6) to carry~~
18 ~~out their responsibilities under this chapter. The department may amend a contract to require additional~~
19 ~~payments for necessary expenses up to the limits set forth in subsection (1)(a) upon 30 days' notice to the~~
20 ~~applicant. The department and applicant may enter into a contract that exceeds the scale provided in~~
21 ~~subsection (1)(a).~~

22 (b) ~~If a contract is not entered into, the applicant shall pay the filing fee in installments in accordance~~
23 ~~with a schedule of installments developed by the department, provided that an installment may not exceed 20%~~
24 ~~of the total filing fee provided for in subsection (1).~~

25 (3) ~~The estimated cost of upgrading an existing transmission substation may not be included in the~~
26 ~~estimated cost of a proposed facility for the purpose of calculating a filing fee.~~

27 (4) ~~If an application consists of a combination of two or more facilities, the filing fee must be based on~~
28 ~~the total estimated cost of the combined facilities.~~

1 ~~(5) The applicant is entitled to an accounting of money expended and to a refund with interest at the~~
 2 ~~rate of 6% a year of that portion of the filing fee not expended by the department in carrying out its~~
 3 ~~responsibilities under this chapter. A refund must be made after all administrative and judicial remedies have~~
 4 ~~been exhausted by all parties to the certification proceedings.~~

5 ~~(6) The revenue derived from filing fees must be used by the department in compiling the information~~
 6 ~~required for rendering a decision on a certificate and for carrying out its and the board's other responsibilities~~
 7 ~~under this chapter."~~

8

9 **Section 71.** Section 75-20-216, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"75-20-216. Study, evaluation, and report on proposed facility -- assistance by other agencies.**

11 (1) After receipt of an application, the department shall within 30 days notify the applicant in writing that:

12 (a) the application is in compliance and is accepted as complete; or

13 (b) the application is not in compliance and shall list the deficiencies. Upon correction of these
 14 deficiencies and resubmission by the applicant, the department shall within 15 days notify the applicant in
 15 writing that the application is in compliance and is accepted as complete.

16 (2) Upon receipt of an application complying with 75-20-211 through 75-20-213, 75-20-215, and this
 17 section, the department shall:

18 (a) commence an evaluation of the proposed facility and its effects, considering all applicable criteria
 19 listed in 75-20-301, and shall issue a decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit as provided in subsection

20 (3);

21 (b) use, to the extent that it considers applicable, valid and useful existing studies and reports
 22 submitted by the applicant or compiled by a state or federal agency; and

23 (c) if a modification of a proposed facility is needed as determined by the department, consult with the
 24 applicant. The proposed modification must be analyzed in the environmental review document prepared under
 25 Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3.

26 (3) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4), 75-1-208(4)(b), and 75-20-231, the department shall issue,
 27 within 9 months following the date of acceptance of an application, any decision, opinion, order, certification, or
 28 permit required under the laws, other than those contained in this chapter, administered by the department. A

1 decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit, with or without conditions, must be made under those laws.
 2 Nevertheless, the department retains authority to make the determination required under 75-20-301(1)(c) or (3).
 3 The decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit must be used in the final site selection process. Prior to the
 4 issuance of a preliminary decision by the department and pursuant to rules adopted by the ~~board~~ department,
 5 the department shall provide an opportunity for public review and comment.

6 (4) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4), 75-1-208(4)(b), and 75-20-231, within 9 months following
 7 acceptance of an application for a facility, the department shall issue a report that must contain the
 8 department's studies, evaluations, recommendations, customer fiscal impact analysis, if required pursuant to
 9 69-2-216, and other pertinent documents resulting from its study and evaluation. An environmental impact
 10 statement or analysis prepared pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act may be included in the
 11 department findings if compelling evidence indicates that adverse environmental impacts are likely to result due
 12 to the construction and operation of a proposed facility. If the application is for a combination of two or more
 13 facilities, the department shall issue its report within the greater of the lengths of time provided for in this
 14 subsection for either of the facilities.

15 (5) For projects subject to joint review by the department and a federal land management agency, the
 16 department's certification decision may be timed to correspond to the record of decision issued by the
 17 participating federal agency.

18 (6) The departments of transportation; fish, wildlife, and parks; natural resources and conservation;
 19 revenue; and public service regulation and the consumer counsel shall report to the department information
 20 relating to the impact of the proposed facility on each department's area of expertise. The department shall
 21 allocate funds obtained from filing fees to the departments making reports and to the office of consumer
 22 counsel to reimburse them for the costs of compiling information and issuing the required report."
 23

24 **Section 143.** ~~Section 75-20-219, MCA, is amended to read:~~

25 ~~"75-20-219. Amendments to certificate. (1) (a) Within 30 days after notice of an amendment to a~~
 26 ~~certificate is given as set forth in 75-20-213(1), including notice to all active parties to the original proceeding,~~
 27 ~~the department shall determine whether the proposed change in the facility would result in a material increase~~
 28 ~~in any environmental impact of the facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of the facility~~

1 as set forth in the certificate.

2 (b) If the department determines that the proposed change would result in a material increase in any
3 environmental impact of the facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of the facility, the
4 department shall grant, deny, or modify the amendment with conditions as it considers appropriate.

5 (c) If the department determines that a modification of the proposed amendment to the certificate is
6 needed, it shall consult with the applicant.

7 (2) In those cases in which the department determines that the proposed change in the facility would
8 not result in a material increase in any environmental impact or would not be a substantial change in the
9 location of all or a portion of the facility, the department shall automatically grant the amendment either as
10 applied for or upon terms or conditions that the department considers appropriate.

11 (3) If a hearing is requested under 75-20-223(2), the party requesting the hearing has the burden of
12 showing by clear and convincing evidence that the department's determination is not reasonable.

13 (4) If an amendment is required to a certificate that would affect, amend, alter, or modify a decision,
14 opinion, order, certification, or air or water quality permit issued by the department or board, the amendment
15 must be processed under the applicable statutes administered by the department or board."

16

17 **Section 144.** Section 75-20-223, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"75-20-223. Board review REVIEW of department decisions.** (1) (a) A person aggrieved by the final
19 decision of the department on an application for a certificate or the issuance of an air or water quality decision,
20 opinion, order, certification, or permit under this chapter may within 30 days appeal the decision to the board
21 department. Except as provided in this section, the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative
22 Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the board department.

23 (b) If the department provided an opportunity for public comment on the application, the request for a
24 hearing must be limited to those issues the party has raised in comments made to the department during the
25 comment period unless the issues are related to a material change in law made during the comment period, to
26 a judicial decision issued after the comment period, or to a material change to the draft permit, which was
27 submitted for public comment, made by the department in the final permit decision and upon which the public
28 did not have a meaningful opportunity to comment. The request for hearing must be filed within 30 days after

1 the department renders its decision. An affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request must be filed with the
2 request for a hearing.

3 (c) ~~If a hearing is requested by a person other than the applicant or permittee, the applicant or~~
4 ~~permittee may, by filing a written election with the board department within 15 days of receipt of the request for~~
5 ~~hearing, elect to have the matter proceed to hearing before the board or to have the matter submitted directly to~~
6 ~~the district court for judicial review of the agency decision. The party who requests the hearing may elect to~~
7 ~~have the matter submitted either to the board department for a hearing or to the district court for judicial review~~
8 ~~by submitting a written election to the board department with the request for hearing. If there are conflicting~~
9 ~~elections between the parties, the matter must proceed to district court. If the applicant or permittee is not the~~
10 ~~person who requested the hearing and has elected to have the matter submitted to the district court, the person~~
11 ~~who submitted the request for a hearing shall file a petition for review of the permit decision within 15 days of~~
12 ~~receipt of notice from the permittee. If the person who requested the hearing has elected to have the matter~~
13 ~~proceed to district court, that person shall file a petition in district court within 15 days of filing the request. The~~
14 ~~petition must be limited to matters raised in the request for hearing and must be filed in the county in which the~~
15 ~~facility is located. If the applicant or permittee fails to make an election, the matter must proceed through the~~
16 ~~contested case process before the board department pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.~~
17 ~~The board department or the district court shall apply the laws and rules in place when the department issued~~
18 ~~its decision, and the board department or the district court may not consider any issue from a party that was not~~
19 ~~presented to the department for the department's consideration during the formal comment period unless the~~
20 ~~issue is related to a material change in law made during the comment period, to a judicial decision issued after~~
21 ~~the comment period, or to a material change to the draft permit, which was submitted for public comment, made~~
22 ~~by the department in the final permit decision and upon which the public did not have a meaningful opportunity~~
23 ~~to comment.~~

24 (2) ~~A person aggrieved by the final decision of the department on an application for amendment of a~~
25 ~~certificate may within 15 days appeal the decision to the board department as provided in subsections (1)(b)~~
26 ~~and (1)(c).~~

27 (3) ~~A person aggrieved by the department's decision not to include an environmental impact~~
28 ~~statement or analysis in the department's findings pursuant to 75-20-246 may within 30 days appeal the~~

1 decision as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c).

2 (4) ~~The board department shall issue a final decision within 4 months from the close of the hearing~~
 3 ~~on the merits or, if no hearing is held, within 3 months from the date that briefing by the parties is complete~~
 4 ~~unless the applicant and the party other than the applicant agree in writing to an extension of time.~~

5 (5) ~~A customer fiscal impact analysis required by 69-2-216 may not be used as the basis of an~~
 6 ~~appeal of a final decision by the department."~~

7

8 **Section 145.** Section 75-20-301, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **~~"75-20-301. Decision of department -- findings necessary for certification.~~** (1) ~~Within 30 days~~
 10 ~~after issuance of the report pursuant to 75-20-216 for facilities defined in 75-20-104(9)(a) and (9)(b) 75-20-~~
 11 ~~104(8)(a) and (8)(b), the department shall approve a facility as proposed or as modified or an alternative to a~~
 12 ~~proposed facility if the department finds and determines:~~

13 (a) ~~the basis of the need for the facility;~~

14 (b) ~~the nature of the probable environmental impact;~~

15 (c) ~~that the facility minimizes adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available~~
 16 ~~technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives;~~

17 (d) ~~in the case of an electric, gas, or liquid transmission line or aqueduct:~~

18 (i) ~~what part, if any, of the line or aqueduct will be located underground;~~

19 (ii) ~~that the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the appropriate grid of the utility~~
 20 ~~systems serving the state and interconnected utility systems; and~~

21 (iii) ~~that the facility will serve the interests of utility system economy and reliability;~~

22 (e) ~~that the location of the facility as proposed conforms to applicable state and local laws and~~
 23 ~~regulations, except that the department may refuse to apply any local law or regulation if it finds that, as applied~~
 24 ~~to the proposed facility, the law or regulation is unreasonably restrictive in view of the existing technology, of~~
 25 ~~factors of cost or economics, or of the needs of consumers, whether located inside or outside the directly~~
 26 ~~affected government subdivisions;~~

27 (f) ~~that the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity;~~

28 (g) ~~that the department or board has issued any necessary air or water quality decision, opinion,~~

1 order, certification, or permit as required by 75-20-216(3); and

2 (h) ~~that the use of public lands or federally designated energy corridors for location of a facility~~
 3 ~~defined in 75-20-104(9)(a) or (9)(b) 75-20-104(8)(a) and (8)(b) was evaluated and public lands or federally~~
 4 ~~designated energy corridors for that facility were selected whenever their use was compatible with:~~

5 (i) ~~the requirements of subsections (1)(a) through (1)(g); and~~

6 (ii) ~~transmission line reliability criteria established by transmission reliability agencies for a facility~~
 7 ~~defined in 75-20-104(9)(a). 75-20-104(8)(a).~~

8 (2) ~~In determining that the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity under~~
 9 ~~subsection (1)(f), the department shall consider:~~

10 (a) ~~the items listed in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b);~~

11 (b) ~~the benefits to the applicant and the state resulting from the proposed facility;~~

12 (c) ~~the effects of the economic activity resulting from the proposed facility;~~

13 (d) ~~the effects of the proposed facility on the public health, welfare, and safety;~~

14 (e) ~~any other factors that it considers relevant.~~

15 (3) ~~Within 30 days after issuance of the report pursuant to 75-20-216 for a facility defined in 75-20-~~
 16 ~~104(9)(c) 75-20-104(8)(c), the department shall approve a facility as proposed or as modified or an alternative to~~
 17 ~~a proposed facility if the department finds and determines:~~

18 (a) ~~that the facility or alternative incorporates all reasonable, cost-effective mitigation of significant~~
 19 ~~environmental impacts; and~~

20 (b) ~~that unmitigated impacts, including those that cannot be reasonably quantified or valued in~~
 21 ~~monetary terms, will not result in:~~

22 (i) ~~a violation of a law or standard that protects the environment; or~~

23 (ii) ~~a violation of a law or standard that protects the public health and safety.~~

24 (4) ~~For facilities defined in 75-20-104, if the department cannot make the findings required in this~~
 25 ~~section, it shall deny the certificate."~~

26

27 **Section 146.** Section 75-20-303, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"75-20-303. Opinion issued with decision -- contents.** (1) In rendering a decision on an application

1 for a certificate, the department shall issue an opinion stating its reasons for the action taken.

2 (2) If the department has found that any regional or local law or regulation that would be otherwise
3 applicable is unreasonably restrictive, it shall state in its opinion the reasons that it is unreasonably restrictive.

4 (3) A certificate issued by the department must include the following:

5 (a) an environmental evaluation statement related to the facility being certified. The statement must
6 include but is not limited to analysis of the following information:

7 (i) the environmental impact of the proposed facility; and

8 (ii) any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided by issuance of the certificate;

9 (b) a plan for monitoring environmental effects of the proposed facility;

10 (c) a plan for monitoring the certified facility site between the time of certification and completion of
11 construction;

12 (d) a time limit as provided in subsection (4);

13 (e) a statement confirming that notice was provided pursuant to subsection (5); and

14 (f) a statement signed by the applicant showing agreement to comply with the requirements of this
15 chapter and the conditions of the certificate.

16 (4) (a) The department shall issue as part of the certificate the following time limits:

17 (i) For a facility as defined in ~~75-20-104(9)(a)~~ 75-20-104(8)(a) that is more than 30 miles in length and
18 for a facility defined in ~~75-20-104(9)(b)~~, 75-20-104(8)(b), construction must be completed within 10 years.

19 (ii) For a facility as defined in ~~75-20-104(9)(a)~~ 75-20-104(8)(a) that is 30 miles or less in length,
20 construction must be completed within 5 years.

21 (iii) For a facility as defined in ~~75-20-104(9)(c)~~, 75-20-104(8)(c), construction must begin within 6 years
22 and continue with due diligence in accordance with preliminary construction plans established in the certificate.

23 (b) Unless extended, a certificate lapses and is void if the facility is not constructed or if construction
24 of the facility is not commenced within the time limits provided in this section.

25 (c) The time limit may be extended for a reasonable period upon a showing by the applicant to the
26 department that a good faith effort is being undertaken to complete construction under subsections (4)(a)(i) and
27 (4)(a)(ii). Under this subsection, a good faith effort includes the process of acquiring any necessary state or
28 federal permit or certificate for the facility and the process of judicial review of a permit or certificate.

1 ~~(d) Construction may begin immediately upon issuance of a certificate unless the department finds~~
 2 ~~that there is substantial and convincing evidence that a delay in the commencement of construction is~~
 3 ~~necessary and should be established for a particular facility.~~

4 ~~(5) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsection (5)(a)(ii), for a facility defined in 75-20-104(9)(a) and~~
 5 ~~(9)(b) 75-20-104(8)(a) and (8)(b), the environmental review conducted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1~~
 6 ~~through 3, prepared by the department must designate a 500-foot-wide facility siting corridor along the facility~~
 7 ~~route.~~

8 ~~(ii) Prior to preparation of the environmental review or the draft environmental impact statement, the~~
 9 ~~department shall consult the applicant and, in a manner determined by rule, landowners and identify areas in~~
 10 ~~which a corridor considered in the environmental review document should be more or less than 500 feet wide.~~
 11 ~~The corridor width may not be narrower than the applicant's right-of-way. For each area in which the corridor is~~
 12 ~~more or less than 500 feet in width, the department shall provide a written justification. The department may not~~
 13 ~~modify a corridor after issuance of the final environmental review document.~~

14 ~~(b) The department shall provide written notice of the availability of each environmental review~~
 15 ~~document to each owner of property within a corridor. No more than 60 days prior to the availability of each~~
 16 ~~environmental review document, the names and addresses of the property owners must be obtained from the~~
 17 ~~property tax rolls of the county where the property is located. Except as provided in subsection (5)(c), the notice~~
 18 ~~must:~~

19 ~~(i) be delivered personally or by first-class mail. If delivered personally, the property owner shall sign a~~
 20 ~~receipt verifying that the property owner received the statement.~~

21 ~~(ii) inform the property owner that the property owner's property is located within a corridor;~~

22 ~~(iii) inform the property owner about how a copy of the environmental review document may be~~
 23 ~~obtained; and~~

24 ~~(iv) inform the property owner of the property owner's rights under this chapter concerning the location~~
 25 ~~of the facility and that more information concerning those rights may be obtained from the department.~~

26 ~~(c) If there is more than one name listed on the property tax rolls for a single property, the notice must~~
 27 ~~be mailed to the first listed property owner at the address on the property tax rolls.~~

28 ~~(d) By mailing the notice as provided in subsection (5)(c), the notice requirements in subsection (5)(b)~~

1 are satisfied.

2 ~~(6) (a) A certificate holder may submit an adjustment of the location of a facility outside the approved~~
 3 ~~facility siting corridor to the department. The adjustment must be accompanied by the written agreement of the~~
 4 ~~affected property owner and all contiguous property owners that would be affected. The submission must~~
 5 ~~include a map showing the approved facility siting corridor and the proposed adjustment. At the time of~~
 6 ~~submission to the department, the adjustment must be accompanied by a copy of a legal notice published in a~~
 7 ~~newspaper of general circulation in the area of the adjustment. The legal notice must specify that public~~
 8 ~~comments on the adjustment may be submitted to the department within 10 days of the publication date of the~~
 9 ~~notice.~~

10 ~~(b) The certificate holder may construct the facility as described in the submission unless the~~
 11 ~~department notifies the certificate holder within 15 days of the submission that the department has determined~~
 12 ~~that:~~

13 ~~(i) the adjustment would change the basis of any finding required under 75-20-301 to the extent that~~
 14 ~~the department would have selected a different siting corridor for the facility; or~~

15 ~~(ii) the adjustment would materially increase unmitigated adverse impacts.~~

16 ~~(c) An adjustment pursuant to subsection (6)(a) is not subject to:~~

17 ~~(i) Title 75, chapter 1, part 2;~~

18 ~~(ii) a certificate amendment under 75-20-219; or~~

19 ~~(iii) a board review under 75-20-223.~~

20 ~~(d) (i) For each facility, the department shall maintain a list of persons who requested to receive~~
 21 ~~electronic notice of any adjustment submitted pursuant to this subsection (6).~~

22 ~~(ii) Upon receipt of a submitted adjustment, the department shall:~~

23 ~~(A) post information about the adjustment on the department's website; and~~

24 ~~(B) electronically notify each person identified in subsection (6)(d)(i) of the adjustment and where~~
 25 ~~information about the adjustment may be viewed."~~

26

27 **Section 147.** Section 75-20-304, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"75-20-304. Waiver of provisions of certification proceedings.** (1) The department may waive

1 compliance with any of the provisions of 75-20-216 and this part if the applicant makes a clear and convincing
2 showing to the department at a public hearing that an immediate, urgent need for a facility exists and that the
3 applicant did not have knowledge that the need for the facility existed sufficiently in advance to fully comply with
4 the provisions of 75-20-216 and this part.

5 ~~(2) The department may waive compliance with any of the provisions of this chapter upon receipt of~~
6 ~~notice by a person subject to this chapter that a facility or associated facility has been damaged or destroyed as~~
7 ~~a result of fire, flood, or other natural disaster or as the result of insurrection, war, or other civil disorder and~~
8 ~~there exists an immediate need for construction of a new facility or associated facility or the relocation of a~~
9 ~~previously existing facility or associated facility in order to promote the public welfare.~~

10 ~~(3) The department shall waive compliance with the requirements of 75-20-301(1)(c), (2)(b), and~~
11 ~~(2)(c) and the requirements of 75-20-211(1)(a)(iii) and (1)(a)(iv) and 75-20-216(3) relating to consideration of~~
12 ~~alternative sites if the applicant makes a clear and convincing showing to the department at a public hearing~~
13 ~~that:~~

14 ~~(a) a proposed facility will be constructed in a county where a single employer within the county has~~
15 ~~permanently curtailed or ceased operations, causing a loss of 250 or more permanent jobs within 2 years at the~~
16 ~~employer's operations within the preceding 10-year period;~~

17 ~~(b) the county and municipal governing bodies in whose jurisdiction the facility is proposed to be~~
18 ~~located support by resolution the waiver;~~

19 ~~(c) the proposed facility will be constructed within a 15-mile radius of the operations that have ceased~~
20 ~~or been curtailed; and~~

21 ~~(d) the proposed facility will have a beneficial effect on the economy of the county in which the facility~~
22 ~~is proposed to be located.~~

23 ~~(4) The waiver provided for in subsection (3) applies only to permanent job losses by a single~~
24 ~~employer. The waiver provided for in subsection (3) does not apply to jobs of a temporary or seasonal nature,~~
25 ~~including but not limited to construction jobs or job losses during labor disputes.~~

26 ~~(5) The waiver provided for in subsection (3) does not apply to consideration of alternatives or~~
27 ~~minimum adverse environmental impact for a facility defined in 75-20-104(9)(a) or (9)(b) 75-20-104(8)(a) or~~
28 ~~(8)(b) or for an associated facility defined in 75-20-104(3).~~

1 ~~(6) The applicant shall pay all expenses required to process and conduct a hearing on a waiver~~
 2 ~~request under subsection (3). However, any payments made under this subsection must be credited toward the~~
 3 ~~fee paid under 75-20-215 to the extent that the data or evidence presented at the hearing or the decision of the~~
 4 ~~department under subsection (3) can be used in making a certification decision under this chapter.~~

5 ~~(7) The department may grant only one waiver under subsections (3) and (4) for each permanent loss~~
 6 ~~of jobs as defined in subsection (3)(a)."~~

7
 8 **Section 148.** Section 75-20-401, MCA, is amended to read:

9 ~~"75-20-401. Additional requirements by other governmental agencies not permitted after~~
 10 ~~issuance of certificate -- exceptions -- venue for challenging certificate issuance. (1) Notwithstanding any~~
 11 ~~other law, a state or regional agency or municipality or other local government may not require any approval,~~
 12 ~~consent, permit, certificate, or other condition for the construction, operation, or maintenance of a facility~~
 13 ~~authorized by a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter, except that the department and board retain retains~~
 14 ~~the authority that they have or may be granted to determine compliance of the proposed facility with state and~~
 15 ~~federal standards and implementation plans for air and water quality and to enforce those standards.~~

16 ~~(2) This chapter does not prevent the application of state laws for the protection of employees~~
 17 ~~engaged in the construction, operation, or maintenance of a facility.~~

18 ~~(3) A judicial challenge to a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter by a party other than the~~
 19 ~~certificate holder or applicant must include the party to whom the certificate was issued as provided in this~~
 20 ~~chapter unless otherwise agreed to by the certificate holder or applicant. All judicial challenges of certificates for~~
 21 ~~projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of more than \$1 million must have precedence over any~~
 22 ~~civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without~~
 23 ~~merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or~~
 24 ~~increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action.~~

25 ~~(4) An action to challenge the issuance of a certificate pursuant to this chapter must be brought in the~~
 26 ~~county in which the activity authorized by the certificate will occur. If an activity will occur in more than one~~
 27 ~~county, the action may be brought in any of the counties in which the activity will occur."~~

1 **Section 72.** Section 75-20-406, MCA, is amended to read:

2 "**75-20-406. Judicial review of ~~board~~department decisions.** (1) A person aggrieved by the final
3 decision of the ~~board~~department OR BOARD on an application for a certificate may obtain judicial review of that
4 decision by the filing of a petition in a state district court of competent jurisdiction. A challenge to the issuance
5 of a certificate must be brought in the county in which the activity authorized by the certificate will occur. If an
6 activity will occur in more than one county, the action may be brought in any of the counties in which the activity
7 will occur.

8 (2) The judicial review procedure is the procedure for contested cases under the Montana
9 Administrative Procedure Act.

10 (3) A judicial challenge to a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter by a party other than the
11 certificate holder or applicant must include the party to whom the certificate was issued as provided in this
12 chapter unless otherwise agreed to by the certificate holder or applicant. All judicial challenges of certificates for
13 projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of more than \$1 million must have precedence over any
14 civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without
15 merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or
16 increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action."
17

18 **Section 73.** Section 75-20-407, MCA, is amended to read:

19 "**75-20-407. Jurisdiction of courts restricted.** Except as expressly set forth in 75-20-401, 75-20-
20 406, and 75-20-408, no court of this state has jurisdiction to hear or determine any issue, case, or controversy
21 concerning any matter which was or could have been determined in a proceeding before the ~~board~~BOARD OR
22 department under this chapter or to stop or delay the construction, operation, or maintenance of a facility,
23 except to enforce compliance with this chapter or the provisions of a certificate issued ~~hereunder~~ pursuant to
24 75-20-404 and 75-20-405 or 75-20-408."
25

26 **Section 151.** Section 75-20-410, MCA, is amended to read:

27 "~~75-20-410. Order not stayed by appeal -- stay or suspension by court -- limitations.~~
28 Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the law, the pendency of an appeal from a board department order

1 does not automatically stay or suspend the operation of the order. During the pendency of the appeal, the court
 2 may upon motion by one of the parties stay or suspend, in whole or in part, the operation of the board's
 3 department's orders on terms the court considers just. The court's action must be in accordance with the
 4 practice of courts exercising equity jurisdiction, subject to the following limitations:

- 5 (1) ~~No stay may be granted without notice to the parties and an opportunity to be heard by the court.~~
 6 (2) ~~No board department order may be stayed or suspended without finding that irreparable damage~~
 7 ~~would otherwise result to the party seeking the stay or suspension, and any other stay or suspension of a board~~
 8 ~~department order must specify the nature of the damage."~~

9

10 **Section 152.** Section 75-20-411, MCA, is amended to read:

11 "~~75-20-411. Surety bond -- other security.~~ If an order of the board department is stayed or
 12 suspended, the court may require a bond with good and sufficient surety conditioned that the party petitioning
 13 for review answer for all damages caused by the delay in enforcing the order of the board except that the cost
 14 of the bond is not chargeable to the applicant as part of the fee. If the party petitioning for review prevails upon
 15 final resolution of an appeal, the party does not forfeit bond nor is the party responsible for damages caused by
 16 delay."

17

18 **Section 74.** Section 75-20-1001, MCA, is amended to read:

19 "~~75-20-1001. Geothermal exploration -- notification of department.~~ The board department shall
 20 adopt rules requiring every person who proposes to gather geological data by boring of test holes or other
 21 underground exploration, investigation, or experimentation related to the possible future development of a
 22 facility employing geothermal resources to comply with the following requirements:

- 23 (1) notify the department of the proposed action;
 24 (2) submit to the department a description of the area involved;
 25 (3) submit to the department a statement of the proposed activities to be conducted and the methods
 26 to be utilized;
 27 (4) submit to the department geological data reports at such times as may be required by the rules;
 28 and

1 (5) submit such other information as the ~~board~~department may require in the rules."

2

3 **Section 154.** Section 75-20-1202, MCA, is amended to read:

4 ~~"75-20-1202. Definitions.~~ As used in 75-20-201, 75-20-203, and this part, the following definitions
5 apply:

6 (1) ~~"Facility", as defined in 75-20-104(9) 75-20-104(8), is further defined to include any nuclear facility~~
7 ~~as defined in subsection (2)(a).~~

8 (2) ~~(a) "Nuclear facility" means each plant, unit, or other facility designed for or capable of:~~

9 ~~(i) generating 50 megawatts of electricity or more by means of nuclear fission;~~

10 ~~(ii) converting, enriching, fabricating, or reprocessing uranium minerals or nuclear fuels; or~~

11 ~~(iii) storing or disposing of radioactive wastes or materials from a nuclear facility.~~

12 ~~(b) Nuclear facility does not include any small-scale facility used solely for educational, research, or~~
13 ~~medical purposes not connected with the commercial generation of energy."~~

14

15 **Section 75.** Section 75-20-1203, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"75-20-1203. Additional requirements for issuance of a certificate for the siting of a nuclear**
17 **facility.** (1) The ~~board~~department may not issue a certificate to construct a nuclear facility unless it finds that:

18 (a) no legal limits exist regarding the rights of a person or group of persons to bring suit for and
19 recover full and just compensation from the designers, manufacturers, distributors, owners, ~~and/or~~or operators
20 of a nuclear facility for damages resulting from the existence or operation of the facility; and further, that no
21 legal limits exist regarding the total compensation ~~which~~that may be required from the designers,
22 manufacturers, distributors, owners, ~~and/or~~or operators of a nuclear facility for damages resulting from the
23 existence or operation of ~~such~~the facility;

24 (b) the effectiveness of all safety systems, including but not limited to the emergency core cooling
25 systems, of ~~such~~the nuclear facility has been demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the ~~board~~department, by the
26 comprehensive laboratory testing of substantially similar physical systems in actual operation;

27 (c) the radioactive materials from ~~such~~the nuclear facilities can be contained with no reasonable
28 chance, as determined by the ~~board~~department, of intentional or unintentional escape or diversion of ~~such~~

1 radioactive materials into the natural environment in ~~such a manner as to cause that causes~~ substantial or long-
 2 term harm or hazard to present or future generations due to imperfect storage technologies, earthquakes or
 3 other acts of God, theft, sabotage, acts of war or other social instabilities, or whatever other causes the ~~board~~
 4 department may ~~deem to be consider~~ reasonably possible, at any time during which ~~such the~~ materials remain
 5 a radiological hazard; and

6 (d) the owner of ~~such the~~ nuclear facility has posted with the ~~board department~~ a bond totaling not
 7 less than 30% of the total capital cost of the facility, as estimated by the ~~board department~~, to pay for the
 8 decommissioning of the facility and the decontamination of any area contaminated with radioactive materials
 9 due to the existence or operation of the facility in the event the owner fails to pay the full costs of ~~such the~~
 10 decommissioning and decontamination. Excess bond, if any, ~~shall must~~ be refunded to the owner upon
 11 demonstration, to the satisfaction of the ~~board department~~, that the site and environs of the facility pose no
 12 radiological danger to present or future generations and that whatever other conditions the ~~board department~~
 13 may ~~deem consider~~ reasonable ~~have been are~~ met.

14 (2) Nothing in this section ~~shall may~~ be construed as relieving the owner of a nuclear facility from full
 15 financial responsibility for the decommissioning of ~~such the~~ facility and decontamination of any area
 16 contaminated with radioactive materials as a result of the existence or operation of ~~such the~~ facility at any time
 17 during which such materials remain a radiological hazard."

18

19 **Section 76.** Section 75-20-1205, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"75-20-1205. Emergency approval authority invalid for nuclear facilities.** Notwithstanding the
 21 provisions of 75-20-304(2) and (3), the ~~board department~~ may not waive compliance with any of the provisions
 22 of 75-20-201 and 75-20-203 or this part relating to certification of a nuclear facility."

23

24 **Section 157.** Section ~~75-26-301~~, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **~~"75-26-301. Definitions.~~** As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following
 26 definitions apply:

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

28 (2)(1) ~~"Decommission"~~ or ~~"decommissioning"~~ means:

1 (a) ~~except as provided in 75-26-304(2), the removal of buildings, cabling, electrical components,~~
2 ~~roads, or any other facilities associated with a wind generation or solar facility;~~

3 (b) ~~except as provided in 75-26-304(2), reclamation of surface lands to the previous grade and to~~
4 ~~comparable productivity in order to prevent adverse hydrologic effects; and~~

5 (c) ~~(i) the removal of the solar facility after the end of the facility's useful life or abandonment; or~~

6 ~~(ii) the removal of an aboveground wind turbine tower after the end of a wind generation facility's useful~~
7 ~~life or abandonment.~~

8 ~~(3)(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

9 ~~(4)(3) "Owner" means a person who owns a wind generation or solar facility used for the generation of~~
10 ~~electricity.~~

11 ~~(5)(4) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town,~~
12 ~~or local governmental entity or any other state, federal, or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.~~

13 ~~(6)(5) "Repurposed" means having made a significant investment in an existing wind generation or~~
14 ~~solar facility to extend the useful life of the facility by more than 5 years.~~

15 ~~(7)(6) "Solar facility" means an installation or combination of solar panels or plates, including a canopy~~
16 ~~or array, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce electricity and includes flat plate, focusing solar~~
17 ~~collectors, or photovoltaic solar cells that:~~

18 ~~(a) has a nameplate capacity greater than or equal to 2 megawatts; and~~

19 ~~(b) produces electricity that is not consumed on the premises of the solar facility or on land~~
20 ~~immediately adjacent to the premises of the solar facility.~~

21 ~~(8)(7) "Wind generation facility" means any combination of a physically connected wind turbine or~~
22 ~~turbines, associated prime movers, and other associated property, including appurtenant land and~~
23 ~~improvements and personal property, that are normally operated together to produce electric power from wind~~
24 ~~and that have a nameplate capacity greater than or equal to 25 megawatts."~~

25

26 **Section 158.** Section 75-26-304, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"75-26-304. Bond -- penalty for failure to submit.** (1) (a) Within 12 months of a wind generation
28 facility or solar facility commencing commercial operation, the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility

1 operating in Montana shall:

2 (i) ~~notify the department in writing of the date that the facility began commercial operation;~~

3 (ii) ~~subject to subsection (2), submit a plan for decommissioning the facility to the department,~~

4 including the scope of work to be completed and cost estimates for completion; and

5 (iii) ~~provide the department with any other necessary information in accordance with this part and rules~~

6 ~~adopted pursuant to this part in order for the department to determine bond requirements in accordance with~~

7 ~~this section.~~

8 (b) ~~Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), if a wind generation facility or solar facility commenced~~

9 ~~commercial operation before May 7, 2019, the owner of the facility shall submit to the department the~~

10 ~~information required in subsection (1)(a) on or before July 1, 2020.~~

11 (c) ~~If a wind generation facility commenced commercial operation before May 7, 2019, and the owner~~

12 ~~of the facility submitted information required by subsection (1)(a) on or before July 1, 2018, the owner is not~~

13 ~~required to resubmit the information.~~

14 (2) ~~If a property owner and the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility reach an agreement~~

15 ~~concerning alternative restoration of buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads, or any other associated~~

16 ~~facilities, instead of removal, or alternative plans for reclamation of surface lands, or both, decommissioning~~

17 ~~does not include removal, plans for reclamation, or both, as long as a copy of the agreement is provided to the~~

18 ~~department.~~

19 (3) (a) ~~If necessary, the department may modify a plan for decommissioning to determine bond~~

20 ~~requirements in accordance with subsections (4) through (8).~~

21 (b) ~~The department shall notify the owner of the facility of any modification. The owner of the wind~~

22 ~~generation facility or solar facility may appeal a modification by the department of a plan for decommissioning to~~

23 ~~the board department within 60 days of receiving notice of the modification to the plan.~~

24 (4) ~~In determining the amount of a bond required in accordance with subsection (6), the department~~

25 ~~shall consider:~~

26 (a) ~~the character and nature of the site where the wind generation facility or solar facility is located;~~

27 ~~and~~

28 (b) ~~the current market salvage value of the wind generation facility or solar facility, as determined by~~

1 an independent evaluator.

2 ~~(5) Except as provided in subsections (7) and (8) and in accordance with subsection (6), the owner of~~
3 ~~a wind generation facility or solar facility shall submit to the department a bond payable to the state of Montana~~
4 ~~in a form acceptable by the department and in the sum determined by the department, conditioned on the~~
5 ~~faithful decommissioning of the wind generation facility or solar facility.~~

6 ~~(6) (a) Except as provided in subsections (7) and (8), if a wind generation facility or solar facility~~
7 ~~commenced commercial operation on or before January 1, 2007, the operator shall submit the~~
8 ~~decommissioning bond to the department prior to the conclusion of the 16th year of operation of the wind~~
9 ~~generation facility or solar facility.~~

10 ~~(b) Except as provided in subsections (7) and (8), if a wind generation facility or solar facility~~
11 ~~commenced commercial operation after January 1, 2007, the operator shall submit the decommissioning bond~~
12 ~~to the department prior to the conclusion of the 15th year of operation of the wind generation facility or solar~~
13 ~~facility.~~

14 ~~(7) If a wind generation facility or solar facility is repurposed, as determined by the department in~~
15 ~~consultation with the owner, the owner is not required to provide a bond, and any existing bond must be~~
16 ~~released until the repurposed facility reaches its 5th year of operation.~~

17 ~~(8) An owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility is exempt from the requirements of~~
18 ~~subsection (6) if:~~

19 ~~(a) the owner posts a bond with a federal agency, with the department of natural resources and~~
20 ~~conservation for the lease of state land, or with a tribal, county, or local government;~~

21 ~~(b) the owner furnishes documents to the department that prove the owner is responsible under the~~
22 ~~terms and conditions of a lease agreement to provide private bonding. The parties shall agree that release of~~
23 ~~the agreed upon bond is subject to the approval of the department upon completion of reclamation.~~

24 ~~(c) the private landowner on whose land the wind generation facility or solar facility is located owns a~~
25 ~~10% or greater share of the wind generation facility or solar facility, as determined by the department; or~~

26 ~~(d) the facility:~~

27 ~~(i) commenced commercial operation on or before January 1, 2018, is a wind generation facility, and~~
28 ~~has less than 25 megawatts in nameplate capacity; or~~

1 ~~(ii) commenced commercial operation on or before January 1, 2020, is a solar facility, and has less~~
2 ~~than 2 megawatts in nameplate capacity.~~

3 ~~(9) (a) If the owner of the wind generation facility or solar facility fails to submit a decommissioning~~
4 ~~bond acceptable to the department within the timeframe required by this section, the department shall provide~~
5 ~~notice to the facility owner. If after 30 days the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility has not~~
6 ~~submitted a decommissioning bond, the department may assess an administrative penalty of not more than~~
7 ~~\$1,500 and an additional administrative penalty of not more than \$1,500 for each day the failure to submit the~~
8 ~~decommissioning bond continues.~~

9 ~~(b) The owner of the wind generation facility or solar facility may appeal the department's penalty~~
10 ~~assessment to the board within 20 days after receipt of written notice of the penalty. The contested case~~
11 ~~provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the~~
12 ~~board department under this subsection (9).~~

13 ~~(10) If the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility transfers ownership of the facility to a~~
14 ~~successor owner, the first owner's bond must be released after 90 days. The new owner shall submit any~~
15 ~~necessary bond within 90 days after transfer of ownership or be subject to penalties in accordance with this~~
16 ~~section.~~

17 ~~(11) Once every 5 years, the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility may submit an~~
18 ~~amended plan for the department's approval. As part of the submission, the owner of a wind generation facility~~
19 ~~or solar facility may also apply to the department for a reduction in the amount of the decommissioning bond~~
20 ~~applicable to the wind energy facility or solar facility. The owner's application to the department must include a~~
21 ~~detailed description of any material changes to information considered by the department in setting the initial~~
22 ~~amount of the bond.~~

23 ~~(12) Submitting a bond in accordance with this section does not absolve the owner of a wind~~
24 ~~generation facility or solar facility from complying with applicable regulations and requirements for:~~

25 ~~(a) areas subject to local zoning adopted under Title 76, chapter 2;~~

26 ~~(b) military affected areas under Title 10, chapter 1, part 15; or~~

27 ~~(c) airport affected areas under Title 67, chapter 7."~~

28

1 **Section 77.** Section 76-3-622, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"76-3-622. Water and sanitation information to accompany preliminary plat.** (1) Except as
3 provided in subsection (2), the subdivider shall submit to the governing body or to the agent or agency
4 designated by the governing body the information listed in this section for proposed subdivisions that will
5 include new water supply or wastewater facilities. The information must include:

6 (a) a vicinity map or plan that shows:

7 (i) the location, within 100 feet outside of the exterior property line of the subdivision and on the
8 proposed lots, of:

9 (A) flood plains;

10 (B) surface water features;

11 (C) springs;

12 (D) irrigation ditches;

13 (E) existing, previously approved, and, for parcels less than 20 acres, proposed water wells and
14 wastewater treatment systems;

15 (F) for parcels less than 20 acres, mixing zones identified as provided in subsection (1)(g); and

16 (G) the representative drainfield site used for the soil profile description as required under subsection
17 (1)(d); and

18 (ii) the location, within 500 feet outside of the exterior property line of the subdivision, of public water
19 and sewer facilities;

20 (b) a description of the proposed subdivision's water supply systems, storm water systems, solid
21 waste disposal systems, and wastewater treatment systems, including:

22 (i) whether the water supply and wastewater treatment systems are individual, shared, multiple user,
23 or public as those systems are defined in rules published by the department of environmental quality; and

24 (ii) if the water supply and wastewater treatment systems are shared, multiple user, or public, a
25 statement of whether the systems will be public utilities as defined in 69-3-101 and subject to the jurisdiction of
26 the public service commission or exempt from public service commission jurisdiction and, if exempt, an
27 explanation for the exemption;

28 (c) a drawing of the conceptual lot layout at a scale no smaller than 1 inch equal to 200 feet that

- 1 shows all information required for a lot layout document in rules adopted by the department of environmental
2 quality pursuant to 76-4-104;
- 3 (d) evidence of suitability for new onsite wastewater treatment systems that, at a minimum, includes:
- 4 (i) a soil profile description from a representative drainfield site identified on the vicinity map, as
5 provided in subsection (1)(a)(i)(G), that complies with standards published by the department of environmental
6 quality;
- 7 (ii) demonstration that the soil profile contains a minimum of 4 feet of vertical separation distance
8 between the bottom of the permeable surface of the proposed wastewater treatment system and a limiting
9 layer; and
- 10 (iii) in cases in which the soil profile or other information indicates that ground water is within 7 feet of
11 the natural ground surface, evidence that the ground water will not exceed the minimum vertical separation
12 distance provided in subsection (1)(d)(ii);
- 13 (e) for new water supply systems, unless cisterns are proposed, evidence of adequate water
14 availability:
- 15 (i) obtained from well logs or testing of onsite or nearby wells;
- 16 (ii) obtained from information contained in published hydrogeological reports; or
- 17 (iii) as otherwise specified by rules adopted by the department of environmental quality pursuant to 76-
18 4-104;
- 19 (f) evidence of sufficient water quality in accordance with rules adopted by the department of
20 environmental quality pursuant to 76-4-104;
- 21 (g) a preliminary analysis of potential impacts to ground water quality from new wastewater treatment
22 systems, using as guidance rules adopted by the board of environmental review pursuant to 75-5-301 and 75-
23 5-303 related to standard mixing zones for ground water, source specific mixing zones, and nonsignificant
24 changes in water quality. The preliminary analysis may be based on currently available information and must
25 consider the effects of overlapping mixing zones from proposed and existing wastewater treatment systems
26 within and directly adjacent to the subdivision. Instead of performing the preliminary analysis required under this
27 subsection (1)(g), the subdivider may perform a complete nondegradation analysis in the same manner as is
28 required for an application that is reviewed under Title 76, chapter 4.

1 (2) A subdivider whose land division is excluded from review under 76-4-125(1) is not required to
2 submit the information required in this section.

3 (3) A governing body may not, through adoption of regulations, require water and sanitation
4 information in addition to the information required under this section unless the governing body complies with
5 the procedures provided in 76-3-511."

6

7 **Section 160.** Section 76-4-102, MCA, is amended to read:

8 ~~"76-4-102. Definitions.~~ As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
9 following definitions apply:

10 (1) ~~"Adequate county water and/or sewer district facilities" means facilities provided by a county water~~
11 ~~and/or sewer district incorporated under Title 7, chapter 13, that operate in compliance with Title 75, chapters 5~~
12 ~~and 6.~~

13 (2) ~~"Adequate municipal facilities" means municipally, publicly, or privately owned facilities that supply~~
14 ~~water, treat sewage, or dispose of solid waste for all or most properties within the boundaries of a municipality~~
15 ~~and that are operating in compliance with Title 75, chapters 5 and 6.~~

16 (3) ~~"Board" means the board of environmental review.~~

17 (4)(3) ~~"Certifying authority" means a municipality or a county water and/or sewer district that meets~~
18 ~~the eligibility requirements established by the department under 76-4-104(6).~~

19 (5)(4) ~~"Department" means the department of environmental quality.~~

20 (6)(5) ~~"Extension of a public sewage system" means a sewerline that connects two or more sewer~~
21 ~~service lines to a sewer main.~~

22 (7)(6) ~~"Extension of a public water supply system" means a waterline that connects two or more water~~
23 ~~service lines to a water main.~~

24 (8)(7) ~~"Facilities" means public or private facilities for the supply of water or disposal of sewage or~~
25 ~~solid waste and any pipes, conduits, or other stationary method by which water, sewage, or solid wastes might~~
26 ~~be transported or distributed.~~

27 (9)(8) ~~"Individual water system" means any water system that serves one living unit or commercial~~
28 ~~unit and that is not a public water supply system as defined in 75-6-102.~~

1 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Mixing zone" has the meaning provided in 75-5-103.

2 ~~(11)(10)~~ (a) "Proposed drainfield mixing zone" means a mixing zone submitted for approval under this
3 chapter after March 30, 2011.

4 ~~(b)~~ The term does not include drainfield mixing zones that existed or were approved under this
5 chapter prior to March 30, 2011.

6 ~~(12)(11)~~ (a) "Proposed well isolation zone" means a well isolation zone submitted for approval under
7 this chapter after October 1, 2013.

8 ~~(b)~~ The term does not include well isolation zones that existed or were approved under this chapter
9 prior to October 1, 2013.

10 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Public sewage system" or "public sewage disposal system" means a public sewage system
11 as defined in 75-6-102.

12 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Public water supply system" has the meaning provided in 75-6-102.

13 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Registered professional engineer" means a person licensed to practice as a professional
14 engineer under Title 37, chapter 67.

15 ~~(16)(15)~~ "Registered sanitarian" means a person licensed to practice as a sanitarian under Title 37,
16 chapter 40.

17 ~~(17)(16)~~ "Reviewing authority" means the department or a local department or board of health certified
18 to conduct a review under 76-4-104.

19 ~~(18)(17)~~ "Sanitary restriction" means a prohibition against the erection of any dwelling, shelter, or
20 building requiring facilities for the supply of water or the disposition of sewage or solid waste or the construction
21 of water supply or sewage or solid waste disposal facilities until the department has approved plans for those
22 facilities.

23 ~~(19)(18)~~ "Sewage" has the meaning provided in 75-5-103.

24 ~~(20)(19)~~ "Sewer service line" means a sewerline that connects a single building or living unit to a public
25 sewage system or to an extension of a public sewage system.

26 ~~(21)(20)~~ "Solid waste" has the meaning provided in 75-10-103.

27 ~~(22)(21)~~ "Subdivision" means a division of land or land so divided that creates one or more parcels
28 containing less than 20 acres, exclusive of public roadways, in order that the title to or possession of the

1 parcels may be sold, rented, leased, or otherwise conveyed and includes any resubdivision, any condominium,
2 townhome, or townhouse, or any area, regardless of size, that provides permanent multiple space for
3 recreational camping vehicles or mobile homes.

4 ~~(23)(22)~~ "Water service line" means a waterline that connects a single building or living unit to a public
5 water supply system or to an extension of a public water supply system.

6 ~~(24)(23)~~ "Well isolation zone" means the area within a 100-foot radius of a water well."
7

8 **Section 161.** Section 76-4-108, MCA, is amended to read:

9 ~~"76-4-108. Enforcement. (1) If the reviewing authority has reason to believe that a violation of this~~
10 ~~part or a rule adopted or an order issued under this part has occurred, the reviewing authority may have written~~
11 ~~notice and an order served personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the alleged violator's agent.~~
12 ~~The notice must state the provision alleged to be violated, the facts alleged to constitute the violation, the~~
13 ~~corrective action required by the reviewing authority, and the time within which the action is to be taken. A~~
14 ~~notice and order issued by the department under this section may also assess an administrative penalty as~~
15 ~~provided in 76-4-109. The alleged violator may, no later than 30 days after service of a notice and order under~~
16 ~~this section, request a hearing before the local reviewing authority if it issued the notice of violation or the board~~
17 ~~department if the department issued the notice of violation. A request for a hearing must be filed in writing with~~
18 ~~the appropriate entity and must state the reason for the request. If a request is filed, a hearing must be held~~
19 ~~within a reasonable time.~~

20 ~~(2) In addition to or instead of issuing an order, the reviewing authority may initiate any other~~
21 ~~appropriate action to compel compliance with this part.~~

22 ~~(3) The provisions of this part may be enforced by a reviewing authority other than the department or~~
23 ~~board only for those divisions described in 76-4-104(3). If a local reviewing authority fails to adequately enforce~~
24 ~~the provisions of this part, the department or the board may compel compliance with this part under the~~
25 ~~provisions of this section.~~

26 ~~(4) When a local reviewing authority exercises the authority delegated to it by this section, the local~~
27 ~~reviewing authority is legally responsible for its actions under this part.~~

28 ~~(5) If the department or a local reviewing authority determines that a violation of this part, a rule~~

1 adopted under this part, or an order issued under this part has occurred, the department or the local reviewing
 2 authority may revoke its certificate of approval for the subdivision and reimpose sanitary restrictions following
 3 written notice to the alleged violator. Upon revocation of a certificate, the person aggrieved by revocation may
 4 request a hearing. A hearing request must be filed in writing within 30 days after receipt of the notice of
 5 revocation and must state the reason for the request. The hearing is before the board department if the
 6 department revoked the certificate or before the local reviewing authority if the local reviewing authority revoked
 7 the certificate.

8 ~~(6) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
 9 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section."~~

10

11 **Section 162.** Section 76-4-126, MCA, is amended to read:

12 ~~"76-4-126. Right to hearing. (1) Upon a denial of approval of subdivision plans and specifications~~
 13 ~~relating to environmental health facilities, the person who is aggrieved by the denial may request a hearing~~
 14 ~~before the board department. A hearing request must be filed, in writing, within 30 days after receipt of the~~
 15 ~~notice of denial and must state the reason for the request. The contested case provisions of the Montana~~
 16 ~~Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.~~

17 ~~(2) If the grounds for a denial of approval under this part include noncompliance with local laws or~~
 18 ~~regulations other than those adopting, pursuant to 50-2-116, state minimum standards for the control and~~
 19 ~~disposal of sewage, the board department shall upon receipt of a hearing request refer the local compliance~~
 20 ~~issues to the appropriate local authority. After opportunity for a hearing, the local authority shall issue a~~
 21 ~~determination regarding the local compliance issues, and the board department shall incorporate the~~
 22 ~~determination of the local authority in the board's final decision."~~

23

24 **Section 78.** Section 76-4-1001, MCA, is amended to read:

25 ~~"76-4-1001. Penalty factors. (1) In determining the amount of an administrative or civil penalty to~~
 26 ~~which subsection (4) applies, the department of environmental quality or the district court, as appropriate, shall~~
 27 ~~take into account the following factors:~~

28 (a) the nature, extent, and gravity of the violation;

- 1 (b) the circumstances of the violation;
- 2 (c) the violator's prior history of any violation, which:
- 3 (i) must be a violation of a requirement under the authority of the same chapter and part as the
- 4 violation for which the penalty is being assessed;
- 5 (ii) must be documented in an administrative order or a judicial order or judgment issued within 3 years
- 6 prior to the date of the occurrence of the violation for which the penalty is being assessed; and
- 7 (iii) may not, at the time that the penalty is being assessed, be undergoing or subject to administrative
- 8 appeal or judicial review;
- 9 (d) the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violator's action;
- 10 (e) the violator's good faith and cooperation;
- 11 (f) the amounts voluntarily expended by the violator, beyond what is required by law or order, to
- 12 address or mitigate the violation or impacts of the violation; and
- 13 (g) other matters that justice may require.
- 14 (2) After the amount of a penalty is determined under subsection (1), the department of environmental
- 15 quality or the district court, as appropriate, may consider the violator's financial ability to pay the penalty and
- 16 may institute a payment schedule or suspend all or a portion of the penalty.
- 17 (3) The department of environmental quality may accept a supplemental environmental project as
- 18 mitigation for a portion of the penalty. For purposes of this section, a "supplemental environmental project" is an
- 19 environmentally beneficial project that a violator agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action but
- 20 which the violator is not otherwise legally required to perform.
- 21 (4) This section applies to penalties assessed by the department of environmental quality or the
- 22 district court under Title 75, chapters 2, 5, 6, 11, and 20; Title 75, chapter 10, parts 2, 4, 5, and 12; and Title 76,
- 23 chapter 4.
- 24 (5) ~~The board of environmental review and the department of environmental quality may, for the~~
- 25 ~~statutes listed in subsection (4) for which each has rulemaking authority, adopt rules to implement this section."~~
- 26
- 27 **Section 164.** Section 80-15-102, MCA, is amended to read:
- 28 **"80-15-102. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following

1 definitions apply:

2 (1) ~~"Agricultural chemical" means any of the following:~~

3 ~~(a) a pesticide as defined in 80-8-102;~~

4 ~~(b) an isomer, degradation, or metabolic product of a pesticide; or~~

5 ~~(c) a commercial fertilizer as defined in 80-10-101.~~

6 ~~(2) "Aquifer" means a water-bearing, subsurface formation capable of yielding sufficient quantities of~~
 7 ~~water to a well for a beneficial use.~~

8 ~~(3) "Best management plans" and "best management practices" mean activities, procedures, and~~
 9 ~~practices established by the department, in consultation with the Montana state university-Bozeman extension~~
 10 ~~service, to prevent or remedy the introduction of agricultural chemicals into ground water to the extent~~
 11 ~~technically and economically practical.~~

12 ~~(4) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.~~

13 ~~(5)(4) "Confirmatory procedure" means a process for verifying the detection of agricultural chemicals~~
 14 ~~in water, soil, and other related media.~~

15 ~~(6)(5) "EPA" means the United States environmental protection agency.~~

16 ~~(7)(6) "Ground water" means any water of the state occupying the voids within a geologic formation~~
 17 ~~and within the zone of saturation.~~

18 ~~(8)(7) "Interim numerical standard" means a health-based number that expresses the concentration~~
 19 ~~of an agricultural chemical allowed in ground water and that is adopted by a rule of the board pursuant to 80-~~
 20 ~~15-201(3) or (4).~~

21 ~~(9)(8) "Margin of safety" means numerical margins that are applied to the no observable effect level in~~
 22 ~~an agricultural chemical toxicology study and that are used by the EPA to extrapolate data obtained from~~
 23 ~~studies of animals to humans, including sensitive individuals.~~

24 ~~(10)(9) "No observable effect level" means the highest dose level of an agricultural chemical to which a~~
 25 ~~laboratory animal is exposed, per unit of body weight, at which no effect is observed, as established by EPA's~~
 26 ~~pesticide registration process.~~

27 ~~(11)(10) "Nonpoint source" means a diffuse source of agricultural chemicals resulting from human~~
 28 ~~activities over a relatively large area, the effects of which must normally be addressed or controlled by a~~

1 management or conservation practice.

2 ~~(12)(11)~~ "Nonpromulgated federal standard" means a health advisory or a suggested no adverse
3 response level that is published but not promulgated by regulation by EPA and that is a suggested measure of
4 the health risk represented by the concentration of an agricultural chemical in water.

5 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Numerical risk assessment" means a scientific procedure used to measure the statistical
6 probability of human health risk associated with exposure to an agricultural chemical.

7 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Oncogenic potential" means the potential of an agricultural chemical to cause tumors in
8 laboratory animals and the extrapolation of that potential to humans through use of statistical models and other
9 evidence.

10 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Person" means any individual, group, firm, cooperative, corporation, association, partnership,
11 political subdivision, state or federal government agency, or other organization or entity.

12 ~~(16)(15)~~ "Point of standards application" means the specific location in an aquifer where ground water
13 quality and quantity are sampled, measured, evaluated, or otherwise used by either the department or the
14 department of environmental quality to implement the provisions of this chapter.

15 ~~(17)(16)~~ "Point source" means a point source as defined in 75-5-103, including but not limited to
16 chemical mixing, loading, and storage sites and sites of agricultural chemical spills.

17 ~~(18)(17)~~ "Promulgated federal standard" means an agricultural chemical maximum contaminant level
18 as established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, a national primary drinking water standard, or an
19 interim drinking water regulation or other EPA regulation based on federal law.

20 ~~(19)(18)~~ "Registrant" means a person as defined in 80-8-102 and 80-10-101.

21 ~~(20)(19)~~ "Standard" means the numerical value expressing the concentration of an agricultural
22 chemical in ground water that, when exceeded, presents a potential human health risk over a lifetime of
23 consumption and that is adopted by a rule of the board department of environmental quality as required by 80-
24 15-201.

25 ~~(21)(20)~~ "Use" means any act of handling or release of an agricultural chemical or exposure of humans
26 or the environment to an agricultural chemical, including but not limited to application, mixing, loading, storage,
27 disposal, or transportation."

28

1 **Section 79.** Section 80-15-105, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"80-15-105. Rulemaking.** (1) The ~~board~~ department of environmental quality, subject to the
3 provisions of 80-15-110, shall adopt rules for the administration of this chapter for which the ~~board and the~~
4 department of environmental quality ~~have~~has responsibility. These rules must include but are not limited to:

5 (a) standards and interim numerical standards for agricultural chemicals in ground water as
6 authorized by 80-15-201;

7 (b) procedures for ground water monitoring as authorized by 80-15-202 and 80-15-203;

8 (c) field and laboratory operational quality assurance, quality control, and confirmatory procedures
9 that are authorized by 80-15-107, 80-15-202, and 80-15-203 and that may include, through adoption by
10 reference, procedures that have been established or approved by EPA for quality assurance and quality
11 control;

12 (d) standards for maintaining the confidentiality of data and information declared confidential by EPA
13 and the confidentiality of chemical registrant data and information protected from disclosure by federal or state
14 law as required by 80-15-108; and

15 (e) administrative civil penalties as authorized by 80-15-412.

16 (2) The department shall adopt rules necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter.

17 These rules must include but are not limited to:

18 (a) procedures for ground water monitoring as authorized by 80-15-202 and 80-15-203;

19 (b) the content and procedures for development of agricultural chemical ground water management
20 plans, including the content of best management practices and best management plans, procedures for
21 obtaining comments from the department of environmental quality on the plans, and the adoption of completed
22 plans and plan modifications as authorized by 80-15-211 through 80-15-218;

23 (c) standards for maintaining the confidentiality of data and information declared confidential by EPA
24 and of chemical registrant data and information protected from disclosure by federal or state law as required by
25 80-15-108;

26 (d) field and laboratory operational quality assurance, quality control, and confirmatory procedures
27 that are authorized by 80-15-107, 80-15-202, and 80-15-203 and that may include, through adoption by
28 reference, procedures that have been established or approved by EPA for quality assurance and quality

1 control;

2 (e) emergency procedures as authorized by 80-15-405;

3 (f) procedures for issuance of compliance orders as authorized by 80-15-403; and

4 (g) procedures for the assessment of administrative civil penalties as authorized by 80-15-412."

5

6 **Section 80.** Section 80-15-110, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"80-15-110. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines.** (1) After

8 April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless required by state law, the ~~board~~

9 department of environmental quality may not adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than

10 the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The ~~board~~ department

11 of environmental quality may incorporate by reference comparable federal regulations or guidelines.

12 (2) The ~~board~~ department of environmental quality may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is

13 more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if ~~the board~~ it makes a written finding

14 after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:

15 (a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment of the state;

16 and

17 (b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or

18 environment and is achievable under current technology.

19 (3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in

20 the record that forms the basis for the ~~board's~~ conclusion. The written finding must also include information from

21 the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed

22 state standard or requirement.

23 (4) (a) A person affected by a rule of the ~~board~~ board of environmental review adopted after January

24 1, 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable federal

25 regulations or guidelines may petition the ~~board~~ department of environmental quality ~~BOARD~~ to review the rule. If

26 the ~~board~~ department of environmental quality ~~BOARD~~ determines that the rule is more stringent than

27 comparable federal regulations or guidelines, ~~the board~~ it THE DEPARTMENT shall comply with this section by

28 either revising the rule to conform to the federal regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as

1 provided under subsection (2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the
 2 petition. A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged
 3 rule. The ~~board department of environmental quality~~ BOARD may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to
 4 exceed \$250.

5 (b) A person may also petition the ~~board department of environmental quality~~ BOARD for a rule review
 6 under subsection (4)(a) if the board ~~of environmental review adopts~~ adopted a rule after January 1, 1990, and
 7 before [the effective date of this act] in an area in which no federal regulations or guidelines existed and the
 8 federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than
 9 the previously adopted board rule.

10 (5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking provisions of 2-4-
 11 303(1)."

12

13 **Section 81.** Section 80-15-201, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"80-15-201. Ground water standards.** (1) The ~~board department of environmental quality~~ shall adopt
 15 standards and, as applicable, interim numerical standards for agricultural chemicals in ground water. The
 16 standards must be the same as any promulgated or nonpromulgated federal standard established by EPA,
 17 although the ~~board department of environmental quality~~ may determine, pursuant to the requirements of
 18 subsection (4), that an interim numerical standard different from either a promulgated or nonpromulgated
 19 federal standard is justified. Promulgated federal standards must receive preference. Except as provided in
 20 subsections (3) and (4), if more than one nonpromulgated federal standard exists for an agricultural chemical,
 21 the ~~board department of environmental quality~~ must adopt the most recently established nonpromulgated
 22 federal standard.

23 (2) The ~~board department of environmental quality~~ is not required to adopt a standard or interim
 24 numerical standard for each agricultural chemical registered in the state. The only standards and interim
 25 numerical standards required are for those agricultural chemicals:

26 (a) that are addressed by promulgated and nonpromulgated federal standards;

27 (b) the presence of which has been verified in ground water as provided in 80-15-202; or

28 (c) that the department and the department of environmental quality predict may appear in ground

1 water, in accordance with the procedures and determinations specified in 80-15-202 and 80-15-203.

2 (3) If a promulgated federal standard has not been adopted or a nonpromulgated federal standard
3 has not been published for an agricultural chemical for which the ~~board~~department of environmental quality is
4 required to establish a standard or interim numerical standard as specified in subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c), the
5 department of environmental quality shall request EPA to establish a promulgated or nonpromulgated federal
6 standard. If the department of environmental quality determines that EPA cannot comply with the request within
7 15 days, the ~~board~~department of environmental quality shall adopt an interim numerical standard, provided that
8 the ~~board~~department of environmental quality shall review the interim numerical standard whenever EPA
9 adopts a promulgated federal standard or publishes a nonpromulgated federal standard for the agricultural
10 chemical in question.

11 (4) The ~~board~~department of environmental quality may adopt an interim numerical standard that is
12 different from either a promulgated or nonpromulgated federal standard if there is significant new and relevant
13 technical information available that is scientifically valid. The ~~board~~department of environmental quality shall
14 review the interim numerical standard when EPA establishes or revises the promulgated or nonpromulgated
15 federal standard for the agricultural chemical in question.

16 (5) The ~~board~~department of environmental quality shall consider the following in adopting any interim
17 numerical standard under either subsection (3) or (4):

18 (a) effects on a person weighing 70 kilograms and drinking 2 liters of water per day over a lifetime;
19 and

20 (b) EPA's conclusions regarding the no observable effect level, including the margin of safety
21 identified by EPA, when scientific data indicates oncogenic potential for the agricultural chemical and EPA has
22 determined that a numerical risk assessment is not justified, is inappropriate, or does not serve as the primary
23 toxicological basis for regulation.

24 (6) Nothing in this section may interfere with the ~~board's~~department of environmental quality's
25 responsibility to adopt rules and standards under Title 75, chapter 6."
26

27 **Section 82.** Section 82-4-102, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"82-4-102. Intent -- findings -- policy and purpose.** (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional

1 obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted The Strip and
 2 Underground Mine Siting Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate
 3 remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate
 4 remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

5 (2) It is the policy of this state to provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental
 6 life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and
 7 degradation of natural resources.

8 (3) It is the purpose of this part:

9 (a) to vest in the department the authority to adopt rules and to review new strip-mine and new
 10 underground-mine site locations and reclamation plans and either approve or disapprove those locations and
 11 plans and to exercise general administration and enforcement of this part;

12 ~~(b) to vest in the board the authority to adopt rules;~~

13 ~~(e)(b)~~ to satisfy the requirement of Article IX, section 2, of the constitution of this state that all lands
 14 disturbed by the taking of natural resources be reclaimed; and

15 ~~(d)(c)~~ to ensure that adequate information is available on areas proposed for strip mining or
 16 underground mining so that mining and reclamation plans may be properly formulated to accommodate areas
 17 that are suitable for strip mining or underground mining.

18 (4) This part is an exercise of the general police power to provide for the health and welfare of the
 19 people."

20

21 **Section 169.** Section ~~82-4-103~~, MCA, is amended to read:

22 ~~"82-4-103. Definitions.~~ When used in this part, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the
 23 context, the following definitions apply:

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

25 ~~(2)(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.~~

26 ~~(3)(2) "Mineral" means mineral as defined in 82-4-203.~~

27 ~~(4)(3) "New mine" means a strip or underground mining operation proposed for an area of land that~~
 28 ~~the department determines, because of distance from an existing strip mine or underground mine operation or~~

1 their respective facilities or because of important differences in topography, soils, wildlife, geologic structure,
 2 aquifers, or vegetation from an existing strip mine or underground mine operation, does not constitute an
 3 expansion of an existing operation.

4 ~~(5)(4)~~ "Operation" means all of the premises, facilities, railroad loops, roads, power lines, and
 5 equipment used in the process of producing and removing mineral from a designated strip mine or
 6 underground mine area.

7 ~~(6)(5)~~ "Operator" means a person who intends to operate a new strip mine or new underground mine
 8 involving the removal of more than 10,000 cubic yards of mineral or overburden.

9 ~~(7)(6)~~ "Person" means a person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity or any
 10 political subdivision or agency of the state.

11 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Preparatory work" means all onsite disturbances, excluding prospecting, associated with the
 12 initiation of a new strip mine or underground mine, including but not limited to the construction of railroad spurs
 13 or loops, buildings to house mining operations, roads, storage and train load-out facilities, transmission lines,
 14 erection of draglines and loading shovels, and other associated facilities.

15 ~~(9)(8)~~ "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 method or process in which the strata or overburden is removed or displaced in
 19 order to recover the mineral.

20 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Underground mining" means any part of the process that is followed in the production of a
 21 mineral and that uses vertical or horizontal shafts, slopes, drifts, or incline planes connected with excavations
 22 penetrating the mineral stratum or strata."

23

24 **Section 83.** Section 82-4-112, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"82-4-112. Administration.** (1) The department shall:

26 (a) adopt, after an opportunity for a hearing, general rules pertaining to new strip mines and to new
 27 underground mines and preparatory work to accomplish the purposes of this part, rules regarding filing of
 28 reports, issuance of permits, and other matters of procedure and administration;

1 ~~(a)~~(b) exercise general supervision, administration, and enforcement of this part and all rules and
2 orders adopted under this part;

3 ~~(b)~~(c) issue orders requiring operators to adopt remedial measures necessary to comply with this part
4 and rules adopted under this part;

5 ~~(c)~~(d) order the suspension of any permit for failure to comply with this part, any rule adopted under
6 this part, or a permit issued pursuant to this part;

7 ~~(d)~~(e) issue an order revoking a permit when the requirements set forth by a notice of violation, order
8 of suspension, or order requiring remedial measures have not been complied with according to the terms in the
9 notice or order;

10 ~~(e)~~(f) order the halting of any operation that is started without first having obtained a permit as
11 required by this part;

12 ~~(f)~~(g) conduct investigations and inspections necessary to ensure compliance with this part; and

13 ~~(g)~~(h) encourage and conduct investigations, research, experiments, and demonstrations and collect
14 and disseminate information relating to new strip mines, new underground mines, and reclamation of lands and
15 waters affected by preparatory work.

16 (2) The ~~board department~~ BOARD shall conduct hearings under this part."
17

18 **Section 84.** Section 82-4-123, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"82-4-123. Permit fee and surety bond.** A fee of \$50 shall be paid before the mine-site location
20 permit required in this part may be issued. The operator shall also file with the department a bond payable to
21 the state of Montana with surety satisfactory to the department in the penal sum to be determined by the
22 department of not less than \$200 or more than \$10,000 for each acre or fraction thereof of the area of land to
23 be disturbed by preparatory work, with a minimum bond of \$5,000, conditioned upon the faithful performance of
24 the requirements set forth in this part and of the rules of the ~~board~~ department. In determining the amount of the
25 bond within the above limits, the department shall take into consideration the character and nature of the
26 surface and subsurface disturbances, the future suitable use of the land involved, and the cost of removing or
27 burying facilities, subsidence stabilization, water controls, backfilling, grading, topsoiling, and reclamation to be
28 required. Notwithstanding the above limits, the bond may not be less than the total estimated cost to the state

1 of completing the work described in the reclamation plan."

2

3 **Section 85.** Section 82-4-129, MCA, is amended to read:

4 **"82-4-129. Noncompliance -- suspension of permits.** (1) If any of the requirements of this part or
 5 rules or orders of the department have not been complied with within the time limits set by the department or by
 6 this part, the department shall serve a notice of noncompliance on the operator or, when necessary, the director
 7 of the department shall order the suspension of a permit. The notice or order must be handed to the operator in
 8 person or served by certified mail addressed to the permanent address shown on the application for a permit.
 9 The notice of noncompliance or order of suspension must specify in what respects the operator has failed to
 10 comply with this part or the rules or orders of the department ~~AND THE BOARD and the board.~~ If the operator has
 11 not complied with the requirement set forth in the notice of noncompliance or order of suspension within time
 12 limits set in the notice or order, the permit may be revoked by order of the ~~board department~~ BOARD and the
 13 performance bond forfeited to the department.

14 (2) Any additional strip-mining or underground-mining or mine-site location permits held by an
 15 operator whose mine-site location permit has been revoked must be suspended, and the operator is not eligible
 16 to receive another permit or to have the suspended permits reinstated until the operator has complied with all
 17 the requirements of this part with respect to previous permits issued to the operator. An operator who has
 18 forfeited a bond is not eligible to receive another permit unless the land for which the bond was forfeited has
 19 been reclaimed without cost to the state or the operator has paid into the reclamation account a sum together
 20 with the value of the bond the department finds adequate to reclaim the lands. The department may not issue
 21 any additional permits to an operator who has repeatedly been in noncompliance or violation of this part."

22

23 ~~**Section 173.** Section 82-4-130, MCA, is amended to read:~~

24 ~~**"82-4-130. Procedure for hearings.** (1) A person aggrieved by a final decision of the department~~
 25 ~~under this part may request a hearing before the board department by submitting a written request stating the~~
 26 ~~reason for the request within 30 days after the department's decision.~~

27 ~~(2) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
 28 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing held under this part."~~

1

2 **Section 174.** Section 82-4-203, MCA, is amended to read:

3 ~~"82-4-203. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions~~
4 ~~apply:~~

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

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

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

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

15 (4) ~~"Approximate original contour" means that surface configuration achieved by backfilling and~~
16 ~~grading of the mined area so that the reclaimed area, including any terracing or access roads, closely~~
17 ~~resembles the general surface configuration of the land prior to mining and blends into and complements the~~
18 ~~drainage pattern of the surrounding terrain, with all highwalls, spoil piles, and coal refuse piles eliminated, so~~
19 ~~that:~~

20 (a) ~~the reclaimed terrain closely resembles the general surface configuration if it is comparable to the~~
21 ~~premine terrain. For example, if the area was basically level or gently rolling before mining, it should retain~~
22 ~~these features after mining, recognizing that rolls and dips need not be restored to their original locations and~~
23 ~~that level areas may be increased.~~

24 (b) ~~the reclaimed area blends with and complements the drainage pattern of the surrounding area so~~
25 ~~that water intercepted within or from the surrounding terrain flows through and from the reclaimed area in an~~
26 ~~unobstructed and controlled manner;~~

27 (c) ~~postmining drainage basins may differ in size, location, configuration, orientation, and density of~~
28 ~~ephemeral drainageways compared to the premining topography if they are hydrologically stable, soil erosion is~~

1 controlled to the extent appropriate for the postmining land use, and the hydrologic balance is protected; and

2 ~~(d) the reclaimed surface configuration is appropriate for the postmining land use.~~

3 ~~(5) "Aquifer" means any geologic formation or natural zone beneath the earth's surface that contains~~
 4 ~~or stores water and transmits it from one point to another in quantities that permit or have the potential to permit~~
 5 ~~economic development as a water source.~~

6 ~~(6) (a) "Area of land affected" means the area of land from which overburden is to be or has been~~
 7 ~~removed and upon which the overburden is to be or has been deposited.~~

8 ~~(b) The term includes:~~

9 ~~(i) all land overlying any tunnels, shafts, or other excavations used to extract the mineral;~~

10 ~~(ii) lands affected by the construction of new railroad loops and roads or the improvement or use of~~
 11 ~~existing railroad loops and roads to gain access and to haul the mineral;~~

12 ~~(iii) processing facilities at or near the mine site or other mine-associated facilities, waste deposition~~
 13 ~~areas, treatment ponds, and any other surface or subsurface disturbance associated with strip mining or~~
 14 ~~underground mining; and~~

15 ~~(iv) all activities necessary and incident to the reclamation of the mining operations.~~

16 ~~(7) "Bench" means the ledge, shelf, table, or terrace formed in the contour method of strip mining.~~

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

18 ~~(9)(8) "Coal conservation plan" means the planned course of conduct of a strip or underground~~
 19 ~~mining operation and includes plans for the removal and use of minable and marketable coal located within the~~
 20 ~~area planned to be mined.~~

21 ~~(10)(9) (a) "Coal preparation" means the chemical or physical processing of coal and its cleaning,~~
 22 ~~concentrating, or other processing or preparation.~~

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

26 ~~(11)(10) "Coal preparation plant" means a commercial facility where coal is subject to coal preparation.~~
 27 ~~The term includes commercial facilities associated with coal preparation activities but is not limited to loading~~
 28 ~~buildings, water treatment facilities, water storage facilities, settling basins and impoundments, and coal~~

1 processing and other waste disposal areas.

2 ~~(12)(11)~~ "Contour strip mining" means that strip mining method commonly carried out in areas of rough
3 and hilly topography in which the coal or mineral seam outcrops along the side of the slope and entrance are
4 made to the seam by excavating a bench or table cut at and along the site of the seam outcropping, with the
5 excavated overburden commonly being cast down the slope below the mineral seam and the operating bench.

6 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Cropland" means land used for the production of adapted crops for harvest, alone or in
7 rotation with grasses and legumes, that include row crops, small grain crops, hay crops, nursery crops, orchard
8 crops, and other similar crops.

9 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Degree" means a measurement from the horizontal. In each case, the measurement is
10 subject to a tolerance of 5% error.

11 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

12 ~~(16)(15)~~ "Developed water resources" means land used for storing water for beneficial uses, such as
13 stockponds, irrigation, fire protection, flood control, and water supply.

14 ~~(17)(16)~~ "Ephemeral drainageway" means a drainageway that flows only in response to precipitation in
15 the immediate watershed or in response to the melting of snow or ice and is always above the local water table.

16 ~~(18)(17)~~ "Failure to conserve coal" means the nonremoval or nonuse of minable and marketable coal
17 by an operation. However, the nonremoval or nonuse of minable and marketable coal that occurs because of
18 compliance with reclamation standards established by the department is not considered failure to conserve
19 coal.

20 ~~(19)(18)~~ "Fill bench" means that portion of a bench or table that is formed by depositing overburden
21 beyond or downslope from the cut section as formed in the contour method of strip mining.

22 ~~(20)(19)~~ "Fish and wildlife habitat" means land dedicated wholly or partially to the production,
23 protection, or management of species of fish or wildlife.

24 ~~(21)(20)~~ "Forestry" means land used or managed for the long-term production of wood, wood fiber, or
25 wood-derived products.

26 ~~(22)(21)~~ "Grazing land" means land used for grasslands and forest lands where the indigenous
27 vegetation is actively managed for livestock grazing or browsing or occasional hay production.

28 ~~(23)(22)~~ "Higher or better uses" means postmining land uses that have a higher economic value or

1 noneconomic benefit to the landowner or the community than the premining land uses.

2 ~~(24)(23)~~ "Hydrologic balance" means the relationship between the quality and quantity of water inflow
3 to, water outflow from, and water storage in a hydrologic unit, such as a drainage basin, aquifer, soil zone, lake,
4 or reservoir, and encompasses the dynamic relationships among precipitation, runoff, evaporation, and
5 changes in ground water and surface water storage.

6 ~~(25)(24)~~ "Imminent danger to the health and safety of the public" means the existence of any condition
7 or practice or any violation of a permit or other requirement of this part in a strip or underground coal mining
8 and reclamation operation that could reasonably be expected to cause substantial physical harm to persons
9 outside the permit area before the condition, practice, or violation can be abated. A reasonable expectation of
10 death or serious injury before abatement exists if a rational person, subjected to the same conditions or
11 practices giving rise to the peril, would not willingly be exposed to the danger during the time necessary for
12 abatement.

13 ~~(26)(25)~~ "Industrial or commercial" means land used for:

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

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

18 ~~(27)(26)~~ (a) "In situ coal gasification" means a method of in-place coal mining where limited quantities
19 of overburden are disturbed to install a conduit or well and coal is mined by injecting or recovering a liquid,
20 solid, sludge, or gas that causes the leaching, dissolution, gasification, liquefaction, or extraction of the coal.

21 (b) In situ coal gasification does not include the storage of carbon dioxide in a geologic storage
22 reservoir, the primary or enhanced recovery of naturally occurring oil and gas, or any related process regulated
23 by the board of oil and gas conservation pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11.

24 ~~(28)(27)~~ "Intermittent stream" means a stream or reach of a stream that is below the water table for at
25 least some part of the year and that obtains its flow from both ground water discharge and surface runoff.

26 ~~(29)(28)~~ "Land use" means specific uses or management-related activities, rather than the vegetative
27 cover of the land. Land uses may be identified in combination when joint or seasonal uses occur and may
28 include land used for support facilities that are an integral part of the land use. Land use categories include

1 cropland, developed water resources, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, grazing land, industrial or commercial,
2 pastureland, land occasionally cut for hay, recreation, or residential.

3 ~~(30)(29)~~ "Marketable coal" means a minable coal that is economically feasible to mine and is fit for sale
4 in the usual course of trade.

5 ~~(31)(30)~~ "Material damage" means, with respect to protection of the hydrologic balance, degradation or
6 reduction by coal mining and reclamation operations of the quality or quantity of water outside of the permit
7 area in a manner or to an extent that land uses or beneficial uses of water are adversely affected, water quality
8 standards are violated, or water rights are impacted. Violation of a water quality standard, whether or not an
9 existing water use is affected, is material damage.

10 ~~(32)(31)~~ "Method of operation" means the method or manner by which the cut, open pit, shaft, or
11 excavation is made, the overburden is placed or handled, water is controlled, and other acts are performed by
12 the operator in the process of uncovering and removing the minerals that affect the reclamation of the area of
13 land affected.

14 ~~(33)(32)~~ "Minaable coal" means that coal that can be removed through strip or underground mining
15 methods adaptable to the location that coal is being mined or is planned to be mined.

16 ~~(34)(33)~~ "Mineral" means coal and uranium.

17 ~~(35)(34)~~ "Operation" means:

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

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

23 ~~(36)(35)~~ "Operator" means a person engaged in:

24 (a) strip mining or underground mining who removes or intends to remove more than 10,000 cubic
25 yards of mineral or overburden;

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

28 (c) operating a coal preparation plant; or

1 ~~(d) uranium mining using in-situ methods.~~

2 ~~(37)(36) "Overburden" means:~~

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

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

5 ~~(38)(37) "Pastureland" means land used primarily for the long-term production of adapted,~~

6 ~~domesticated forage plants to be grazed by livestock or occasionally cut and cured for livestock feed.~~

7 ~~(39)(38) "Perennial stream" means a stream or part of a stream that flows continuously during all of the~~

8 ~~calendar year as a result of ground-water discharge or surface runoff.~~

9 ~~(40)(39) "Person" means a person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity or any~~

10 ~~political subdivision or agency of the state or federal government.~~

11 ~~(41)(40) "Prime farmland" means land that:~~

12 ~~(a) meets the criteria for prime farmland prescribed by the United States secretary of agriculture in the~~

13 ~~Federal Register; and~~

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

15 ~~(42)(41) "Prospecting" means:~~

16 ~~(a) the gathering of surface or subsurface geologic, physical, or chemical data by mapping, trenching,~~

17 ~~or geophysical or other techniques necessary to determine:~~

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

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

20 ~~(b) the gathering of environmental data to establish the conditions of an area before beginning strip-~~

21 ~~or underground coal mining and reclamation operations under this part.~~

22 ~~(43)(42) "Reclamation" means backfilling, subsidence stabilization, water control, grading, highwall~~

23 ~~reduction, topsoiling, planting, revegetation, and other work conducted on lands affected by strip mining or~~

24 ~~underground mining under a plan approved by the department to make those lands capable of supporting the~~

25 ~~uses that those lands were capable of supporting prior to any mining or to higher or better uses.~~

26 ~~(44)(43) "Recovery fluid" means any material that flows or moves, whether in semisolid, liquid, sludge,~~

27 ~~gas, or some other form or state, used to dissolve, leach, gasify, or extract coal.~~

28 ~~(45)(44) "Recreation" means land used for public or private leisure-time activities, including developed~~

1 recreation facilities, such as parks, camps, and amusement areas, as well as areas for less intensive uses,
2 such as hiking, canoeing, and other undeveloped recreational uses.

3 ~~(46)(45)~~ "Reference area" means a land unit maintained under appropriate management for the
4 purpose of measuring vegetation ground cover, productivity, and plant species diversity that are produced
5 naturally or by crop production methods approved by the department. Reference areas must be representative
6 of geology, soil, slope, and vegetation in the permit area.

7 ~~(47)(46)~~ "Remining" means conducting surface coal mining and reclamation operations that affect
8 previously mined areas (for example, the recovery of additional mineral from existing gob or tailings piles).

9 ~~(48)(47)~~ "Residential" means land used for single and multiple family housing, mobile home parks, or
10 other residential lodgings.

11 ~~(49)(48)~~ "Restore" or "restoration" means reestablishment after mining and reclamation of the land use
12 that existed prior to mining or to higher or better uses.

13 ~~(50)(49)~~ (a) "Strip mining" means any part of the process followed in the production of mineral by the
14 open-cut method, including mining by the auger method or any similar method that penetrates a mineral deposit
15 and removes mineral directly through a series of openings made by a machine that enters the deposit from a
16 surface excavation or any other mining method or process in which the strata or overburden is removed or
17 displaced in order to recover the mineral.

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

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

21 ~~(51)(50)~~ "Subsidence" means a vertically downward movement of overburden materials resulting from
22 the actual mining of an underlying mineral deposit or associated underground excavations.

23 ~~(52)(51)~~ "Surface owner" means:

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

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

28 ~~(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 ~~(53)(52) "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 ~~(54)(53) "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 ~~(55)(54) "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~~
14 ~~diligence, or lack of reasonable care.~~

15 ~~(56)(55) "Waiver" means a document that demonstrates the clear intention to release rights in the~~
16 ~~surface estate for the purpose of permitting the extraction of subsurface minerals by strip-mining methods.~~

17 ~~(57)(56) "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 ~~(58)(57) "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 **Section 86.** Section 82-4-205, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"82-4-205. Administration by department AND BOARD and board.** (1) The department shall adopt,
28 after an opportunity for a hearing, general rules pertaining to strip mining and to underground mining to

1 accomplish the purposes of this part. The department may adopt rules with respect to filing of reports, issuance
 2 of permits, monitoring, and other matters of procedure and administration.

3 ~~(4)~~(2) The department:

4 (a) shall exercise general supervision, administration, and enforcement of this part and all rules and
 5 orders adopted under this part;

6 (b) shall review for approval or disapproval all plans and specifications submitted by an operator for
 7 the method of operation, subsidence stabilization, water control, backfilling, grading, highwall reduction, and
 8 topsoiling and for the reclamation of the area of land affected by the operator's operation;

9 (c) shall issue orders requiring an operator to adopt the remedial measures necessary to comply with
 10 this part and rules adopted under this part;

11 (d) shall order the suspension of any permit for failure to comply with this part or a rule adopted under
 12 this part;

13 (e) shall issue an order revoking a permit when the requirements set forth by a notice of violation,
 14 order of suspension, or order requiring remedial measures have not been complied with according to the terms
 15 in the notice or order;

16 (f) shall order the halting of any operation that is started without first having obtained a permit as
 17 required by this part or order the cessation of operations not in compliance with this part in accordance with 82-
 18 4-251;

19 (g) shall conduct public hearings required under this part or rules adopted ~~by the board~~ pursuant to
 20 this part;

21 (h) shall conduct investigations and inspections necessary to ensure compliance with this part;

22 ~~(i) shall conduct contested case hearings under this part; and~~

23 ~~(i)~~(i) (l) may encourage and conduct investigations, research, experiments, and demonstrations and
 24 collect and disseminate information relating to strip mining and to underground mining and reclamation of lands
 25 and waters affected by strip mining and underground mining.

26 ~~(2) The board shall conduct contested case hearings under this part.~~

27 (2) THE BOARD SHALL CONDUCT CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS UNDER THIS PART."

28

1 **Section 176.** Section 82-4-206, MCA, is amended to read:

2 ~~"82-4-206. Procedure for contested case hearings. (1) An applicant, permittee, or person with an~~
 3 ~~interest that is or may be adversely affected may request a hearing before the board department on any of the~~
 4 ~~following decisions of the department by submitting a written request stating the reason for the request within~~
 5 ~~30 days after the department's decision:~~

6 ~~(a) approval or denial of an application for a permit pursuant to 82-4-231;~~

7 ~~(b) approval or denial of an application for a prospecting permit pursuant to 82-4-226;~~

8 ~~(c) approval or denial of an application to increase or reduce a permit area pursuant to 82-4-225;~~

9 ~~(d) approval or denial of an application to renew or revise a permit pursuant to 82-4-221; or~~

10 ~~(e) approval or denial of an application to transfer a permit pursuant to 82-4-238 or 82-4-250.~~

11 ~~(2) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
 12 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing before the board department under subsection (1)."~~

13

14 **Section 87.** Section 82-4-207, MCA, is amended to read:

15 ~~"82-4-207. Rulemaking -- in situ coal gasification. (1) Within 1 year of October 1, 2011, and in~~
 16 ~~accordance with subsection (3), the board department shall adopt rules necessary to regulate underground~~
 17 ~~mining using in situ coal gasification.~~

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

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

23

24 **Section 88.** Section 82-4-223, MCA, is amended to read:

25 ~~"82-4-223. Surety bond. (1) Before a permit may be issued, the operator shall file with the~~
 26 ~~department a bond payable to the state of Montana with surety satisfactory to the department in an amount to~~
 27 ~~be determined by the department of not less than \$200 for each acre or fraction of an acre of the area of land~~
 28 ~~affected, with a minimum bond of \$10,000, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the requirements set~~

1 forth in this part and of the rules of the ~~board~~ department. The operator may elect to deposit cash, negotiable
2 bonds, or negotiable certificates of deposit of any bank organized or transacting business in the United States.
3 The cash deposit or market value of these securities must be equal to or greater than the amount of the bond
4 required for the bonded area. The level of bonding must be relative to the degree of disturbance projected by
5 the original permit and the annual report. A political subdivision or agency of the state need not file a bond
6 unless required to do so by the department. The department shall adjust the amount of bond required if the cost
7 of reclamation changes.

8 (2) In determining the amount of the bond, the department shall take into consideration the character
9 and nature of the overburden, the future suitable use of the land involved, and the cost of backfilling, grading,
10 highwall reduction, subsidence stabilization, water control, topsoiling, and reclamation to be required, but the
11 bond may not be less than the total estimated cost to the state of completing the work described in the
12 reclamation plan."

13

14 **Section 89.** Section 82-4-226, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"82-4-226. Prospecting permit.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (7), prospecting by any person
16 on land not included in a valid strip-mining or underground-mining permit is unlawful without possessing a valid
17 prospecting permit issued by the department as provided in this section. A prospecting permit may not be
18 issued until the person submits an application, the application is examined, amended if necessary, and
19 approved by the department, and an adequate reclamation performance bond is posted, all of which
20 prerequisites must be done in conformity with the requirements of this part.

21 (2) An application for a prospecting permit filed pursuant to subsection (1) must be made in writing,
22 notarized, and submitted to the department upon forms prepared and furnished by it. The application must
23 include among other things a prospecting map and a prospecting reclamation plan of substantially the same
24 character as required for a surface-mining or underground-mining map and reclamation plan under this part.
25 The department shall determine by rules the precise nature of the required prospecting map and reclamation
26 plan. Any applicant who intends to prospect by means of core drilling shall specify the location and number of
27 holes to be drilled, methods to be used in sealing aquifers, and other information that may be required by the
28 department. The applicant shall state what types of prospecting and excavating techniques will be employed on

1 the affected land. The application must also include any other or further information that the department may
2 require.

3 (3) Before the department gives final approval to the prospecting permit application, the applicant
4 shall file with the department a reclamation and revegetation bond in a form and in an amount as determined in
5 the same manner for strip-mining or underground-mining reclamation and revegetation bonds under this part.

6 (4) In the event that the holder of a prospecting permit desires to strip mine or underground mine the
7 area covered by the prospecting permit and has fulfilled all the requirements for a strip-mining or underground-
8 mining permit, the department may permit the postponement of the reclamation of the acreage prospected if
9 that acreage is incorporated into the complete reclamation plan submitted with the application for a strip-mining
10 or underground-mining permit. Any land actually affected by prospecting or excavating under a prospecting
11 permit and not covered by the strip-mining or underground-mining reclamation plan must be promptly
12 reclaimed.

13 (5) The prospecting permit is valid for 1 year and is subject to renewal, suspension, and revocation in
14 the same manner as strip-mining or underground-mining permits under this part.

15 (6) The holder of the prospecting permit shall file with the department the same progress reports,
16 maps, and revegetation progress reports as are required of strip-mining or underground-mining operators under
17 this part.

18 (7) (a) Prospecting that is not conducted in an area designated unsuitable for coal mining pursuant to
19 82-4-227 or 82-4-228, that is not conducted for the purpose of determining the location, quality, or quantity of a
20 mineral deposit, and that does not remove more than 250 tons of coal is not subject to subsections (1) through
21 (6). However, a person who conducts prospecting described in this subsection (7)(a) shall file with the
22 department a notice of intent to prospect that contains the information required by the department before
23 commencing prospecting operations. If this prospecting substantially disturbs the natural land surface, it must
24 be conducted in accordance with the performance standards of the ~~board's~~ department's rules regulating the
25 conduct and reclamation of prospecting operations that remove coal. The department may inspect these
26 prospecting and reclamation operations at any reasonable time.

27 (b) (i) Prospecting conducted to determine the location, quality, or quantity of coal outside an area
28 designated unsuitable that is not included in a valid strip-mining or underground-mining permit, that does not

1 substantially disturb the land surface, and that does not remove more than 250 tons of coal is not subject to
2 subsections (1) and (2) but may not be conducted without a valid prospecting permit issued pursuant to
3 subsection (8).

4 (ii) For purposes of this subsection (7)(b), the drilling of coal prospecting holes, the installation and use
5 of associated disposal pits, and the installation of ground water monitoring wells does not constitute substantial
6 disturbance.

7 (8) (a) An application for a coal prospecting permit required by subsection (7)(b) must contain:

8 (i) the name, address, and telephone number of the person who seeks to prospect;

9 (ii) the name, address, and telephone number of the person's representative who will be present at and
10 responsible for conducting the prospecting activities;

11 (iii) a narrative describing the proposed prospecting area or a map of the prospecting area at a scale of
12 1:24,000 or greater showing:

13 (A) the general location of drill holes and trenches;

14 (B) existing and proposed roads;

15 (C) occupied dwellings;

16 (D) topographic features;

17 (E) bodies of water; and

18 (F) pipelines;

19 (iv) a copy of the documents upon which the applicant bases its legal right to prospect, including
20 documentation that the owners of the land affected have been notified and understand that the department will
21 make investigations and inspections to ensure compliance;

22 (v) a statement of the period of intended prospecting; and

23 (vi) a description of the method of prospecting to be used and the practices that will be followed to
24 protect the environment and reclaim disturbed areas, including plugging of prospecting holes, in accordance
25 with rules adopted by the ~~board~~ department.

26 (b) Within 10 working days of receipt of an application, the department shall notify the applicant in
27 writing as to whether the application is complete and preliminarily acceptable. If the department determines that
28 the application is not complete or not preliminarily acceptable, the department shall include a detailed

1 identification of information necessary to cure the deficiency.

2 (c) Within 5 working days of receipt of the applicant's response to the identified deficiencies, the
3 department shall review the response and notify the person as to whether the application is complete and
4 preliminarily acceptable. If the department determines the application is not complete or preliminarily
5 acceptable, the department shall notify the person in writing and include a detailed identification of information
6 necessary to make the application complete and preliminarily acceptable.

7 (d) When the department determines that the application is complete and preliminarily acceptable, the
8 department shall notify the applicant in writing. The notification must include the amount of bond that is required
9 to be posted in order for the permit to be issued.

10 (e) Upon receipt of the department's determination of preliminary acceptability, the applicant shall
11 place an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the proposed prospecting. The
12 notice must describe the application and a place in the locality where the public may examine the application
13 and must notify the public that it may submit written comments by delivering or mailing them to the department
14 within 10 days following publication of the notice.

15 (f) After close of the public comment period, the department shall notify the applicant as to whether
16 the application is acceptable. The department shall issue the notification within 5 working days of the close of
17 the comment period if no comments are received and within 10 working days if comments are received. In the
18 notice of acceptability, the department shall notify the applicant of any adjustment in the amount of the bond.

19 (g) A permit issued pursuant to this subsection (8) is subject to subsections (3) through (6)."
20

21 **Section 180.** Section ~~82-4-227~~, MCA, is amended to read:

22 ~~"82-4-227. Refusal of permit -- applicant violator system. (1) An application for a prospecting,~~
23 ~~strip mining, or underground mining permit or major revision may not be approved by the department unless,~~
24 ~~on the basis of the information set forth in the application, in an onsite inspection, and in an evaluation of the~~
25 ~~operation by the department, the applicant has affirmatively demonstrated that the requirements of this part and~~
26 ~~rules will be observed and that the proposed method of operation, backfilling, grading, subsidence stabilization,~~
27 ~~water control, highwall reduction, topsoiling, revegetation, or reclamation of the affected area can be carried out~~
28 ~~consistently with the purpose of this part. The applicant for a permit or major revision has the burden of~~

1 ~~establishing that the application is in compliance with this part and the rules adopted under it.~~

2 ~~(2) The department may not approve the application for a prospecting, strip-mining, or underground-~~
3 ~~mining permit when the area of land described in the application includes land that has special, exceptional,~~
4 ~~critical, or unique characteristics or when mining or prospecting on that area would adversely affect the use,~~
5 ~~enjoyment, or fundamental character of neighboring land that has special, exceptional, critical, or unique~~
6 ~~characteristics. For the purposes of this part, land is defined as having these characteristics if it possesses~~
7 ~~special, exceptional, critical, or unique:~~

8 ~~(a) biological productivity, the loss of which would jeopardize certain species of wildlife or domestic~~
9 ~~stock;~~

10 ~~(b) ecological fragility, in the sense that the land, once adversely affected, could not return to its~~
11 ~~former ecological role in the reasonably foreseeable future;~~

12 ~~(c) ecological importance, in the sense that the particular land has such a strong influence on the total~~
13 ~~ecosystem of which it is a part that even temporary effects felt by it could precipitate a systemwide reaction of~~
14 ~~unpredictable scope or dimensions; or~~

15 ~~(d) scenic, historic, archaeologic, topographic, geologic, ethnologic, scientific, cultural, or recreational~~
16 ~~significance. In applying the provisions of this subsection (2)(d), particular attention should be paid to the~~
17 ~~inadequate preservation previously accorded Plains Indian history and culture.~~

18 ~~(3) The department may not approve an application for a strip or underground coal mining permit or~~
19 ~~major revision unless the application affirmatively demonstrates that:~~

20 ~~(a) the assessment of the probable cumulative impact of all anticipated mining in the area on the~~
21 ~~hydrologic balance has been made by the department and the proposed operation of the mining operation has~~
22 ~~been designed to prevent material damage to the hydrologic balance outside the permit area; and~~

23 ~~(b) the proposed strip or underground coal mining operation would not:~~

24 ~~(i) interrupt, discontinue, or preclude farming on alluvial valley floors that are irrigated or naturally~~
25 ~~subirrigated, excluding undeveloped rangelands that are not significant to farming on alluvial valley floors and~~
26 ~~excluding land about which the department finds that if any farming will be interrupted, discontinued, or~~
27 ~~precluded, it is of such small acreage as to be of negligible impact on the farm's agricultural production; or~~

28 ~~(ii) materially damage the quantity or quality of water in surface water or underground water systems~~

1 that supply the valley floors described in subsection (3)(b)(i).

2 (4) ~~Subsection (3)(b) does not affect those strip or underground coal mining operations that in the~~
3 ~~year preceding the enactment of Public Law 95-87 produced coal in commercial quantities and were located~~
4 ~~within or adjacent to alluvial valley floors or had obtained specific permit approval by the department to conduct~~
5 ~~strip or underground coal mining operations within alluvial valley floors. If coal deposits are precluded from~~
6 ~~being mined under this subsection, the director of the department shall certify to the secretary of interior that the~~
7 ~~mineral owner or lessee may be eligible for participation in coal exchange programs pursuant to section 510(5)~~
8 ~~of Public Law 95-87.~~

9 (5) (a) ~~If the area proposed to be mined contains prime farmland, the department may not grant a~~
10 ~~permit to mine coal on the prime farmland unless it finds in writing that the applicant:~~

11 (i) ~~has the technological capability to restore the mined area, within a reasonable time, to levels of~~
12 ~~yield equivalent to or higher than nonmined prime farmland in the surrounding area under equivalent levels of~~
13 ~~management; and~~

14 (ii) ~~can meet the soil reconstruction standards of 82-4-232(3).~~

15 (b) ~~Nothing in this subsection (5) applies to a permit issued prior to August 3, 1977, or to any~~
16 ~~revisions or renewals of the permit or to any existing strip or underground mining operations for which a permit~~
17 ~~was issued prior to August 3, 1977.~~

18 (6) ~~If the department finds that the overburden on any part of the area of land described in the~~
19 ~~application for a prospecting, strip mining, or underground mining permit is such that experience in the state~~
20 ~~with a similar type of operation upon land with similar overburden shows that substantial deposition of sediment~~
21 ~~in streambeds, subsidence, landslides, or water pollution cannot feasibly be prevented, the department shall~~
22 ~~delete that part of the land described in the application upon which the overburden exists. The burden is on the~~
23 ~~applicant to demonstrate that any area should not be deleted under this subsection.~~

24 (7) ~~If the department finds that the operation will constitute a hazard to a dwelling, public building,~~
25 ~~school, church, cemetery, commercial or institutional building, public road, stream, lake, or other public~~
26 ~~property, the department shall delete those areas from the prospecting, strip mining, or underground mining~~
27 ~~permit application before it can be approved. Strip or underground coal mining may not be allowed:~~

28 (a) ~~within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling, unless waived by the owner;~~

1 ~~(b) within 300 feet of any public building, school, church, community, or institutional building, or public~~
2 ~~park;~~

3 ~~(c) within 100 feet of a cemetery;~~

4 ~~(d) within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line of any public road, except where mine access roads~~
5 ~~or haulage roads join the right-of-way line. The department may permit the roads to be relocated or the area~~
6 ~~affected to lie within 100 feet of the road if, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing in the locality, a~~
7 ~~written finding is made that the interests of the public and the landowners affected will be protected.~~

8 ~~(8) Strip mining or underground mining may not be conducted within 500 feet of active or abandoned~~
9 ~~underground mines in order to prevent breakthroughs and to protect health or safety of miners. However, the~~
10 ~~department shall permit an operator to mine near, through, or partially through an abandoned underground~~
11 ~~mine or closer to an active underground mine if:~~

12 ~~(a) the nature, timing, and sequencing of specific strip-mine activities and specific underground-mine~~
13 ~~activities are jointly approved by the department and the regulatory authority concerned with the health and~~
14 ~~safety of underground miners; and~~

15 ~~(b) the operations will result in improved resource recovery, abatement of water pollution, or~~
16 ~~elimination of hazards to the health and safety of the public.~~

17 ~~(9) The department may not approve an application for a strip or underground coal mining operation~~
18 ~~if the area proposed to be mined is included:~~

19 ~~(a) within an area designated unsuitable for strip or underground coal mining; or~~

20 ~~(b) within an area under review for this designation under an administrative proceeding, unless in an~~
21 ~~area as to which an administrative proceeding has commenced pursuant to this part, the operator making the~~
22 ~~permit application demonstrates that prior to January 1, 1977, the operator made substantial legal and financial~~
23 ~~commitments in relation to the operation for which the operator is applying for a permit.~~

24 ~~(10) A permit or major permit revision for a strip or underground coal mining operation may not be~~
25 ~~issued unless the applicant has affirmatively demonstrated by its coal conservation plan that failure to conserve~~
26 ~~coal will not occur. The department may require the applicant to submit any information it considers necessary~~
27 ~~for review of the coal conservation plan.~~

28 ~~(11) Whenever information available to the department indicates that a strip or underground coal-~~

1 mining operation that is owned or controlled by the applicant or by any person who owns or controls the
2 applicant is currently in violation of Public Law 95-87, as amended, any state law required by Public Law 95-87,
3 as amended, or any law, rule, or regulation of the United States or of any department or agency in the United
4 States pertaining to air or water environmental protection, the department may not issue a strip or
5 underground coal mining permit or amendment, other than an incidental boundary revision, until the applicant
6 submits proof that the violation has been corrected or is in the process of being corrected to the satisfaction of
7 the administering agency.

8 ~~(12) The department may not issue a strip or underground coal mining permit or amendment, other~~
9 ~~than an incidental boundary revision, to any applicant that it finds, after an opportunity for hearing, owns or~~
10 ~~controls any strip or underground coal mining operation that has demonstrated a pattern of willful violations of~~
11 ~~Public Law 95-87, as amended, or any state law required by Public Law 95-87, as amended, when the nature~~
12 ~~and duration of the violations and resulting irreparable damage to the environment indicate an intent not to~~
13 ~~comply with the provisions of this part.~~

14 ~~(13) Subject to valid existing rights, no strip or underground coal mining operations except those that~~
15 ~~existed as of August 3, 1977, may be conducted:~~

16 ~~(a) on lands within the boundaries of units of the national park system, the national wildlife refuge~~
17 ~~system, the national wilderness preservation system, the national system of trails, the wild and scenic rivers~~
18 ~~system, including study rivers designated under section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or study rivers or~~
19 ~~study river corridors established in any guidelines issued under that act, or national recreation areas designated~~
20 ~~by an act of congress; or~~

21 ~~(b) on any federal lands within national forests, subject to the exceptions and limitations of 30 CFR~~
22 ~~761.11(b) and the procedures of 30 CFR 761.13.~~

23 ~~(14) (a) A person who is listed by the department in the applicant violator system maintained by the~~
24 ~~office of surface mining reclamation and enforcement of the U.S. department of the interior pursuant to the~~
25 ~~Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C. 1201, et seq., as owning or controlling a strip-~~
26 ~~mining or underground mining operation may challenge the ownership or control listing by filing a written~~
27 ~~request with the department for review of the listing. In the request, the person must include a written~~
28 ~~explanation of the basis for the challenge and any evidence the person wishes the department to consider. The~~

1 ~~department shall provide a written response within 60 days of receipt of the request for review.~~

2 ~~(b) Within 30 days of receipt of the response pursuant to subsection (14)(a), the person who is listed~~
3 ~~may request a hearing before the board department by submitting to the board department a written request for~~
4 ~~hearing that states the reason for the request. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative~~
5 ~~Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to the hearing."~~

6

7 **Section 90.** Section 82-4-231, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"82-4-231. Submission of and action on reclamation plan.** (1) As rapidly, completely, and
9 effectively as the most modern technology and the most advanced state of the art will allow, each operator
10 granted a permit under this part shall reclaim and revegetate the land affected by the operation, except that
11 underground tunnels, shafts, or other subsurface excavations need not be revegetated. Under the provisions of
12 this part and rules adopted by the ~~board~~ department, an operator shall prepare and carry out a method of
13 operation, a plan of grading, backfilling, highwall reduction, subsidence stabilization, water control, and
14 topsoiling and a reclamation plan for the area of land affected by the operation. In developing a method of
15 operation and plans of grading, backfilling, highwall reduction, subsidence stabilization, water control,
16 topsoiling, and reclamation, all measures must be taken to eliminate damages to landowners and members of
17 the public, their real and personal property, public roads, streams, and all other public property from soil
18 erosion, subsidence, landslides, water pollution, and hazards dangerous to life and property.

19 (2) The reclamation plan must set forth in detail the manner in which the applicant intends to comply
20 with 82-4-232 through 82-4-234 and this section and the steps to be taken to comply with applicable air and
21 water quality laws and rules and any applicable health and safety standards.

22 (3) The application for a permit or major revision of a permit, which must contain the reclamation plan,
23 must be submitted to the department.

24 (4) The department shall determine whether the application is administratively complete. An
25 application is administratively complete if it contains information addressing each application requirement in 82-
26 4-222 and the rules implementing that section and all information necessary to initiate processing and public
27 review. The department shall notify the applicant in writing of its determination no later than 90 days after
28 submittal of the application. If the department determines that the application is not administratively complete, it

1 shall specify in the notice those items that the application must address. The application is presumed
2 administratively complete as to those requirements not specified in the notice.

3 (5) If the department determines that an environmental impact statement on the application is
4 required, it shall notify the applicant in writing at the same time it gives the applicant notice pursuant to
5 subsection (4).

6 (6) After the applicant receives notice that the application is administratively complete, the applicant
7 shall publish notice of filing of the application once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general
8 circulation in the locality of the proposed operation. The department shall notify various local governmental
9 bodies, planning agencies, sewage and water treatment authorities, and water companies in the locality in
10 which the proposed mining will take place of the application and provide a reasonable time for them to submit
11 written comments. Any person having an interest that is or may be adversely affected or the officer or head of
12 any federal, state, or local governmental agency or authority may file written objections to the proposed initial or
13 revised application for permit or major revision within 30 days of the applicant's published notice. If written
14 objections are filed and an objector requests an informal conference, the department shall hold an informal
15 conference in the locality of the proposed operation within 30 days of receipt of the request. The department
16 shall notify the applicant and all parties to the informal conference of its decision and the reasons for its
17 decision within 60 days of the informal conference. The department may arrange with the applicant upon
18 request by any party to the administrative proceeding for access to the proposed mining area for the purpose of
19 gathering information relevant to the proceeding.

20 (7) The filing of written objections or a request for an informal conference may not preclude the
21 department from proceeding with its review of the application as specified in subsection (8).

22 (8) (a) The department shall review each administratively complete application and determine the
23 acceptability of the application. During the review, the department may propose modifications to the application
24 or delete areas from the application in accordance with the requirements of 82-4-227. A complete application is
25 considered acceptable when the application is in compliance with all of the applicable requirements of this part
26 and the regulatory program pursuant to this part.

27 (b) If the applicant significantly modifies the application after the application has been determined
28 administratively complete in accordance with subsection (4), the department shall under this section either deny

1 the application or conduct a new review, including an administrative completeness determination, public notice,
2 and objection period.

3 (c) If an environmental impact statement is determined to be necessary prior to making a permit
4 decision, the department shall complete and publish the final environmental impact statement at least 15 days
5 prior to the date of issuance of the written findings pursuant to subsection (8)(f).

6 (d) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4) and 75-1-208(4)(b), within 120 days after it determines that an
7 application is administratively complete, the department shall notify the applicant in writing whether the
8 application is or is not acceptable. If the application is not acceptable, the department shall set forth the reasons
9 why it is not acceptable, and it may propose modifications, delete areas, or reject the entire application. All
10 items not specified as unacceptable in the department's notification are presumed to be acceptable. Except as
11 provided in 75-1-208(4)(b), if the applicant revises the application in response to a notice of unacceptability, the
12 department shall review the revised application and notify the applicant in writing within 120 days of the date of
13 receipt whether the revised application is acceptable. If the revision constitutes a significant modification under
14 subsection (8)(b), the department shall conduct a new review, beginning with an administrative completeness
15 determination.

16 (e) When the application is determined to be acceptable, the department shall publish notice of its
17 determination once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the
18 proposed operation. Any person having an interest that is or may be adversely affected may file a written
19 objection to the determination within 10 days of the department's last published notice. If a written objection is
20 filed and an objector requests an informal conference, the department shall hold an informal conference in the
21 locality of the proposed operation within 20 days of receipt of the request. The department shall notify the
22 applicant and all parties to the informal conference of its decision and the reasons for the decision within 10
23 days of the informal conference.

24 (f) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4) and 75-1-208(4)(b), the department shall prepare written
25 findings granting or denying the permit or major revision application in whole or in part not later than 45 days
26 from the date the application is determined acceptable. However, if lands subject to the federal lands program
27 are included in the application for permit or major revision, the department shall prepare and submit written
28 findings to the federal regulatory authority. If the department's decision is to grant the permit, the department

1 shall issue the permit on the date of its written finding or, if any federal concurrence is necessary, on the date
2 when the concurrence is obtained. If the application is denied, specific reasons for the denial must be set forth
3 in the written notification to the applicant.

4 (g) If the department fails to act within the times specified in this subsection (8), it shall immediately
5 ~~notify the board record~~ NOTIFY THE BOARD in writing of its failure to comply and the reasons for the failure to
6 comply.

7 (9) The applicant, a landowner, or any person with an interest that is or may be adversely affected by
8 the department's permit decision may within 30 days of that decision submit a written notice requesting a
9 hearing. The notice must contain the grounds upon which the requester contends that the decision is in error.
10 The hearing must be started within 30 days of the request. For purposes of a hearing, the ~~board~~
11 ~~department~~BOARD or its hearings officer may order site inspections of the area pertinent to the application. The
12 ~~board department~~ BOARD shall within 20 days of the hearing notify the person who requested the hearing, by
13 certified mail, and all other persons, by regular mail, of the findings and decisions. A person who presided at the
14 informal conference may not preside at the hearing or participate in the decision.

15 (10) In addition to the method of operation, grading, backfilling, highwall reduction, subsidence
16 stabilization, water control, topsoiling, and reclamation requirements of this part and rules adopted under this
17 part, the operator, consistent with the directives of subsection (1), shall:

18 (a) bury under adequate fill all toxic materials, shale, mineral, or any other material determined by the
19 department to be acid-producing, toxic, undesirable, or creating a hazard;

20 (b) as directed by rules, seal off tunnels, shafts, or other openings or any breakthrough of water
21 creating a hazard;

22 (c) impound, drain, or treat all runoff or underground mine waters so as to reduce soil erosion,
23 damage to grazing and agricultural lands, and pollution of surface and subsurface waters;

24 (d) remove or bury all metal, lumber, and other refuse resulting from the operation;

25 (e) use explosives in connection with the operation only in accordance with department regulations
26 designed to minimize noise, damage to adjacent lands, and water pollution and ensure public safety and for
27 other purposes;

28 (f) adopt measures to prevent land subsidence unless the department approves a plan for inducing

1 subsidence into an abandoned operation in a predictable and controlled manner, with measures for grading,
2 topsoiling, and revegetating the subsided land surface. In order for a controlled subsidence plan to be
3 approved, the applicant is required to show that subsidence will not cause a direct or indirect hazard to any
4 public or private buildings, roads, facilities, or use areas, constitute a hazard to human life or health or to
5 domestic livestock or a viable agricultural operation, or violate any other restrictions the department may
6 consider necessary.

7 (g) stockpile and protect from erosion all mining and processing wastes until these wastes can be
8 disposed of according to the provisions of this part;

9 (h) deposit as much stockpiled waste material as possible back into the mine voids upon
10 abandonment in a manner that will prevent or minimize land subsidence. The remaining waste material must be
11 disposed of as provided by this part and the rules of the ~~board~~ department.

12 (i) seal all portals, entryways, drifts, shafts, or other openings between the surface and underground
13 mine workings when no longer needed;

14 (j) to the extent possible using the best technology currently available, minimize disturbances and
15 adverse impacts of the operation on fish, wildlife, and related environmental values and achieve enhancement
16 of those resources when practicable;

17 (k) minimize the disturbances to the prevailing hydrologic balance at the mine site and in adjacent
18 areas and to the quality and quantity of water in surface water and ground water systems both during and after
19 strip- or underground-coal-mining operations and during reclamation by:

20 (i) avoiding acid or other toxic mine drainage by measures including but not limited to:

21 (A) preventing or removing water from contact with toxic-producing deposits;

22 (B) treating drainage to reduce toxic content that adversely affects downstream water upon being
23 released to watercourses;

24 (C) casing, sealing, or otherwise managing boreholes, shafts, and wells and keeping acid or other
25 toxic drainage from entering ground and surface waters;

26 (ii) (A) conducting strip- or underground-mining operations so as to prevent, to the extent possible
27 using the best technology currently available, additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow or
28 runoff outside the permit area, but the contributions may not be in excess of requirements set by applicable

1 state or federal law;

2 (B) constructing any siltation structures pursuant to subsection (10)(k)(ii)(A) prior to commencement
3 of strip- or underground-mining operations, with the structures to be certified by a qualified registered engineer
4 and to be constructed as designed and as approved in the reclamation plan;

5 (iii) cleaning out and removing temporary or large settling ponds or other siltation structures from
6 drainways after disturbed areas are revegetated and stabilized and depositing the silt and debris at a site and in
7 a manner approved by the department;

8 (iv) restoring recharge capacity of the mined area to approximate premining conditions;

9 (v) avoiding channel deepening or enlargement in operations that requires the discharge of water
10 from mines;

11 (vi) preserving throughout the mining and reclamation process the essential hydrologic functions of
12 alluvial valley floors in the arid and semiarid areas of the country;

13 (vii) designing and constructing reclaimed channels of intermittent streams and perennial streams to
14 ensure long-term stability; and

15 (viii) any other actions that the department may prescribe;

16 (l) conduct strip- or underground-mine operations in accordance with the approved coal conservation
17 plan;

18 (m) stabilize and protect all surface areas, including spoil piles, to effectively control air pollution;

19 (n) seal all auger holes with an impervious and noncombustible material in order to prevent drainage
20 except when the department determines that the resulting impoundment of water in the auger holes may create
21 a hazard to the environment or the public health and safety;

22 (o) develop contingency plans to prevent sustained combustion;

23 (p) refrain from construction of roads or other access ways up a streambed or drainage channel or in
24 proximity to the channel so as to seriously alter the normal flow of water;

25 (q) meet other criteria that are necessary to achieve reclamation in accordance with the purposes of
26 this part, taking into consideration the physical, climatological, and other characteristics of the site;

27 (r) with regard to underground mines, eliminate fire hazards and otherwise eliminate conditions that
28 constitute a hazard to health and safety of the public;

1 (s) locate openings for all new drift mines working acid-producing or iron-producing coal seams in a
2 manner that prevents a gravity discharge of water from the mine.

3 (11) An operator may not throw, dump, pile, or permit the throwing, dumping, or piling or otherwise
4 placing of any overburden, stones, rocks, mineral, earth, soil, dirt, debris, trees, wood, logs, or any other
5 materials or substances of any kind or nature beyond or outside of the area of land that is under permit and for
6 which a bond has been posted under 82-4-223 or place the materials described in this section in a way that
7 normal erosion or slides brought about by natural physical causes will permit the materials to go beyond or
8 outside of that area of land. An operator shall conduct the strip- or underground-mining operation in a manner
9 that protects areas outside the permit area."
10

10

11 **Section 91.** Section 82-4-232, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"82-4-232. Area mining required -- bond -- alternative plan.** (1) (a) Area strip mining, a method of
13 operation that does not produce a bench or fill bench, is required where strip mining is proposed. The area of
14 land affected must be backfilled and graded to the approximate original contour of the land. However:

15 (i) consistent with the adjacent unmined landscape elements, the operator may propose and the
16 department may approve regraded topography gentler than premining topography in order to enhance the
17 postmining land use and develop a postmining landscape that will provide greater moisture retention, greater
18 stability, and reduced soil losses from runoff and erosion;

19 (ii) postmining slopes may not exceed the angle of repose or lesser slope as is necessary to achieve a
20 long-term static safety factor of 1.3 or greater and to prevent slides;

21 (iii) permanent impoundments may be approved if they are suitable for the postmining land use and
22 otherwise meet the requirements of this part, as provided by ~~board~~department rules; and

23 (iv) reclaimed topography must be suitable for the approved postmining land use.

24 (b) Spoil from the first cut is not required to be transported to the last cut if highwalls are eliminated,
25 box cut spoils are graded to blend in with the surrounding terrain, and the approximate original contour of the
26 land is achieved.

27 (c) When directed by the department, the operator shall construct in the final grading diversion
28 ditches, depressions, or terraces that will accumulate or control the water runoff.

1 (2) In addition to the backfilling and grading requirements, the operator's method of operation on
2 steep slopes may be regulated and controlled according to rules adopted by the ~~board~~ department. These rules
3 may require any measure to accomplish the purpose of this part.

4 (3) For coal mining on prime farmlands, the ~~board~~ department shall establish by rule specifications for
5 soil removal, storage, replacement, and reconstruction, and the operator must as a minimum be required to:

6 (a) (i) segregate the A horizon of the natural soil, except when it can be shown that other available
7 soil materials will create a final soil having a greater productive capacity; and

8 (ii) if not used immediately, stockpile this material separately from other spoil and provide needed
9 protection from wind and water erosion or contamination by other acid or toxic material;

10 (b) (i) segregate the B horizon of the natural soil, or underlying C horizon or other strata, or a
11 combination of the horizons or other strata that are shown to be both texturally and chemically suitable for plant
12 growth and that can be shown to be equally or more favorable for plant growth than the B horizon in sufficient
13 quantities to create in the regraded final soil a root zone of comparable depth and quality to that that existed in
14 the natural soil; and

15 (ii) if not used immediately, stockpile this material separately from other spoil and provide needed
16 protection from wind and water erosion or contamination by acid or toxic material;

17 (c) replace and regrade the root zone material described in subsection (3)(b) with proper compaction
18 and uniform depth over the regraded spoil material; and

19 (d) redistribute and grade in a uniform manner the surface soil horizon described in subsection (3)(a).

20 (4) All available topsoil must be removed in a separate layer, guarded from erosion and pollution, and
21 kept in a condition so that it can sustain vegetation of at least the quality and variety it sustained prior to
22 removal. However, the operator shall accord substantially the same treatment to any subsurface deposit of
23 material that is capable, as determined by the department, of supporting surface vegetation virtually as well as
24 the present topsoil. After the operation has been backfilled and graded, the topsoil or the best available
25 subsurface deposit of material that is best able to support vegetation must be returned as the top layer.

26 (5) As determined by rules of the ~~board~~ department, time limits must be established requiring
27 backfilling, grading, subsidence stabilization, water control, highwall reduction, topsoiling, planting, and
28 revegetation to be kept current. All backfilling, subsidence stabilization, sealing, grading, and topsoiling must be

1 completed before necessary equipment is moved from the operation.

2 (6) (a) The permittee may file an application with the department for the release of all or part of a
3 performance bond. The application must contain a proposed public notice of the precise location of the land
4 affected, the number of acres for which bond release is sought, the permit and the date approved, the amount
5 of the bond filed and the portion sought to be released, the type and appropriate dates of reclamation work
6 performed, and a description of the results achieved as they relate to the permittee's approved reclamation
7 plan. In addition, as part of any bond release application, the permittee shall submit copies of letters that the
8 permittee has sent to adjoining property owners, local governmental bodies, planning agencies, and sewage
9 and water treatment authorities or water companies in the locality of the operation, notifying them of the
10 permittee's intention to seek release from the bond.

11 (b) The department shall determine whether the application is administratively complete. An
12 application is administratively complete if it includes:

13 (i) the location and acreage of the land for which bond release is sought;

14 (ii) the amount of bond release sought;

15 (iii) a description of the completed reclamation, including the date of performance;

16 (iv) a discussion of how the results of the completed reclamation satisfy the requirements of the
17 approved reclamation plan; and

18 (v) information required by rules implementing this part.

19 (c) The department shall notify the applicant in writing of its determination no later than 60 days after
20 submittal of the application. If the department determines that the application is not administratively complete, it
21 shall specify in the notice those items that the application must address. After an application for bond release
22 has been determined to be administratively complete by the department, the permittee shall publish a public
23 notice that has been approved as to form and content by the department at least once a week for 4 successive
24 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the mining operation.

25 (d) Any person with a valid legal interest that might be adversely affected by the release of a bond or
26 the responsible officer or head of any federal, state, or local governmental agency that has jurisdiction by law or
27 special expertise with respect to any environmental, social, or economic impact involved in the operation or is
28 authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards with respect to the operation may file written

1 objections to the proposed release of bond to the department within 30 days after the last publication of the
2 notice. If written objections are filed and a hearing is requested, the department shall hold a public hearing in
3 the locality of the operation proposed for bond release or in Helena, at the option of the objector, within 30 days
4 of the request for hearing. The department shall inform the interested parties of the time and place of the
5 hearing. The date, time, and location of the public hearing must be advertised by the department in a
6 newspaper of general circulation in the locality for 2 consecutive weeks. Within 30 days after the hearing, the
7 department shall notify the permittee and the objector of its final decision.

8 (e) Without prejudice to the rights of the objector or the permittee or the responsibilities of the
9 department pursuant to this section, the department may establish an informal conference to resolve written
10 objections.

11 (f) For the purpose of the hearing under subsection (6)(d), the department may administer oaths,
12 subpoena witnesses or written or printed materials, compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of
13 materials, and take evidence, including but not limited to conducting inspections of the land affected and other
14 operations carried on by the permittee in the general vicinity. A verbatim record of each public hearing required
15 by this section must be made, and a transcript must be made available on the motion of any party or by order of
16 the department.

17 (g) If the applicant significantly modifies the application after the application has been determined to
18 be administratively complete, the department shall conduct a new review, including an administrative
19 completeness determination. A significant modification includes but is not limited to:

20 (i) the notification of an additional property owner, local governmental body, planning agency, or
21 sewage and water treatment authority of the permittee's intention to seek a bond release;

22 (ii) a material increase in the acreage for which a bond release is sought or in the amount of bond
23 release sought; or

24 (iii) a material change in the reclamation for which a bond release is sought or the information used to
25 evaluate the results of that reclamation.

26 (h) The department shall, within 30 days of determining that the application is administratively
27 complete or as soon as weather permits, conduct an inspection and evaluation of the reclamation work
28 involved. In the evaluation, the department shall consider, among other things, the degree of difficulty in

1 completing any remaining reclamation, whether pollution of surface and subsurface water is occurring, the
2 probability of continuance or future occurrence of the pollution, and the estimated cost of abating the pollution.

3 (i) The department shall review each administratively complete application to determine the
4 acceptability of the application. A complete application is acceptable if the application is in compliance with all
5 of the applicable requirements of this part, the rules adopted under this part, and the permit.

6 (j) (i) The department shall notify the applicant in writing regarding the acceptability of the application
7 no later than 60 days from the date of the inspection.

8 (ii) If the department determines that the application is not acceptable, it shall specify in the notice
9 those items that the application must address.

10 (iii) If the applicant revises the application in response to a notice of unacceptability, the department
11 shall review the revised application and notify the applicant in writing within 60 days of the date of receipt as to
12 whether the revised application is acceptable.

13 (iv) If the revision constitutes a significant modification, the department shall conduct a new review,
14 beginning with an administrative completeness determination.

15 (v) A significant modification includes but is not limited to:

16 (A) the notification of an additional property owner, local governmental body, planning agency, or
17 sewage and water treatment authority of the permittee's intention to seek a bond release;

18 (B) a material increase in the acreage for which a bond release is sought or the amount of bond
19 release sought; or

20 (C) a material change in the reclamation for which a bond release is sought or the information used to
21 evaluate the results of that reclamation.

22 (k) The department shall release the bond in whole or in part if it is satisfied the reclamation covered
23 by the bond or portion of the bond has been accomplished as required by this part according to the following
24 schedule:

25 (i) When the permittee completes the plugging, backfilling, regrading, and drainage control of a
26 bonded area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, the department shall release 60% of the bond
27 or collateral for the applicable permit area.

28 (ii) After revegetation has been established on the regraded lands in accordance with the approved

1 reclamation plan, the department shall, for the period specified for operator responsibility of reestablishing
2 revegetation, retain that amount of bond for the revegetated area that would be sufficient for a third party to
3 cover the cost of reestablishing revegetation. Whenever a silt dam is to be retained as a permanent
4 impoundment, the portion of bond may be released under this subsection (6)(k)(ii) if provisions for sound future
5 maintenance by the operator or the landowner have been made with the department. Any part of the bond may
6 not be released under this subsection (6)(k)(ii):

7 (A) as long as the lands to which the release would be applicable are contributing suspended solids to
8 streamflow or runoff outside the permit area in excess of the requirements of 82-4-231(10)(k); or

9 (B) before soil productivity for prime farm lands to which the release would be applicable has returned
10 to equivalent levels of yield as nonmined land of the same soil type in the surrounding area under equivalent
11 management practices, as determined from the soil survey.

12 (iii) When the permittee has successfully completed all prospecting, mining, and reclamation activities,
13 the department shall release the remaining portion of the bond, but not before the expiration of the period
14 specified for responsibility and not until all reclamation requirements of this part are fully met.

15 (l) If the department disapproves the application for release of the bond or a portion of the bond, it
16 shall:

17 (i) provide to the permittee detailed written findings demonstrating that the reclamation covered by the
18 bond or a portion of the bond has not been accomplished as required by this part; and

19 (ii) recommend corrective actions necessary to secure the release and allowing opportunity for a public
20 hearing.

21 (m) When an application for total or partial bond release is filed with the department, it shall notify the
22 municipality or county in which a prospecting or mining operation is located by certified mail at least 30 days
23 prior to the release of all or a portion of the bond.

24 (7) All disturbed areas must be reclaimed in a timely manner to conditions that are capable of
25 supporting the land uses that they were capable of supporting prior to any mining or to higher or better uses as
26 approved pursuant to subsection (8).

27 (8) (a) An operator may propose a higher or better use as an alternative postmining land use. If the
28 landowner is not the operator, the operator shall submit written documentation of the concurrence of the

1 landowner or the land management agency with jurisdiction over the land. The department may approve the
2 proposed alternative postmining land use only if it meets all of the following criteria:

3 (i) There is a reasonable likelihood for achievement of the alternative land use.

4 (ii) The alternative land use does not present any actual or probable hazard to the public health or
5 safety or any threat of water diminution or pollution.

6 (iii) The alternative land use will not:

7 (A) be impractical or unreasonable;

8 (B) be inconsistent with applicable land use policies or plans;

9 (C) involve unreasonable delay in implementation; or

10 (D) cause or contribute to violation of federal, state, or local law.

11 (b) As used in this section, the term "landowner" includes a person who has sold the surface estate to
12 the operator with an option to repurchase the surface estate after mining and reclamation are complete.

13 (9) The reclamation plan must incorporate appropriate wildlife habitat enhancement features that are
14 integrated with cropland, grazing land, pastureland, land occasionally cut for hay, or other uses in order to
15 enhance habitat diversity, with emphasis on big game animals, game birds, and threatened and endangered
16 species that have been documented to live in the area of land affected, and to enhance wetlands and riparian
17 areas along rivers and streams and bordering ponds and lakes. Incorporation of wildlife habitat enhancement
18 features does not constitute a change in land use to fish and wildlife habitat and may not interfere with the
19 designated land use.

20 (10) Facilities existing prior to mining, including but not limited to public roads, utility lines, railroads, or
21 pipelines, may be replaced as part of the reclamation plan."

22

23 **Section 92.** Section 82-4-234, MCA, is amended to read:

24 "**82-4-234. Commencement of reclamation.** The operator shall commence the reclamation of the
25 area of land affected by the operator's operation as soon as possible after the beginning of strip mining or
26 underground mining of that area in accordance with plans previously approved by the department. Those
27 grading, backfilling, subsidence stabilization, topsoiling, and water management practices that are approved in
28 the plans must be kept current with the operation as defined by rules of the ~~board~~ department, and a permit or

1 supplement to a permit may not be issued if, in the discretion of the department, these practices are not
2 current."

3

4 **Section 93.** Section 82-4-235, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"82-4-235. Determination of successful revegetation -- final bond release.** (1) Success of
6 revegetation must be judged on the effectiveness of the vegetation for the approved postmining land use, the
7 extent of cover compared to the cover occurring in the natural vegetation, and the requirements of 82-4-233.

8 Standards for success are:

9 (a) for areas reclaimed for use as cropland, crop production must be at least equal to that achieved
10 prior to mining based on comparison with historical data, comparable reference areas, or United States
11 department of agriculture publications applicable to the area of the operation, as referenced in rules adopted by
12 the ~~board~~ department;

13 (b) for areas reclaimed for use as pastureland or grazing land, the ground cover and production of
14 living plants on the revegetated area must be at least equal to that of a reference area or other standard
15 approved by the department as appropriate for the postmining land use;

16 (c) for areas reclaimed for use as fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, or recreation, success of
17 revegetation must be determined on the basis of approved tree density standards or shrub density standards,
18 or both, and vegetative ground cover required to achieve the postmining land use;

19 (d) reestablished vegetation is considered effective if the postmining land use is achieved and erosion
20 is controlled;

21 (e) reestablished vegetation is considered permanent if it is diverse and effective at the end of the 10-
22 year responsibility period specified under subsection (2); and

23 (f) plant species composing the reestablished vegetation are considered to have the same seasonal
24 characteristics of growth as the original vegetation, to be capable of regeneration and plant succession, and to
25 be compatible with the plant and animal species of the area if those plant species are native to the area or are
26 introduced species approved by the department as desirable and necessary to achieve the postmining land
27 use.

28 (2) Inspection and evaluation of reclaimed vegetative cover must be made as soon as possible

1 following an application for final bond release to determine if a satisfactory stand has been established. If the
2 department determines that a satisfactory vegetative cover has been established, it shall release the remaining
3 bond held on the area reclaimed after public notice and an opportunity for hearing as provided in 82-4-232(6).
4 Except as provided in subsection (3), the remaining bond may not be released prior to a period of 10 years after
5 the last year of augmented seeding, fertilizing, irrigation, or other work required under this part for those
6 operations or portions of operations that were seeded after May 2, 1978, or prior to a period of 5 years after
7 initial planting for all exploration activities and all other operations.

8 (3) (a) Vegetative cover of water management facilities and other support facilities composing no
9 more than 10% of the area for which bond release is sought is not subject to the 10-year responsibility period.
10 Water management facilities and other support facilities include sedimentation ponds, diversions, other water
11 management structures, soils stockpiles, and access roads.

12 (b) Vegetative cover of water management facilities and other support facilities composing no more
13 than 10% of the area for which bond release is sought is eligible for bond release if the vegetative cover
14 otherwise meets the reclamation standards in subsection (1).

15 (4) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (2) and (3), on land from which coal was
16 removed prior to May 3, 1978, and on land from which coal was not removed and that was not used, disturbed,
17 or redisturbed in connection with this part after May 2, 1978, pursuant to a permit issued by the department
18 under this part, the department may approve for release a bond on an area of reclaimed vegetation that meets
19 the following criteria:

20 (i) it was seeded using a seed mixture that was approved by the department under the criteria
21 established pursuant to 82-4-233 and that included introduced species; and

22 (ii) at least one of the following conditions exists:

23 (A) the standards of 82-4-233(1) are otherwise achieved;

24 (B) the operator has demonstrated substantial usefulness of the reclaimed vegetation for grazing of
25 livestock;

26 (C) the operator demonstrates that the reclaimed vegetation has substantial value as a habitat
27 component for wildlife present in the area; or

28 (D) the topography and soils are suitable for conversion to cropland or hayland consistent with the

1 standards of 82-4-232 and the department approves and the operator completes that conversion.

2 (b) On lands that meet the criteria described in subsection (4)(a), interseeding or supplemental
3 planting may be performed without reinitiating the liability period provided in subsection (2)."

4

5 **Section 94.** Section 82-4-239, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"82-4-239. Reclamation.** (1) The department may have reclamation work done by its employees, by
7 employees of other governmental agencies, by soil conservation districts, or through contracts with qualified
8 persons. ~~The board~~ department may construct, operate, and maintain plants for the control and treatment of
9 water pollution resulting from mine drainage.

10 (2) Any funds or any public works programs available to the department must be used and expended
11 to reclaim and rehabilitate lands that have been subjected to strip mining or underground mining and that have
12 not been reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the standards of this part. The department shall
13 cooperate with federal, state, and private agencies to engage in cooperative projects under this section.

14 (3) Agents, employees, or contractors of the department may enter upon any land for the purpose of
15 conducting studies or exploratory work to determine whether the land has been strip- or underground-mined
16 and not reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of this part and to determine the
17 feasibility of restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of any adverse effects of past coal-
18 mining practices. Upon request of the director of the department, the attorney general shall bring an injunctive
19 action to restrain any interference with the exercise of the right to enter and inspect granted in this subsection.
20 The action must be brought in the county in which the mine is located.

21 (4) (a) The department shall take the actions described in subsection (4)(b) when it makes a finding
22 of fact that:

23 (i) land or water resources have been adversely affected by past coal-mining practices;

24 (ii) the adverse effects are at a stage at which, in the public interest, action to restore, reclaim, abate,
25 control, or prevent should be taken; and

26 (iii) the owners of the land or water resources where entry must be made to restore, reclaim, abate,
27 control, or prevent the adverse effects of past coal-mining practices are not known or readily available or the
28 owners will not give permission for the department or its agents, employees, or contractors to enter upon the

1 property to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past coal-mining practices.

2 (b) After giving notice by mail to the owner, if known, and any purchaser under contract for deed, if
3 known, or, if neither is known, by posting notice on the premises and advertising in a newspaper of general
4 circulation in the county in which the land lies, the agents, employees, or contractors of the department may
5 enter on the property adversely affected by past coal-mining practices and on any other property necessary for
6 access to the mineral property to do all things necessary or expedient to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or
7 prevent the adverse effects of past coal-mining practices.

8 (c) Action taken under subsection (4)(b) is not an act of condemnation of property or of trespass, but
9 rather is an exercise of the power granted by Article IX, sections 1 and 2, of the Montana constitution.

10 (5) (a) Within 6 months after the completion of projects to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or prevent
11 adverse effects of past coal-mining practices on privately owned land, the department shall itemize the money
12 expended and may file a statement of those expenses in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county in
13 which the land lies, together with a notarized appraisal by an independent appraiser of the value of the land
14 before the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of adverse effects of past coal-mining
15 practices if the money expended resulted in a significant increase in property value. The statement constitutes
16 a lien upon the land. The lien may not exceed the amount determined by the appraisal to be the increase in the
17 market value of the land as a result of the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the
18 adverse effects of past coal-mining practices. A lien under this subsection (5)(a) may not be filed against the
19 property of a person who owned the surface prior to May 2, 1977, and who did not consent to, participate in, or
20 exercise control over the mining operation that necessitated the reclamation performed under this part.

21 (b) The landowner may petition within 60 days of the filing of the lien to determine the increase in the
22 market value of the land as a result of the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the
23 adverse effects of past coal-mining practices. The amount reported to be the increase in value of the premises
24 constitutes the amount of the lien and must be recorded with the statement provided for in this section. Any
25 party aggrieved by the decision may appeal as provided by law.

26 (c) The lien provided in this section must be recorded at the office of the county clerk and recorder.
27 The statement constitutes a lien upon the land as of the date of the expenditure of the money and has priority
28 as a lien second only to the lien of real estate taxes imposed upon the land.

1 (6) The department may acquire the necessary property by gift or purchase. A gift or purchase must
 2 be approved by the board of land commissioners. If the property cannot be acquired by gift or purchase at a
 3 reasonable cost, proceedings may be instituted in the manner provided in Title 70, chapter 30, against all
 4 nonaccepting landholders if:

5 (a) the property is necessary for successful reclamation;

6 (b) the acquired land after restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the adverse
 7 effects of past coal-mining practices will serve recreation and historic purposes or conservation and reclamation
 8 purposes or provide open space benefits; and

9 (c) (i) permanent facilities, such as treatment plants or relocated stream channels, will be constructed
 10 on the land for the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the adverse effects of past
 11 strip- or underground-coal-mining practices; or

12 (ii) acquisition of coal refuse disposal sites and all coal refuse on the land will serve the purposes of
 13 this part because public ownership is desirable to meet emergency situations and prevent recurrences of the
 14 adverse effects of past coal-mining practices."
 15

16 **Section 186.** Section 82-4-251, MCA, is amended to read:

17 ~~"82-4-251. **Noncompliance -- suspension of permits.** (1) If it is determined on the basis of an~~
 18 ~~inspection that the permittee is or that any condition or practice exists in violation of any requirement of this part~~
 19 ~~or any permit condition required by this part that creates an imminent danger to the health or safety of the~~
 20 ~~public or is causing or can reasonably be expected to cause significant and imminent environmental harm to~~
 21 ~~land, air, or water resources, the director of the department or an authorized representative shall immediately~~
 22 ~~order cessation of the operation or the portion of the operation relevant to the condition, practice, or violation.~~
 23 ~~The cessation order remains in effect until the director or an authorized representative determines that the~~
 24 ~~condition, practice, or violation has been abated or until modified, vacated, or terminated by the director or an~~
 25 ~~authorized representative pursuant to subsection (5). If the director or an authorized representative finds that~~
 26 ~~the ordered cessation of the operation or any portion of the operation will not completely abate the imminent~~
 27 ~~danger to the health or safety of the public or the significant and imminent environmental harm to land, air, or~~
 28 ~~water resources, the director or the authorized representative shall, in addition to the cessation order, impose~~

1 affirmative obligations requiring any steps that the director or the authorized representative considers
2 necessary to abate the imminent danger or the significant environmental harm.

3 ~~(2) When, on the basis of an inspection, the department determines that any permittee is in violation
4 of any requirement of this part or any permit condition required by this part that does not create an imminent
5 danger to the health or safety of the public or cannot be reasonably expected to cause significant and imminent
6 environmental harm to land, air, or water resources, the director or an authorized representative shall issue a
7 notice to the permittee or the permittee's agent fixing a reasonable time, not exceeding 90 days, for the
8 abatement of the violation and providing opportunity for public hearing. If, upon expiration of the period of time
9 as originally fixed or subsequently extended, for good cause shown and upon the written finding of the director
10 or an authorized representative, the director or an authorized representative finds that the violation has not
11 been abated, the director or an authorized representative shall immediately order a cessation of the operation
12 or the portion of the operation relevant to the violation. The cessation order remains in effect until the director or
13 an authorized representative determines that the violation has been abated or until modified, vacated, or
14 terminated by the director or an authorized representative pursuant to subsection (5). In the order of cessation
15 issued under this subsection, the director shall determine the steps necessary to abate the violation in the most
16 expeditious manner possible and shall include the necessary measures in the order.~~

17 ~~(3) When, on the basis of an inspection, the director or an authorized representative determines that
18 a pattern of violations of any requirements of this part or any permit conditions required by this part exists or
19 has existed and if the director or an authorized representative also finds that the violations are caused by the
20 unwarranted failure of the permittee to comply with any requirements of this part or any permit conditions or that
21 the violations are willfully caused by the permittee, the director or an authorized representative shall issue an
22 order to the permittee to show cause as to why the permit should not be suspended or revoked and shall
23 provide opportunity for a public hearing. If a hearing is requested, the director shall inform all interested parties
24 of the time and place of the hearing. Upon the permittee's failure to show cause as to why the permit should not
25 be suspended or revoked, the director or an authorized representative shall suspend or revoke the permit. A
26 permittee may request a contested case hearing on a permit suspension or revocation by filing a request for
27 hearing, specifying the grounds for the request, within 30 days of receipt of the order of suspension or
28 revocation. The order is effective upon expiration of the period for requesting a hearing or, if a hearing is~~

1 requested, upon issuance of a final order by the board ~~department~~. The hearing must be conducted in
2 accordance with the requirements of Title 2, chapter 4, part 6. When a permit has been revoked, the
3 department may order the performance bond forfeited.

4 (4) ~~Any additional permits held by an operator whose mining permit has been revoked must be~~
5 ~~suspended, and the operator is not eligible to receive another permit or to have the suspended permits~~
6 ~~reinstated until the operator has complied with all the requirements of this part with respect to former permits~~
7 ~~issued to the operator. An operator who has forfeited a bond is not eligible to receive another permit unless the~~
8 ~~land for which the bond was forfeited has been reclaimed without cost to the state or the operator has paid into~~
9 ~~the reclamation account a sum together with the value of the bond the department finds adequate to reclaim the~~
10 ~~lands.~~

11 (5) ~~Notices and orders issued pursuant to this section must set forth with reasonable specificity the~~
12 ~~nature of the violation and the remedial action required, the period of time established for abatement, and a~~
13 ~~reasonable description of the portion of the operation to which the notice or order applies. Each notice or order~~
14 ~~issued under this section must be given promptly to the permittee or the permittee's agent by the department,~~
15 ~~by the director, or by the authorized representative who issued the notice or order. All notices and orders must~~
16 ~~be in writing and be signed by the authorized representatives. Any notice or order issued pursuant to this~~
17 ~~section may be modified, vacated, or terminated by the director or an authorized representative. However, any~~
18 ~~notice or order issued pursuant to this section that requires cessation of mining by the operator expires within~~
19 ~~30 days of actual notice to the operator unless an informal public hearing, if requested by the person to whom~~
20 ~~the notice or order was issued, is held at the site or within such reasonable proximity to the site that any~~
21 ~~viewings of the site can be conducted during the course of the hearing. If the department receives a request for~~
22 ~~an informal public hearing 21 days after service of the notice or order, the period for holding the informal public~~
23 ~~hearing is extended by the number of days after the 21st day that the request was received.~~

24 (6) ~~A person who has been issued a notice or an order of cessation pursuant to subsection (1) or (2)~~
25 ~~or a person who has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by an order issued pursuant to subsection~~
26 ~~(1) or (2) or by modification, vacation, or termination of that order may request a hearing before the~~
27 ~~board~~department~~ on that order within 30 days of its issuance or within 30 days of its modification, vacation, or~~
28 ~~termination. The filing of an application for review under this subsection may not operate as a stay of any order~~

1 or notice. The board ~~department~~ shall make findings of fact and issue a written decision incorporating an order
 2 vacating, affirming, modifying, or terminating the order.

3 ~~(7) Whenever an order is issued under this section or as the result of any administrative proceeding~~
 4 ~~under this part, at the request of any person, a sum equal to the aggregate amount of all costs, expenses, and~~
 5 ~~attorney fees as determined by the department to have been reasonably incurred by the person for or in~~
 6 ~~connection with the person's participation in the proceedings, including any judicial review of agency actions,~~
 7 ~~may be assessed against either party as the court, resulting from judicial review, or the department, resulting~~
 8 ~~from administrative proceedings, considers proper.~~

9 ~~(8) In order to protect the stability of the land, the director or an authorized representative shall order~~
 10 ~~cessation of underground coal mining under urbanized areas, cities, towns, and communities and adjacent to~~
 11 ~~industrial or commercial buildings, major impoundments, or permanent streams if the director or the authorized~~
 12 ~~agent finds imminent danger to inhabitants of the urbanized areas, cities, towns, and communities."~~

13

14 **Section 95.** Section 82-4-254, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"82-4-254. Violation -- penalty -- waiver.** (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person or
 16 operator who violates any of the provisions of this part, rules adopted or orders issued under this part, or term
 17 or condition of a permit and any director, officer, or agent of a corporation who purposely or knowingly
 18 authorizes, orders, or carries out a violation shall pay an administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more
 19 than \$5,000 for the violation and an additional administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$5,000
 20 for each day during which a violation continues and may be enjoined from continuing the violations as provided
 21 in this section. A person or operator who fails to correct a violation within the period permitted by law, rule of the
 22 ~~board~~, or order of the department must be assessed a penalty of not less than \$750 for each day, up to 30
 23 days, during which the failure or violation continues.

24 (b) Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors
 25 in 82-4-1001.

26 (c) The period permitted for correction of a violation does not, in the case of any review proceeding
 27 under 82-4-251(6), end until entry of a final order suspending the abatement requirements or until entry of an
 28 order of court ordering suspension of the abatement requirements. If the failure to abate continues for more

1 than 30 days, the department shall, within 30 days after the 30-day period, take appropriate action pursuant to
2 82-4-251(3) or request action under subsection (4) or (6) of this section.

3 (2) The department may waive the penalty for a minor violation of this part, a rule adopted or an order
4 issued under this part, or a term or condition of a permit if the department determines that the violation is not of
5 potential harm to public health, public safety, or the environment and does not impair the administration of this
6 part. The department may not waive a penalty assessed under this section if the person or operator fails to
7 abate the violation as directed under 82-4-251. The ~~board~~department shall adopt rules to implement and
8 administer a procedure for waiver of a penalty under this subsection.

9 (3) (a) To assess an administrative penalty under this section, the department shall issue a notice of
10 violation and penalty order to the person or operator, unless the penalty is waived pursuant to subsection (2).
11 The notice and order must specify the provision of this part, rule adopted or order issued under this part, or
12 term or condition of a permit that is violated and must contain findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a
13 statement of the proposed administrative penalty. The notice and order must be served personally or by
14 certified mail. Service by mail is complete 3 business days after the date of mailing. The notice and order
15 become final unless, within 30 days after the order is served, the person or operator to whom the order was
16 issued requests a hearing before the ~~board~~department BOARD. By submitting to the ~~board~~department BOARD a
17 written request within 30 days of service of the notice of violation, stating the reason for the request, the person
18 or operator is entitled to a hearing before the ~~board~~department BOARD under 82-4-206 on the issues of whether
19 the alleged violation has occurred and whether the penalty proposed to be assessed is proper. On receipt of a
20 request, the ~~board~~department BOARD shall schedule a hearing. After a hearing, the ~~board~~department BOARD
21 shall make findings of fact and issue a written decision as to the occurrence of the violation and the amount of
22 penalty warranted. If the ~~board~~department BOARD finds that the violation occurred and a penalty is warranted, it
23 shall order the payment of the penalty. If the time for requesting a hearing expires without a hearing request,
24 the person or operator shall remit the amount of the penalty within 30 days of the expiration of the period for
25 requesting a hearing.

26 (b) If the person or operator to whom a final order is issued under subsection (3)(a) wishes to obtain
27 judicial review of the order, the person or operator shall submit with any assessed penalty a statement that the
28 penalty is being paid under protest and the department shall hold the payment in escrow until judicial review is

1 complete. Any person or operator who fails to request and submit testimony at the hearing provided for in
2 subsection (3)(a) or who fails to pay any assessed penalty under protest within 30 days of the order assessing
3 the penalty forfeits the right to seek judicial review of the violation and penalty determinations.

4 (c) Penalties provided for in this section are recoverable in an action brought by the department. The
5 action must be filed in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County, if mutually agreed on
6 by the parties in the action, or in the district court having jurisdiction over the defendant.

7 (4) The department may bring an action for a restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction
8 against an operator or other person who:

9 (a) violates, threatens to violate, or fails or refuses to comply with any order or decision issued under
10 this part;

11 (b) interferes with, hinders, or delays the department in carrying out the provisions of this part;

12 (c) refuses to admit an authorized representative of the department to the permit area;

13 (d) refuses to permit inspection of the permit area by an authorized representative of the department;

14 (e) refuses to furnish any information or report requested by the department in furtherance of the
15 provisions of this part; or

16 (f) refuses to permit access to and copying of records that the department determines to be
17 necessary in carrying out the provisions of this part.

18 (5) Any relief granted by a court under subsection (4)(a) continues in effect until the completion or
19 final termination of all proceedings for review of relief granted under this part unless, prior to the final
20 determination, the district court granting the relief sets it aside or modifies it.

21 (6) A person who violates any of the provisions of this part or any determination or order issued under
22 this part or who purposely or knowingly violates any permit condition issued under this part is guilty of a
23 misdemeanor and shall be fined an amount not less than \$500 and not more than \$10,000 or be imprisoned for
24 not more than 1 year, or both. Each day on which the violation occurs constitutes a separate offense.

25 (7) A person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification or knowingly
26 fails to make any statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other
27 document filed or required to be maintained pursuant to this part shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of
28 not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both.

1 (8) A person who except as permitted by law purposely or knowingly resists, prevents, impedes, or
 2 interferes with the department or its agents in the performance of duties pursuant to this part shall be punished
 3 by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both.

4 (9) An employee of the department performing any function or duty under this part may not have a
 5 direct or indirect financial interest in any strip- or underground-coal-mining operation. A person who knowingly
 6 violates the provisions of this subsection shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,500 or
 7 by imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.

8 (10) Within 30 days after receipt of full payment of an administrative penalty assessed under this
 9 section, the department shall issue a written release of civil liability for the violations for which the penalty was
 10 assessed."

11

12 **Section 188.** Section 82-4-303, MCA, is amended to read:

13 ~~"82-4-303. Definitions.~~ As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following
 14 definitions apply:

15 (1) ~~"Abandonment of surface or underground mining" may be presumed when it is shown that~~
 16 ~~continued operation will not resume.~~

17 (2) ~~"Amendment" means a change to an approved operating or reclamation plan. A major amendment~~
 18 ~~is an amendment that may significantly affect the human environment. A minor amendment is an amendment~~
 19 ~~that will not significantly affect the human environment.~~

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

21 (4)(3) ~~"Certification" means, with regard to tailings storage facilities, a statement of opinion by a~~
 22 ~~professional engineer that the work on a tailings storage facility has been conducted in accordance with the~~
 23 ~~normal standard of care within dam engineering practice. Certification does not constitute a warranty or~~
 24 ~~guarantee of facts or conditions certified.~~

25 (5)(4) ~~"Completeness" means that an application contains information addressing each applicable~~
 26 ~~permit requirement as listed in this part or rules adopted pursuant to this part in sufficient detail for the~~
 27 ~~department to make a decision as to adequacy of the application to meet the requirements of this part.~~

28 (6)(5) ~~"Constructor" means the company or companies constructing the built components of a tailings~~

1 storage facility, including but not limited to embankment dams, surface water diversion structures, tailings
 2 distribution systems, reclaim water systems, and monitoring instrumentation.

3 ~~(7)(6)~~ "Cyanide ore processing reagent" means cyanide or a cyanide compound used as a reagent in
 4 leaching operations.

5 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3504.

6 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Disturbed land" means the area of land or surface water that has been disturbed, beginning at
 7 the date of the issuance of the permit. The term includes the area from which the overburden, tailings, waste
 8 materials, or minerals have been removed and tailings ponds, waste dumps, roads, conveyor systems, load-out
 9 facilities, leach dumps, and all similar excavations or coverings that result from the operation and that have not
 10 been previously reclaimed under the reclamation plan.

11 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Engineer of record" means a qualified engineer who is the lead designer for a tailings storage
 12 facility.

13 ~~(11)(10)~~ "Expansion" means, with regard to tailings storage facilities, a change in the size, height, or
 14 configuration of or a contiguous addition to an existing tailings storage facility that increases or may increase
 15 the storage capacity of the impoundment above the currently permitted capacity.

16 ~~(12)(11)~~ "Exploration" means:

17 ~~(a)~~ all activities that are conducted on or beneath the surface of lands and that result in material
 18 disturbance of the surface for the purpose of determining the presence, location, extent, depth, grade, and
 19 economic viability of mineralization in those lands, if any, other than mining for production and economic
 20 exploitation; and

21 ~~(b)~~ all roads made for the purpose of facilitating exploration, except as noted in 82-4-310.

22 ~~(13)(12)~~ "Independent review engineer" means a licensed engineer who is a recognized expert in
 23 tailings storage facility design, construction, operation, and closure.

24 ~~(14)(13)~~ "Material deviation" means a failure to follow a condition in a design document, corrective
 25 action plan, schedule, or tailings operation, maintenance, and surveillance manual that could reasonably be
 26 expected to substantively impair a tailings storage facility from performing as intended.

27 ~~(15)(14)~~ "Maximum credible earthquake" means the most severe earthquake that can be expected at
 28 a site based on geologic and seismological evidence, including a review of all historic earthquake data of

1 events sufficiently nearby to influence the site, all faults in the area, and attenuations from causative faults to
2 the site.

3 ~~(16)(15)~~ "Mineral" means any ore, rock, or substance, other than oil, gas, bentonite, clay, coal, sand,
4 gravel, peat, soil materials, or uranium, that is taken from below the surface or from the surface of the earth for
5 the purpose of milling, concentration, refinement, smelting, manufacturing, or other subsequent use or
6 processing or for stockpiling for future use, refinement, or smelting.

7 ~~(17)(16)~~ "Mining" commences when the operator first mines ores or minerals in commercial quantities
8 for sale, beneficiation, refining, or other processing or disposition or first takes bulk samples for metallurgical
9 testing in excess of the aggregate of 10,000 short tons.

10 ~~(18)(17)~~ "Observational method" means a continuous, managed, and integrated process of design,
11 construction control, monitoring, and review enabling appropriate, previously defined modifications to be
12 incorporated during and after construction.

13 ~~(19)(18)~~ "Operator" means a person who has an operating permit issued under 82-4-335.

14 ~~(20)(19)~~ "Ore processing" means milling, heap leaching, flotation, vat leaching, or other standard
15 hard-rock mineral concentration processes.

16 ~~(21)(20)~~ "Panel" means the tailings storage facility independent review panel created for each new or
17 expanded tailings storage facility.

18 ~~(22)(21)~~ "Person" means any person, corporation, firm, association, partnership, or other legal entity
19 engaged in exploration for or mining of minerals on or below the surface of the earth, reprocessing of tailings or
20 waste materials, or operation of a hard-rock mill.

21 ~~(23)(22)~~ "Placer deposit" means:

22 ~~(a)~~ naturally occurring, scattered, or unconsolidated valuable minerals in gravel, glacial, eolian,
23 colluvial, or alluvial deposits lying above bedrock; or

24 ~~(b)~~ all forms of deposit except veins of quartz and other rock in place.

25 ~~(24)(23)~~ "Placer or dredge mining" means the mining of minerals from a placer deposit by a person or
26 persons.

27 ~~(25)(24)~~ "Practicable" means available and capable of being implemented after taking into
28 consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

1 ~~(26)(25)~~ "Professional engineer" means a registered professional engineer licensed to practice in
2 Montana under Title 37, chapter 67, part 3.

3 ~~(27)(26)~~ "Qualified engineer" means a professional engineer who has a minimum of 10 years of direct
4 experience with the design and construction of tailings storage facilities and has the appropriate professional
5 and educational credentials to effectively determine appropriate parameters for the safe design, construction,
6 operation, and closure of a tailings storage facility.

7 ~~(28)(27)~~ "Reclamation plan" means the operator's written proposal, as required and approved by the
8 department, for reclamation of the land that will be disturbed. The proposal must include, to the extent practical
9 at the time of application for an operating permit:

10 ~~(a)~~ a statement of the proposed subsequent use of the land after reclamation, which may include use
11 of the land as an industrial site not necessarily related to mining;

12 ~~(b)~~ plans for surface gradient restoration to a surface suitable for the proposed subsequent use of the
13 land after reclamation is completed and the proposed method of accomplishment;

14 ~~(c)~~ the manner and type of revegetation or other surface treatment of disturbed areas;

15 ~~(d)~~ procedures proposed to avoid foreseeable situations of public nuisance, endangerment of public
16 safety, damage to human life or property, or unnecessary damage to flora and fauna in or adjacent to the area;

17 ~~(e)~~ the method of disposal of mining debris;

18 ~~(f)~~ the method of diverting surface waters around the disturbed areas when necessary to prevent
19 pollution of those waters or unnecessary erosion;

20 ~~(g)~~ the method of reclamation of stream channels and stream banks to control erosion, siltation, and
21 pollution;

22 ~~(h)~~ maps and other supporting documents that may be reasonably required by the department; and

23 ~~(i)~~ a time schedule for reclamation that meets the requirements of 82-4-336.

24 ~~(29)(28)~~ "Rock products" means decorative rock, building stone, riprap, mineral aggregates, and other
25 minerals produced by typical quarrying activities or collected from or just below the ground surface.

26 ~~(30)(29)~~ (a) "Small miner" means a person, firm, or corporation that engages in mining activity that is
27 not exempt from this part pursuant to 82-4-310, that engages in the business of reprocessing of tailings or
28 waste materials, that, except as provided in 82-4-310, knowingly allows other persons to engage in mining

1 activities on land owned or controlled by the person, firm, or corporation, that does not hold an operating permit
 2 under 82-4-335 except for a permit issued under 82-4-335(3) or a permit that meets the criteria of subsection
 3 ~~(30)(c)(29)(c)~~ of this section, and that conducts:

4 (i) ~~an operation that results in not more than 5 acres of the earth's surface being disturbed and~~
 5 ~~unreclaimed; or~~

6 (ii) ~~two operations that disturb and leave unreclaimed less than 5 acres for each operation if the~~
 7 ~~respective mining properties are:~~

8 (A) ~~the only operations engaged in by the person, firm, or corporation; and~~

9 (B) ~~at least 1 mile apart at their closest point.~~

10 (b) ~~For the purpose of this definition only, the department shall, in computing the area covered by the~~
 11 ~~operation:~~

12 (i) ~~exclude access or haulage roads that are required by a local, state, or federal agency having~~
 13 ~~jurisdiction over that road to be constructed to certain specifications if that public agency notifies the department~~
 14 ~~in writing that it desires to have the road remain in use and will maintain it after mining ceases; and~~

15 (ii) ~~exclude access roads for which the person, firm, or corporation submits a bond to the department in~~
 16 ~~the amount of the estimated total cost of reclamation along with a description of the location of the road and the~~
 17 ~~specifications to which it will be constructed.~~

18 (c) ~~A small miner may hold an operating permit that allows disturbance of 100 acres or less. The~~
 19 ~~permit may be amended to add new disturbance areas, but the total area permitted for disturbance may not~~
 20 ~~exceed 100 acres at any time.~~

21 ~~(31)(30)~~ "Soil materials" means earth material found in the upper soil layers that will support plant
 22 growth.

23 ~~(32)(31)~~ (a) "Surface mining" means all or any part of the process involved in mining of minerals by
 24 removing the overburden and mining directly from the mineral deposits exposed, including but not limited to
 25 open-pit mining of minerals naturally exposed at the surface of the earth, mining by the auger method, and all
 26 similar methods by which earth or minerals exposed at the surface are removed in the course of mining.

27 (b) ~~Surface mining does not include the extraction of oil, gas, bentonite, clay, coal, sand, gravel, peat,~~
 28 ~~soil materials, or uranium or excavation or grading conducted for onsite farming, onsite road construction, or~~

1 other onsite building construction.

2 ~~(33)(32)~~ "Tailings" means the residual materials remaining after a milling process that separates the
3 valuable fraction from the uneconomic fraction of an ore mined by an operator.

4 ~~(34)(33)~~ (a) "Tailings storage facility" means a facility that temporarily or permanently stores tailings,
5 including the impoundment, embankment, tailings distribution works, reclaim water works, monitoring devices,
6 storm water diversions, and other ancillary structures.

7 ~~(b)~~ The term does not include a facility that:

8 ~~(i)~~ stores 50 acre feet or less of free water or process solution;

9 ~~(ii)~~ is wholly contained below surrounding grade with no man-made structures retaining tailings, water,
10 or process solution or underground mines that use tailings as backfill; or

11 ~~(iii)~~ stores dry stack or filtered tailings.

12 ~~(35)(34)~~ "Underground mining" means all methods of mining other than surface mining.

13 ~~(36)(35)~~ "Unit of surface-mined area" means that area of land and surface water included within an
14 operating permit actually disturbed by surface mining during each 12-month period of time, beginning at the
15 date of the issuance of the permit. The term includes the area from which overburden or minerals have been
16 removed, the area covered by mining debris, and all additional areas used in surface mining or underground
17 mining operations that by virtue of mining use are susceptible to erosion in excess of the surrounding
18 undisturbed portions of land.

19 ~~(37)(36)~~ "Vegetative cover" means the type of vegetation, grass, shrubs, trees, or any other form of
20 natural cover considered suitable at time of reclamation."

21

22 **Section 96.** Section 82-4-304, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"82-4-304. Exemption -- works performed prior to promulgation of rules.** This part is not
24 applicable to any exploration or mining work performed prior to the date of promulgation of the ~~board's~~ initial
25 rules pursuant to 82-4-321 relating to exploration and mining. This part is not applicable to the reprocessing of
26 tailings or waste rock that occurred prior to the date of promulgation of the ~~board's~~ initial rules regarding those
27 activities. If, after the date of promulgation of initial rules applicable to mills not located at a mine site, work is
28 performed at a mill that does not use cyanide ore-processing reagent and that was constructed and operated

1 before promulgation of those rules, this part applies only to the areas initially disturbed after promulgation of
2 those rules."

3

4 **Section 190.** Section 82-4-305, MCA, is amended to read:

5 ~~"82-4-305. Exemption -- small miners -- written agreement. (1) Except as provided in subsections~~
6 ~~(3) through (11), the provisions of this part do not apply to a small miner if the small miner annually agrees in~~
7 ~~writing:~~

8 ~~(a) that the small miner will not pollute or contaminate any stream;~~

9 ~~(b) that the small miner will provide protection for human and animal life through the installation of~~
10 ~~bulkheads installed over safety collars and the installation of doors on tunnel portals;~~

11 ~~(c) that the small miner will provide a map locating the miner's mining operations. The map must be of~~
12 ~~a size and scale determined by the department.~~

13 ~~(d) if the small miner's operations are placer or dredge mining, that the small miner shall salvage and~~
14 ~~protect all soil materials for use in reclamation of that site and shall reclaim all land disturbed by the operations~~
15 ~~to comparable utility and stability as that of adjacent areas.~~

16 ~~(2) For small miner exemptions obtained after September 30, 1985, a small miner may not obtain or~~
17 ~~continue an exemption under subsection (1) unless the small miner annually certifies in writing:~~

18 ~~(a) if the small miner is an individual, that:~~

19 ~~(i) no business association or partnership of which the small miner is a member or partner has a~~
20 ~~small miner exemption; and~~

21 ~~(ii) no corporation of which the small miner is an officer, director, or owner of record of 25% or more of~~
22 ~~any class of voting stock has a small miner exemption; or~~

23 ~~(b) if the small miner is a partnership or business association, that:~~

24 ~~(i) none of the associates or partners holds a small miner exemption; and~~

25 ~~(ii) none of the associates or partners is an officer, director, or owner of 25% or more of any class of~~
26 ~~voting stock of a corporation that has a small miner exemption; or~~

27 ~~(c) if the small miner is a corporation, that no officer, director, or owner of record of 25% or more of~~
28 ~~any class of voting stock of the corporation:~~

- 1 (i) ~~holds a small-miner exemption;~~
2 (ii) ~~is a member or partner in a business association or partnership that holds a small-miner exemption;~~
3 (iii) ~~is an officer, director, or owner of record of 25% or more of any class of voting stock of another~~
4 ~~corporation that holds a small-miner exemption.~~

5 (3) ~~A small miner whose operations are placer or dredge mining shall post a performance bond equal~~
6 ~~to the state's documented cost estimate of reclaiming the disturbed land, although the bond may not exceed~~
7 ~~\$10,000 for each operation. If the small miner has posted a bond for reclamation with another government~~
8 ~~agency, the small miner is exempt from the requirement of this subsection.~~

9 (4) ~~If a small miner who conducts a placer or dredge mining operation fails to reclaim the operation,~~
10 ~~the small miner is liable to the department for all its reasonable costs of reclamation, including a reasonable~~
11 ~~charge for services performed by state personnel and for state materials and equipment used. If the small~~
12 ~~miner posts a surety bond, the surety is liable to the state to the extent of the bond amount and the small miner~~
13 ~~is liable for the remainder of the reasonable costs to the state of reclaiming the operation.~~

14 (5) ~~If a small miner who conducts a placer or dredge mining operation fails to commence reclamation~~
15 ~~of the operation within 6 months after cessation of mining or within an extended period allowed by the~~
16 ~~department for good cause shown or if the small miner fails to diligently complete reclamation, the department~~
17 ~~shall notify the small miner by certified mail that it intends to reclaim the operation unless the small miner~~
18 ~~commences reclamation within 30 days and diligently completes the reclamation. The notice must be mailed to~~
19 ~~the address stated on the small miner exclusion statement or, if the small miner has notified the department of~~
20 ~~a different address by letter or in the annual certification form, to the most recent address given to the~~
21 ~~department. If the small miner fails to commence reclamation within 30 days or to diligently complete~~
22 ~~reclamation, the department may revoke the small miner exclusion statement, forfeit any bond that has been~~
23 ~~posted with the department, and enter and reclaim the operation. If the small miner has not posted a bond with~~
24 ~~the department or if the reasonable costs of reclamation exceed the amount of the bond, the department may~~
25 ~~also collect additional reclamation costs, as set forth in subsection (6), before or after it incurs those costs.~~

26 (6) ~~To collect additional reclamation costs, the department shall notify the small miner by certified~~
27 ~~mail, at the address determined under subsection (5), of the additional reasonable reclamation costs and~~
28 ~~request payment within 30 days. If the small miner does not pay the additional reclamation costs within 30~~

1 days, the department may bring an action in district court for payment of the estimated future costs and, if the
2 department has performed any reclamation, of its reasonable actual costs. The court shall order payment of
3 costs that it determines to be reasonable and shall retain jurisdiction until reclamation of the operation is
4 completed. Upon completion of reclamation, the court shall order payment of any additional costs that it
5 considers reasonable or the refund of any portion of any payment for estimated costs that exceeds the actual
6 reasonable costs incurred by the department.

7 (7) ~~A small miner who intends to use a cyanide ore processing reagent or other metal leaching~~
8 ~~solvents or reagents shall obtain an operating permit for that part of the small miner's operation in which the~~
9 ~~cyanide ore processing reagent or other metal leaching solvents or reagents will be used or disposed of. The~~
10 ~~acreage disturbed by the operation using cyanide ore processing reagents or other metal leaching solvents or~~
11 ~~reagents and covered by the operating permit is excluded from the 5-acre limit specified in 82-4-303(30)(a)(i)~~
12 ~~and (30)(a)(ii) 82-4-303(29)(a)(i) and (29)(a)(ii).~~

13 (8) ~~(a) Except for a small miner proposing to conduct a placer or dredge mining operation, a small~~
14 ~~miner who intends to use an impoundment to store waste from ore processing shall obtain approval for the~~
15 ~~design, construction, operation, and reclamation of that impoundment and post a performance bond for that~~
16 ~~part of the small miner's operation before constructing an impoundment. The small miner shall post a~~
17 ~~performance bond equal to the state's documented cost estimate of reclaiming the disturbed land. If the small~~
18 ~~miner has posted a bond for reclamation of that site with a federal government agency, the small miner is~~
19 ~~exempt from the requirements of this subsection (8)(a).~~

20 (b) ~~The department shall conduct a review of the adequacy of the bond posted by a small miner~~
21 ~~using an impoundment pursuant to this section at least once every 5 years and adjust the bond if necessary to~~
22 ~~ensure reclamation of the impoundment. The acreage disturbed by the portion of the operation that uses an~~
23 ~~impoundment to store waste from ore processing is included in the 5-acre limit specified in 82-4-303(30)(a)(i)~~
24 ~~and (30)(a)(ii) 82-4-303(29)(a)(i) and (29)(a)(ii) and is subject to the provisions of this subsection (8).~~

25 (c) ~~If a small miner under this subsection (8) fails to reclaim the operation, the small miner is liable to~~
26 ~~the department for all its reasonable costs of reclamation, including a reasonable charge for services performed~~
27 ~~by state personnel and for state materials and equipment used. If the small miner posts a surety bond, the~~
28 ~~surety is liable to the state to the extent of the bond amount and the small miner is liable for the remainder of~~

1 the reasonable costs to the state of reclaiming the operation.

2 (d) ~~If a small miner under this subsection (8) fails to commence reclamation of the operation within 6~~
3 ~~months after cessation of mining or within an extended period allowed by the department for good cause shown~~
4 ~~or if the small miner fails to diligently complete reclamation, the department shall notify the small miner by~~
5 ~~certified mail that it intends to reclaim the operation unless the small miner commences reclamation within 30~~
6 ~~days and diligently completes the reclamation. The notice must be mailed to the address stated on the small~~
7 ~~miner exclusion statement or, if the small miner has notified the department of a different address by letter or in~~
8 ~~the annual certification form, to the most recent address given to the department. If the small miner fails to~~
9 ~~commence reclamation within 30 days or to diligently complete reclamation, the department may revoke the~~
10 ~~small miner exclusion statement, forfeit any bond that has been posted with the department, and enter and~~
11 ~~reclaim the operation. If the small miner has not posted a bond with the department or if the reasonable costs of~~
12 ~~reclamation exceed the amount of the bond, the department may also collect additional reclamation costs, as~~
13 ~~set forth in subsection (8)(e), before or after it incurs those costs.~~

14 (e) ~~To collect additional reclamation costs, the department shall notify the small miner by certified~~
15 ~~mail, at the address determined under subsection (8)(d), of the additional reasonable reclamation costs and~~
16 ~~request payment within 30 days. If the small miner does not pay the additional reclamation costs within 30~~
17 ~~days, the department may bring an action in district court for payment of the estimated future costs and, if the~~
18 ~~department has performed any reclamation, of its reasonable actual costs. The court shall order payment of~~
19 ~~costs that it determines to be reasonable and shall retain jurisdiction until reclamation of the operation is~~
20 ~~completed. Upon completion of reclamation, the court shall order payment of any additional costs that it~~
21 ~~considers reasonable or the refund of any portion of any payment for estimated costs that exceeds the actual~~
22 ~~reasonable costs incurred by the department.~~

23 (f) ~~Except for a small miner who conducts a placer or dredge mining operation, a small miner utilizing~~
24 ~~an impoundment to store waste from ore processing on or after April 28, 2005, shall obtain approval of the~~
25 ~~design, construction, operation, and reclamation of that impoundment and post a performance bond within 6~~
26 ~~months of April 28, 2005. If the small miner has posted a bond for reclamation of that site with a federal~~
27 ~~government agency, the small miner is exempt from the requirements of this subsection (8)(f).~~

28 (9) ~~The exemption provided in this section does not apply to a person:~~

1 (a) ~~whose failure to comply with the provisions of this part, the rules adopted under this part, or a~~
 2 ~~permit or license issued under this part has resulted in the forfeiture of a bond, unless that person meets the~~
 3 ~~conditions described under 82-4-360;~~

4 (b) ~~who has not paid a penalty for which the department has obtained a judgment pursuant to 82-4-~~
 5 ~~361;~~

6 (c) ~~who has failed to post a reclamation bond required by this section, unless the department has~~
 7 ~~certified that the area for which the bond should have been posted has been reclaimed by that person or~~
 8 ~~reclaimed by the department and the person has reimbursed the department for the cost of the reclamation; or~~

9 (d) ~~who has failed to comply with an abatement order issued pursuant to 82-4-362, unless the~~
 10 ~~department has completed the abatement and the person has reimbursed the department for the cost of~~
 11 ~~abatement.~~

12 ~~(10) The exemption provided in this section does not apply to an area:~~

13 ~~(a) under permit pursuant to 82-4-335;~~

14 ~~(b) that has been permitted pursuant to 82-4-335 and reclaimed by the permittee, the department, or~~
 15 ~~any other state or federal agency; or~~

16 ~~(c) that has been reclaimed by or has been subject to remediation of contamination or pollution by a~~
 17 ~~public agency, under supervision of a public agency, or using public funds.~~

18 ~~(11) A small miner may not use mercury except in a contained facility that prevents the escape of any~~
 19 ~~mercury into the environment."~~

20
 21 **Section 97.** Section 82-4-309, MCA, is amended to read:

22 "**82-4-309. Exemption -- operations on federal lands.** This part ~~shall not be applicable~~ does not
 23 apply to operations on certain federal lands as specified by the ~~board~~ department, provided it is first determined
 24 by the ~~board~~ department that federal law or regulations issued by the federal agency administering such land
 25 impose controls for reclamation of said lands substantially equal to or greater than those imposed by this part."

26
 27 **Section 98.** Section 82-4-321, MCA, is amended to read:

28 "**82-4-321. Administration.** The department is charged with the responsibility of administering this

1 part. ~~In order to implement its terms and provisions, the board shall from time to time promulgate such and~~
2 ~~adopting~~ rules as ~~the board shall deem~~ necessary. The department shall employ experienced, qualified persons
3 in the field of mined-land reclamation who, for the purpose of this part, are referred to as supervisors."
4

5 **Section 99.** Section 82-4-332, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"82-4-332. Exploration license.** (1) An exploration license must be issued to any applicant who:

7 (a) pays a fee of \$100 to the department;

8 (b) agrees to reclaim any surface area damaged by the applicant during exploration operations, as
9 may be reasonably required by the department;

10 (c) is not in default of any other reclamation obligation under this law.

11 (2) An application for an exploration license must be made in writing, notarized, and submitted to the
12 department in duplicate upon forms prepared and furnished by it. The application must include an exploration
13 map or sketch in sufficient detail to locate the area to be explored and to determine whether significant
14 environmental problems would be encountered. ~~The board~~ department shall by rule determine the precise
15 nature of the exploration map or sketch. The applicant shall state what type of prospecting and excavation
16 techniques will be employed in disturbing the land.

17 (3) Prior to the issuance of an exploration license, the applicant shall file with the department a
18 reclamation and revegetation bond in a form and amount as determined by the department in accordance with
19 82-4-338.

20 (4) In the event that the holder of an exploration license desires to mine the area covered by the
21 exploration license and has fulfilled all of the requirements for an operating permit, the department shall allow
22 the postponement of the reclamation of the acreage explored if that acreage is incorporated into the complete
23 reclamation plan submitted with the application for an operating permit. Any land actually affected by
24 exploration or excavation under an exploration license and not covered by the operating reclamation plan must
25 be reclaimed within 2 years after the completion of exploration or abandonment of the site in a manner
26 acceptable to the department."
27

28 **Section 100.** Section 82-4-335, MCA, is amended to read:

1 **"82-4-335. Operating permit -- limitation -- fees.** (1) A person may not engage in mining, ore
2 processing, or reprocessing of tailings or waste material, construct or operate a hard-rock mill, use cyanide ore-
3 processing reagents or other metal leaching solvents or reagents, or disturb land in anticipation of those
4 activities in the state without first obtaining a final operating permit from the department. Except as provided in
5 subsection (2), a separate final operating permit is required for each complex.

6 (2) (a) A person who engages in the mining of rock products or a landowner who allows another
7 person to engage in the mining of rock products from the landowner's land may obtain an operating permit for
8 multiple sites if each of the multiple sites does not:

9 (i) operate within 100 feet of surface water or in ground water or impact any wetland, surface water, or
10 ground water;

11 (ii) have any water impounding structures other than for storm water control;

12 (iii) have the potential to produce acid, toxic, or otherwise pollutive solutions;

13 (iv) adversely impact a member of or the critical habitat of a member of a wildlife species that is listed
14 as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; or

15 (v) impact significant historic or archaeological features.

16 (b) A landowner who is a permittee and who allows another person to mine on the landowner's land
17 remains responsible for compliance with this part, the rules adopted pursuant to this part, and the permit for all
18 mining activities conducted on sites permitted pursuant to this subsection (2) with the landowner's permission.
19 The performance bond required under this part is and must be conditioned upon compliance with this part, the
20 rules adopted pursuant to this part, and the permit of the landowner and any person who mines with the
21 landowner's consent.

22 (3) A small miner who intends to use a cyanide ore-processing reagent or other metal leaching
23 solvents or reagents shall obtain an operating permit for that part of the small miner's operation where the
24 cyanide ore-processing reagent or other metal leaching solvents or reagents will be used or disposed of.

25 (4) (a) Prior to receiving an operating permit from the department, a person shall pay the basic permit
26 fee of \$500. The department may require a person who is applying for a permit pursuant to subsection (1) to
27 pay an additional fee not to exceed the actual amount of contractor and employee expenses beyond the normal
28 operating expenses of the department whenever those expenses are reasonably necessary to provide for

1 timely and adequate review of the application, including any environmental review conducted under Title 75,
2 chapter 1, parts 1 and 2. The ~~board~~department may further define these expenses by rule. Whenever the
3 department determines that an additional fee is necessary and the additional fee will exceed \$5,000, the
4 department shall notify the applicant that a fee must be paid and submit to the applicant an itemized estimate of
5 the proposed expenses. The department shall provide the applicant an opportunity to review the department's
6 estimated expenses. The applicant may indicate which proposed expenses the applicant considers duplicative
7 or excessive, if any.

8 (b) (i) Subject to subsection (4)(b)(ii), a contractor shall, at the request of the applicant, directly
9 submit invoices of contractor expenses to the applicant.

10 (ii) A contractor's work is assigned, reviewed, accepted, or rejected by the department pursuant to this
11 section.

12 (5) The person shall submit an application on a form provided by the department, which must contain
13 the following information and any other pertinent data required by rule:

14 (a) the name and address of the operator, the engineer of record if applicable, and, if a corporation or
15 other business entity, the name and address of its officers, directors, owners of 10% or more of any class of
16 voting stock, partners, and the like and its resident agent for service of process, if required by law;

17 (b) the minerals expected to be mined;

18 (c) a proposed reclamation plan;

19 (d) the expected starting date of operations;

20 (e) a map showing the specific area to be mined and the boundaries of the land that will be disturbed,
21 the topographic detail, the location and names of all streams, roads, railroads, and utility lines on or
22 immediately adjacent to the area, and the location of proposed access roads to be built;

23 (f) the names and addresses of the owners of record and any purchasers under contracts for deed of
24 the surface of the land within the permit area and the owners of record and any purchasers under contracts for
25 deed of all surface area within one-half mile of any part of the permit area, provided that the department is not
26 required to verify this information;

27 (g) the names and addresses of the present owners of record and any purchasers under contracts for
28 deed of all minerals in the land within the permit area, provided that the department is not required to verify this

1 information;

2 (h) the source of the applicant's legal right to mine the mineral on the land affected by the permit,
3 provided that the department is not required to verify this information;

4 (i) the types of access roads to be built and manner of reclamation of road sites on abandonment;

5 (j) a plan that will provide, within limits of normal operating procedures of the industry, for completion
6 of the operation;

7 (k) ground water and surface water hydrologic data gathered from a sufficient number of sources and
8 length of time to characterize the hydrologic regime;

9 (l) a plan detailing the design, operation, and monitoring of impounding structures, including but not
10 limited to tailings impoundments and water reservoirs, sufficient to ensure that the structures are safe and
11 stable. For a tailings storage facility, this requirement is met by submission of a design document pursuant to
12 82-4-376, a panel report pursuant to 82-4-377, and a tailings operation, maintenance, and surveillance manual
13 pursuant to 82-4-379 prior to issuance of a draft permit.

14 (m) a plan identifying methods to be used to monitor for the accidental discharge of objectionable
15 materials and remedial action plans to be used to control and mitigate discharges to surface or ground water;

16 (n) an evaluation of the expected life of any tailings impoundment or waste area and the potential for
17 expansion of the tailings impoundment or waste site. For a tailings storage facility, this requirement is met by
18 submission of a design document pursuant to 82-4-376, a panel report pursuant to 82-4-377, and a tailings
19 operation, maintenance, and surveillance manual pursuant to 82-4-379 prior to issuance of a draft permit.

20 (o) an assessment of the potential for the postmining use of mine-related facilities for other industrial
21 purposes, including evidence of consultation with the county commission of the county or counties where the
22 mine or mine-related facilities will be located.

23 (6) Except as provided in subsection (8), the permit provided for in subsection (1) for a large-scale
24 mineral development, as defined in 90-6-302, must be conditioned to provide that activities under the permit
25 may not commence until the impact plan is approved under 90-6-307 and until the permittee has provided a
26 written guarantee to the department and to the hard-rock mining impact board of compliance within the time
27 schedule with the commitment made in the approved impact plan, as provided in 90-6-307. If the permittee
28 does not comply with that commitment within the time scheduled, the department, upon receipt of written notice

1 from the hard-rock mining impact board, shall suspend the permit until it receives written notice from the hard-
2 rock mining impact board that the permittee is in compliance.

3 (7) When the department determines that a permittee has become or will become a large-scale
4 mineral developer pursuant to 82-4-339 and 90-6-302 and provides notice as required under 82-4-339, within 6
5 months of receiving the notice, the permittee shall provide the department with proof that the permittee has
6 obtained a waiver of the impact plan requirement from the hard-rock mining impact board or that the permittee
7 has filed an impact plan with the hard-rock mining impact board and the appropriate county or counties. If the
8 permittee does not file the required proof or if the hard-rock mining impact board certifies to the department that
9 the permittee has failed to comply with the hard-rock mining impact review and implementation requirements in
10 Title 90, chapter 6, parts 3 and 4, the department shall suspend the permit until the permittee files the required
11 proof or until the hard-rock mining impact board certifies that the permittee has complied with the hard-rock
12 mining impact review and implementation requirements.

13 (8) Compliance with 90-6-307 is not required for exploration and bulk sampling for metallurgical
14 testing when the aggregate samples are less than 10,000 tons.

15 (9) A person may not be issued an operating permit if:

16 (a) that person's failure, or the failure of any firm or business association of which that person was a
17 principal or controlling member, to comply with the provisions of this part, the rules adopted under this part, or a
18 permit or license issued under this part has resulted in either the receipt of bond proceeds by the department or
19 the completion of reclamation by the person's surety or by the department, unless that person meets the
20 conditions described in 82-4-360;

21 (b) that person has not paid a penalty for which the department has obtained a judgment pursuant to
22 82-4-361;

23 (c) that person has failed to post a reclamation bond required by 82-4-305; or

24 (d) that person has failed to comply with an abatement order issued pursuant to 82-4-362, unless the
25 department has completed the abatement and the person has reimbursed the department for the cost of
26 abatement.

27 (10) A person may not be issued a permit under this part unless, at the time of submission of a bond,
28 the person provides the current information required in subsection (5)(a) and:

- 1 (a) (i) certifies that the person is not currently in violation in this state of any law, rule, or regulation of
2 this state or of the United States pertaining to air quality, water quality, or mined land reclamation; or
3 (ii) presents a certification by the administering agency that the violation is in the process of being
4 corrected to the agency's satisfaction or is the subject of a bona fide administrative or judicial appeal; and
5 (b) if the person is a partnership, corporation, or other business association, provides the certification
6 required by subsection (10)(a)(i) or (10)(a)(ii), as applicable, for any partners, officers, directors, owners of 10%
7 or more of any class of voting stock, and business association members."

8

9 **Section 101.** Section 82-4-338, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"82-4-338. Performance bond.** (1) (a) An applicant for an exploration license or operating permit
11 shall file with the department a bond payable to the state of Montana with surety satisfactory to the department
12 in the sum to be determined by the department of not less than \$200 for each acre or fraction of an acre of the
13 disturbed land, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the requirements of this part, the rules of the ~~board~~
14 department, and the permit. In lieu of a bond, the applicant may file with the department a cash deposit, an
15 assignment of a certificate of deposit, an irrevocable letter of credit, or other surety acceptable to the
16 department. The bond may not be less than the estimated cost to the state to ensure compliance with Title 75,
17 chapters 2 and 5, this part, the rules, and the permit, including the potential cost of department management,
18 operation, and maintenance of the site upon temporary or permanent operator insolvency or abandonment,
19 [during a suspension authorized pursuant to 82-4-341(8)(b)(ii) or] until full bond liquidation can be effected.

20 (b) A public or governmental agency may not be required to post a bond under the provisions of this
21 part.

22 (c) A blanket performance bond covering two or more operations may be accepted by the
23 department. A blanket bond must adequately secure the estimated total number of acres of disturbed land.

24 (d) (i) For an exploration license or operating permit authorizing activities on federal land within the
25 state, the department may accept a bond payable to the state of Montana and the federal agency administering
26 the land. The bond must provide at least the same amount of financial guarantee as required by this part.

27 (ii) The bond must provide that the department may forfeit the bond without the concurrence of the
28 federal land management agency. The bond may provide that the federal land management agency may forfeit

1 the bond without the concurrence of the department. Upon forfeiture by either agency, the bond must be
2 payable to the department and may also be payable to the federal land management agency. If the bond is
3 payable to the department and the federal land management agency, the department, before accepting the
4 bond, shall enter into an agreement or memorandum of understanding with the federal land management
5 agency providing for administration of the bond funds in a manner that will allow the department to provide for
6 compliance with the requirements of this part, the rules adopted under this part, and the permit.

7 (iii) The department may not enter into an agreement or memorandum of understanding with a federal
8 land management agency that would require the department to impose requirements on an operator that are
9 more stringent than state law and rules.

10 (2) (a) The department may calculate one or more reclamation plan components within its jurisdiction
11 with the assistance of one or more third-party contractors selected jointly by the department and the applicant
12 and compensated by the applicant when, based on relevant past experience, the department determines that
13 additional expertise is necessary to calculate the bond amount for reclamation plan components. The
14 department may contract for assistance pursuant to this subsection in determining bond amounts for the initial
15 bond and for any subsequent bond review and adjustment. The mine owner is responsible for the first \$5,000 in
16 contractor services provided under this subsection. The mine owner and the department are each responsible
17 for 50% of any amount over \$5,000.

18 (b) To select a third-party contractor as authorized in subsection (2)(a), the department shall prepare
19 a list of no fewer than four contractors acceptable to the department and shall provide the applicant with a copy
20 of the list. The applicant shall provide the department with a list of at least 50% of the contractors from the
21 department's list. The department shall select its contractor from the list provided by the applicant.

22 (3) (a) The department shall conduct an overview of the amount of each bond annually and shall
23 conduct a comprehensive bond review at least every 5 years. The department may conduct additional
24 comprehensive bond reviews if, after modification of a reclamation or operation plan, an annual overview, or an
25 inspection of the permit area, the department determines that an increase of the bond level may be necessary.
26 The department shall consult with the licensee or permittee if a review indicates that the bond level should be
27 adjusted. When determined by the department that the set bonding level of a permit or license does not
28 represent the present costs of compliance with this part, the rules, and the permit, the department shall modify

1 the bonding requirements of that permit or license. The licensee or permittee must have 60 days to negotiate
2 the preliminary bond determination with the department, at the end of which time period the department shall
3 issue the proposed bond determination. The department shall give the licensee or permittee a copy of the bond
4 calculations that form the basis for the proposed bond determination and, for operating permits, publish notice
5 of the proposed bond determination in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the operation is
6 located. The department shall issue a final bond determination in 30 days. Unless the licensee or permittee
7 requests a hearing under subsection (3)(b), the licensee or permittee shall post bond with the department in the
8 amount represented by the final bond determination no later than 30 days after issuance of the final bond
9 determination. If the licensee or permittee demonstrates that, through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the
10 licensee or permittee will not be able to post the bond within 30 days, the department shall grant a 30-day
11 extension of the deadline.

12 (b) The permittee or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected may obtain a
13 contested case hearing before the ~~board~~ department BOARD under the provisions of the Montana Administrative
14 Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, on the final bond determination by filing with the department, within 30
15 days of the issuance of the final bond determination, a written request for hearing stating the reason for the
16 request. The request for hearing must specify the amount of bond increase, if any, that the licensee or
17 permittee considers appropriate and state the reasons that the licensee or permittee considers the department's
18 final bond determination to be excessive. As a condition precedent to any right to request a hearing, the
19 licensee or permittee shall post bond with the department in the amount of the bond increase that the licensee
20 or permittee has stated is appropriate in the request for hearing or the amount that is one-half of the increase
21 contained in the department's final bond determination, whichever amount is greater. If the ~~board~~
22 department BOARD determines that additional bond is necessary, the licensee or permittee shall post bond in the
23 amount determined by the ~~board~~ department BOARD within 30 days of receipt of the ~~board's~~
24 licensee or permittee demonstrates that, through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the licensee or permittee
25 will not be able to post the bond within 30 days, the department shall grant a reasonable extension of the
26 deadline.

27 (c) If a licensee or permittee fails to post bond in accordance with subsection (3)(a) or (3)(b) in the
28 required amounts by the required deadlines, the license or permit is suspended by operation of law and the

1 licensee or permittee shall immediately cease mining and exploration operations until the required bond is
2 posted with and approved by the department.

3 (4) A bond filed in accordance with the provisions of this part may not be released by the department
4 until the provisions of this part, the rules adopted pursuant to this part, and the permit have been fulfilled.

5 (5) A bond filed for an operating permit obtained under 82-4-335 may not be released or decreased
6 until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. The
7 department shall provide reasonable statewide and local notice of the opportunity for a hearing, including but
8 not limited to publishing the notice in newspapers of general daily circulation.

9 (6) Except as provided in subsection (7), all bonds required in accordance with the provisions of this
10 section must be based upon reasonably foreseeable activities that the applicant may conduct in order to comply
11 with conditions of an operating permit or license. Bonds may be required only for anticipated activities as
12 described in subsection (1). Only those activities that themselves or in conjunction with other activities have a
13 reasonable possibility of occurring may be bonded. Bond calculations, including calculations for the initial bond
14 or for subsequent bond reviews and adjustments, may not include amounts for any occurrence or contingency
15 that is not a reasonably foreseeable result of any activity conducted by the applicant.

16 (7) (a) If the department determines, based on unanticipated circumstances that are discovered
17 following the issuance of a mining permit, that a substantial and imminent danger to public health, public safety,
18 or the environment exists or that there is a reasonable probability that a violation of water quality standards will
19 occur, the department may require an operator to submit an amended reclamation plan to address the danger
20 and to post a temporary bond to guarantee the performance of the amended portion of the reclamation plan.
21 The temporary bond may only be required if the anticipated costs associated with the plan amendment would
22 increase the total bond amount for the current plan by more than 10%, as determined in subsection (7)(b).

23 (b) (i) In determining the need for the temporary bond and the amount of the temporary bond under
24 subsection (7)(a), the department shall select a third-party contractor in consultation with the operator pursuant
25 to subsection (7)(b)(ii) to provide:

26 (A) a technical engineering analysis and report on the substantial and imminent danger to public
27 health, public safety, or the environment identified in subsection (7)(a); and

28 (B) the estimated costs of addressing the potential danger in order to establish the amount of the

1 temporary bond.

2 (ii) The department shall provide the operator with a list of at least four qualified third-party contractors.

3 The operator shall select two qualified third-party contractors from that list. The department shall select its
4 contractor from the list provided by the operator. The operator shall reimburse the department for the
5 reasonable costs of the third-party contractor.

6 (c) An approved interim amended reclamation plan and interim bond must remain in effect until the
7 earlier of:

8 (i) the date that a revised reclamation plan is approved pursuant to 82-4-337 and a permanent bond
9 for the revised reclamation plan is submitted and accepted pursuant to this section; or

10 (ii) 2 years following the date of submission of a complete application pursuant to 82-4-337 to modify
11 the reclamation plan provision or remedy the conditions that created the need to amend the reclamation plan
12 unless the department approves or denies the complete application within 2 years of submission. The applicant
13 may agree to an extension of this deadline.

14 (d) Except as provided in subsection (8), the process provided for in this subsection (7) is not subject
15 to the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1.

16 (8) (a) In determining whether to require amendment of a reclamation plan under subsection (7)(a),
17 the department shall prepare or require the permittee to prepare a written analysis of changes in the
18 reclamation plan that may eliminate or mitigate to an acceptable level the environmental condition. The analysis
19 must include an assessment of the effectiveness of the changes and any potential negative environmental
20 impacts of the changes. The department shall prepare an environmental impact statement pursuant to Title 75,
21 chapter 1, only if the department determines that the changes would not mitigate the condition to an acceptable
22 level or may have potentially significant negative environmental impacts.

23 (b) If the department determines that preparation of an environmental impact statement is necessary,
24 the permittee shall pay the department's costs pursuant to 75-1-205.

25 (9) At the applicant's discretion, bonding in addition to that required by this section may be posted.
26 These unobligated bonds may, on the applicant's request, be applied to future bonds required by this section.

27 (10) (a) If the department determines that there exists at an area permitted or licensed under this part
28 an imminent danger to public health, public safety, or the environment caused by a violation of this part, the

1 rules adopted pursuant to this part, or the permit or license and if the permittee or licensee fails or refuses to
 2 expeditiously abate the danger, the department may immediately suspend the permit or license, enter the site,
 3 and abate the danger. The department may ~~thereafter~~ institute proceedings to revoke the license or permit,
 4 declare the permittee or licensee in default, and forfeit a portion of the bond, not to exceed \$150,000 or 10% of
 5 the bond, whichever is less, to be used to abate the danger. The department shall notify the surety of the
 6 forfeiture and the forfeiture amount by certified mail, and the surety shall pay the forfeiture amount to the
 7 department within 30 days of receipt of the notice. The department shall, as a condition of any termination of
 8 the suspension and revocation proceedings, require that the permittee or licensee reimburse the surety, with
 9 interest, for any amount paid to and expended by the department pursuant to this subsection (10) and for the
 10 actual cost of the surety's expenses in responding to the department's forfeiture demand.

11 (b) If the department is unable to permanently abate the imminent danger using the amount forfeited
 12 under subsection (10)(a), the department may forfeit additional amounts under the procedure provided in
 13 subsection (10)(a).

14 (c) The department shall return to the surety any money received from the surety pursuant to this
 15 subsection (10) and not used by the department to abate the imminent danger. The amount not returned to the
 16 surety must be credited to the surety and reduces the penal amount of the bond on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

17 (d) Any interest accrued on bond proceeds that is not required to abate the imminent danger
 18 determined in subsection (10)(a) must be returned to the surety, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the
 19 surety.

20 (11) If a bond is terminated as a result of the action or inaction of a licensee or permittee or is canceled
 21 or otherwise terminated by the surety issuing the bond and the licensee or permittee fails to post a new bond
 22 for the entire amount of the terminated bond within 30 days following the notice of termination provided to the
 23 department, then the license or permit must be immediately suspended without further action by the
 24 department. (Bracketed language in subsection (1)(a) terminates June 30, 2026--sec. 6, Ch. 458, L. 2019.)"

25

26 **Section 102.** Section 82-4-339, MCA, is amended to read:

27 **"82-4-339. Annual report of activities by permittee -- fee -- notice of large-scale mineral**
 28 **developer status.** (1) Within 30 days after completion or abandonment of operations on an area under permit

1 or within 30 days after each anniversary date of the permit, whichever is earlier, or at a later date that may be
 2 provided by ~~rules of the board~~ rule and each year after that date until reclamation is completed and approved,
 3 the permittee shall pay the annual fee of \$100 and shall file a report of activities completed during the preceding
 4 year on a form prescribed by the department. The report must:

5 (a) identify the permittee and the permit number;

6 (b) locate the operation by subdivision, section, township, and range and with relation to the nearest
 7 town or other well-known geographic feature;

8 (c) estimate acreage to be newly disturbed by operation in the next 12-month period;

9 (d) include the number of persons on the payroll for the previous permit year and for the next permit
 10 year at intervals that the department considers sufficient to enable a determination of the permittee's status
 11 under 90-6-302(4);

12 (e) update the information required in 82-4-335(5)(a); and

13 (f) update any maps previously submitted or specifically requested by the department. The maps
 14 must show:

15 (i) the permit area;

16 (ii) the unit of disturbed land;

17 (iii) the area to be disturbed during the next 12-month period;

18 (iv) if completed, the date of completion of operations;

19 (v) if not completed, the additional area estimated to be further disturbed by the operation within the
 20 following permit year; and

21 (vi) the date of beginning, amount, and current status of reclamation performed during the previous 12
 22 months.

23 (2) Whenever the department determines that the permittee has become or will, during the next
 24 permit year, become a large-scale mineral developer, it shall immediately serve written notice of that fact on the
 25 permittee, the hard-rock mining impact board, and the county or counties in which the operation is located."
 26

27 **Section 103.** Section 82-4-342, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"82-4-342. Amendment to operating permits.** (1) During the term of an operating permit issued

1 under this part, an operator may apply for a permit revision as described in subsections (5)(g) through (5)(j) or
2 an amendment to the permit. The operator may not apply for an amendment to delete disturbed acreage except
3 following reclamation, as required under 82-4-336, and bond release for the disturbance, as required under 82-
4 4-338.

5 (2) (a) The ~~board~~department may by rule establish criteria for the classification of amendments as
6 major or minor. The ~~board~~department shall adopt rules establishing requirements for the content of
7 applications for revisions and major and minor amendments and the procedures for processing revisions and
8 minor amendments.

9 (b) An amendment must be considered minor if:

10 (i) it is for the purpose of retention of mine-related facilities that are valuable for postmining use;

11 (ii) evidence is submitted showing that a local government has requested retention of the mine- related
12 facilities for a postmining use; and

13 (iii) the postmining use of the mine-related facilities meets the requirements provided for in 82-4-336.

14 (3) Applications for major amendments must be processed pursuant to 82-4-337.

15 (4) The department shall review an application for a revision or a minor amendment and provide a
16 notice of decision on the adequacy of the application within 30 days. If the department does not respond within
17 30 days, then the permit is revised or amended in accordance with the application.

18 (5) The department is not required to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental
19 impact statement for the following categories of action and permit revisions:

20 (a) actions that qualify for a categorical exclusion as defined by rule or justified by a programmatic
21 review pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1;

22 (b) administrative actions, such as routine, clerical, or similar functions of a department, including but
23 not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions;

24 (c) repair or maintenance of the permittee's equipment or facilities;

25 (d) investigation and enforcement actions, such as data collection, inspection of facilities, or
26 enforcement of environmental standards;

27 (e) ministerial actions, such as actions in which the agency does not exercise discretion, but acts
28 upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner;

1 (f) approval of actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect
2 the human environment;

3 (g) changes in a permit boundary that increase disturbed acres that are insignificant in impact relative
4 to the entire operation, provided that the increase is less than 25 acres or 10% of the permitted area, whichever
5 is less;

6 (h) changes to an approved reclamation plan if the changes are consistent with this part and rules
7 adopted pursuant to this part;

8 (i) changes in an approved operating plan for an activity that was previously permitted if the changes
9 will be insignificant relative to the entire operation and the changes are consistent with subsection (5)(g);

10 (j) changes in a permit for the purpose of retention of mine-related facilities that are valuable for
11 postmining use; and

12 (k) modifications to a tailings storage facility that result in a minor expansion to the facility if:

13 (i) the proposed modification is certified by the seal of the engineer of record;

14 (ii) the capacity increase resulting from the expansion is no greater than 15% of the capacity of the
15 existing tailings storage facility; and

16 (iii) the modification complies with 82-4-376(2)(l) and (2)(dd) and is exempt under subsection (5)(g),
17 (5)(h), or (5)(i) of this section."

18

19 **Section 198.** Section 82-4-353, MCA, is amended to read:

20 ~~"82-4-353. (Temporary) Administrative remedies -- notice -- appeals -- parties. (1) Upon receipt~~
21 ~~of an application for an operating permit, the department shall provide notice of the application by publication in~~
22 ~~a newspaper of general circulation in the area to be affected by the operation. The notice must be published~~
23 ~~once a week for 3 successive weeks.~~

24 ~~(2) An applicant for a permit or license or for an amendment or revision to a permit or license may~~
25 ~~request a hearing on a denial of the application by submitting a written request for a hearing within 30 days of~~
26 ~~receipt of written notice of the denial. The request must state the reason that the hearing is requested.~~

27 ~~(3) All hearings and appeals under 82-4-337(4), 82-4-338(3)(b), 82-4-341(7) and (9), 82-4-361, 82-4-~~
28 ~~362, and subsection (2) of this section must be conducted by the board department in accordance with the~~

1 Montana Administrative Procedure Act. Any person whose interests may be adversely affected as a result of an
 2 action taken pursuant to this part may become a party to any proceeding held under this part upon a showing
 3 that the person is capable of adequately representing the interests claimed.

4 (4) As used in this section, "person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, or other legal
 5 entity. (Terminates June 30, 2026 -- sec. 6, Ch. 458, L. 2019.)

6 ~~82-4-353. (Effective July 1, 2026) Administrative remedies -- notice -- appeals -- parties.~~(1)

7 Upon receipt of an application for an operating permit, the department shall provide notice of the application by
 8 publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area to be affected by the operation. The notice must be
 9 published once a week for 3 successive weeks.

10 (2) An applicant for a permit or license or for an amendment or revision to a permit or license may
 11 request a hearing on a denial of the application by submitting a written request for a hearing within 30 days of
 12 receipt of written notice of the denial. The request must state the reason that the hearing is requested.

13 (3) All hearings and appeals under 82-4-337(4), 82-4-338(3)(b), 82-4-341(7) and (8), 82-4-361, 82-4-
 14 362, and subsection (2) of this section must be conducted by the board department in accordance with the
 15 Montana Administrative Procedure Act. Any person whose interests may be adversely affected as a result of an
 16 action taken pursuant to this part may become a party to any proceeding held under this part upon a showing
 17 that the person is capable of adequately representing the interests claimed.

18 (4) As used in this section, "person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, or other legal
 19 entity."

20

21 **Section 199.** Section 82-4-361, MCA, is amended to read:

22 "~~82-4-361. Violation -- penalties -- waiver.~~ (1) When the department has reason to believe that a
 23 person is in violation of this part, a rule adopted or an order issued under this part, or a term or condition of a
 24 permit issued under this part, it shall send a violation letter to the person. The violation letter must describe the
 25 provision of the statute, rule, order, or permit alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute the
 26 violation. The letter must also recommend corrective actions that are necessary to return to compliance.
 27 Issuance of a violation letter under this subsection does not limit the authority of the department under this part
 28 to bring a judicial action for penalties or injunctive relief or to initiate an administrative enforcement action.

1 ~~(2) (a) By issuance of an order pursuant to subsection (6), the department may assess an~~
2 ~~administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each of the following violations and an~~
3 ~~additional administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each day during which the~~
4 ~~violation continues and may bring an action for an injunction from continuing the violation against:~~

5 ~~(i) a person or operator who violates a provision of this part, a rule adopted or an order issued under~~
6 ~~this part, or a term or condition of a permit; or~~

7 ~~(ii) any director, officer, or agent of a corporation who purposely or knowingly authorizes, orders, or~~
8 ~~carries out a violation of a provision of this part, a rule adopted or an order issued under this part, or a term or~~
9 ~~condition of a permit.~~

10 ~~(b) If the violation created an imminent danger to the health or safety of the public or caused~~
11 ~~significant environmental harm, the maximum administrative penalty is \$5,000 for each day of violation.~~

12 ~~(c) This subsection does not limit the authority of the department to bring a judicial action for penalties~~
13 ~~or injunctive relief prior to or instead of initiating an administrative enforcement action under this part.~~

14 ~~(3) The department may bring a judicial action seeking a penalty of not more than \$5,000 for a~~
15 ~~violation listed in subsection (2)(a) and a penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each day that the violation~~
16 ~~continues.~~

17 ~~(4) Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors~~
18 ~~in 82-4-1001.~~

19 ~~(5) The department may bring an action for a restraining order or a temporary or permanent injunction~~
20 ~~against an operator or other person violating or threatening to violate an order issued under this part.~~

21 ~~(6) (a) In addition to the violation letter sent pursuant to subsection (1), the department may also~~
22 ~~issue an order if it has credible information that a violation listed in subsection (2) has occurred. The order must~~
23 ~~specify the provision of the part, rule, order, or permit alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute~~
24 ~~the violation. The order may require necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time, may assess~~
25 ~~an administrative penalty determined in accordance with this section, or both. The order must be served~~
26 ~~personally or by certified mail.~~

27 ~~(b) An order issued pursuant to subsection (6)(a) becomes final unless, within 30 days after the order~~
28 ~~is served, the person to whom the order is issued submits to the board department a written request for a~~

1 hearing stating the reason for the request. Service of the order by mail is complete 3 business days after
 2 mailing. If a request for a hearing is submitted, a hearing must be held within a reasonable time under the
 3 contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6. After a
 4 hearing, the board department shall affirm, modify, or rescind the order.

5 ~~(7) Legal actions for penalties or injunctive relief under this section must be brought in the district~~
 6 ~~court of the county in which the alleged violation occurred or, if mutually agreed to by the parties to the action,~~
 7 ~~in the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County."~~

8

9 **Section 200.** Section 82-4-362, MCA, is amended to read:

10 ~~"82-4-362. **Suspension of permits -- hearing.** (1) If any of the requirements of this part, of the rules~~
 11 ~~adopted under this part, or of a license or permit has not been complied with, the department shall serve a~~
 12 ~~notice of violation on the licensee or permittee or, if necessary, the director shall order the suspension of the~~
 13 ~~license or permit. A license or permit may also be suspended for failure to comply with an order to pay a civil~~
 14 ~~penalty if the order is not subject to administrative or judicial review. The director may order immediate~~
 15 ~~suspension of a license or permit whenever the director finds that a violation of this part, of the rules adopted~~
 16 ~~under this part, or of a license or permit is creating an imminent danger to the health or safety of persons~~
 17 ~~outside the permit area. The notice or order must be handed to the licensee or permittee in person or served on~~
 18 ~~the licensee or permittee by certified mail addressed to the permanent address shown on the application for a~~
 19 ~~license or permit. The notice of violation or order of suspension must specify the provision of this part, the rules~~
 20 ~~adopted under this part, or the license or permit violated and the facts alleged to constitute the violation and~~
 21 ~~must, if the violation has not been abated, order abatement within a specified time period.~~

22 ~~(2) If the licensee or permittee has not complied with the requirements set forth in the notice of~~
 23 ~~violation or order of suspension within the time limits set in the notice or order, the license or permit may be~~
 24 ~~revoked by order of the department and the performance bond forfeited to the department. The notice of~~
 25 ~~violation or order of suspension must state when those measures may be undertaken and must give notice of~~
 26 ~~the opportunity for a hearing before the board department. A hearing may be requested by submitting a written~~
 27 ~~request stating the reason for the request to the board department within 30 days after receipt of the notice or~~
 28 ~~order. If a hearing is requested within the 30-day period, the license or permit may not be revoked and the bond~~

1 ~~may not be forfeited until a final decision is made by the board department.~~

2 ~~(3) If a permittee fails to pay the fee or file the report required under 82-4-339, the department shall~~
 3 ~~serve notice of this failure, by certified mail or personal delivery, on the permittee. If the permittee does not~~
 4 ~~comply within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the director shall suspend the permit. The director shall reinstate~~
 5 ~~the permit upon compliance."~~

6

7 **Section 104.** Section 82-4-371, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"82-4-371. Reclamation of abandoned mine sites.** (1) Agents, employees, or contractors of the
 9 department may enter upon property for the purpose of conducting studies or exploratory work to determine
 10 whether the property has been mined and not reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements
 11 of this part and to determine the feasibility of restoration or reclamation of the property or abatement, control, or
 12 prevention of the adverse effects of past mining practices. The department may bring an injunctive action to
 13 restrain interference with the exercise of the right to enter and inspect granted in this subsection.

14 (2) (a) The department may enter upon property pursuant to subsection (2)(b) if it makes a finding
 15 that:

16 (i) land or water resources on the property have been adversely affected by past mining practices;

17 (ii) the adverse effects are at a stage that, in the public interest, action to restore or reclaim the
 18 property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects should be taken; and

19 (iii) the owners of the land or water resources where entry must be made to restore or reclaim the
 20 property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices are not known or readily
 21 available or the owners will not give permission for the department or its agents, employees, or contractors to
 22 enter upon the property to restore or reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of
 23 past mining practices.

24 (b) If the department has made findings pursuant to subsection (2)(a), agents, employees, or
 25 contractors of the department may enter upon property adversely affected by past mining practices and other
 26 property necessary for access to the adversely affected property to do all things necessary or expedient to
 27 restore or reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices after:

28 (i) giving notice by mail to the owner, if known, and a purchaser under contract for deed, if known; or

1 (ii) if neither is known, posting notice upon the property and advertising in a newspaper of general
2 circulation in the county in which the property lies.

3 (c) Entry upon property pursuant to this section is not an act of condemnation of property or of
4 trespass but rather an exercise of the power granted by Article IX, sections 1 and 2, of the Montana
5 constitution.

6 (3) The ~~board~~department may acquire the necessary property by gift or purchase. A gift or purchase
7 must be approved by the board of land commissioners. If the property cannot be acquired by gift or purchase at
8 a reasonable cost, proceedings may be instituted in the manner provided in Title 70, chapter 30, against all
9 nonaccepting landholders if:

10 (a) acquisition of the property is necessary for successful reclamation;

11 (b) the acquired property after restoration or reclamation or after abatement, control, or prevention of
12 the adverse effects of past mining practices will serve recreation and historic purposes or conservation and
13 reclamation purposes or provide open space benefits; and

14 (c) (i) permanent facilities, such as treatment plants or relocated stream channels, will be constructed
15 on the property for the restoration or reclamation of the property or for abatement, control, or prevention of the
16 adverse effects of past mining practices; or

17 (ii) acquisition of refuse disposal sites and all refuse on the sites will serve the purposes of this part in
18 that public ownership is desirable to meet emergency situations and prevent recurrences of the adverse effects
19 of past mining practices.

20 (4) The department may record in the office of the clerk and recorder in the county in which property
21 that has been reclaimed pursuant to 82-4-424 or this section is located a notice that the property has been
22 mined and reclaimed. The notice must include the date and a brief description of the reclamation."
23

24 **Section 202.** ~~Section 82-4-403, MCA, is amended to read:~~

25 ~~"82-4-403. Definitions. When used in this part, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the~~
26 ~~context, the following definitions apply:~~

27 (1) ~~"Affected land" means the area of land and land covered by water that is disturbed by open-cut~~
28 ~~operations. A private road may be included as affected land only with the landowner's consent.~~

1 ~~(2)~~ "Amendment" means a change to the approved permit.

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

3 ~~(4)(3)~~ "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

4 ~~(5)(4)~~ "Landowner" means the holder of legal title to land subjected to an opencut operation.

5 ~~(6)(5)~~ "Materials" means bentonite, clay, scoria, peat, sand, soil, gravel, or mixtures of these
6 substances.

7 ~~(7)(6)~~ "Opencut operation" means activities conducted for the primary purpose of sale or utilization of
8 materials, including:

9 (a) ~~mine site preparation;~~

10 (b) ~~(i) removing the overburden and mining directly from the exposed natural deposits; or~~

11 ~~(ii) mining directly from natural deposits of materials;~~

12 (c) ~~processing of materials mined from the natural deposits, except that processing facilities located~~
13 ~~more than 300 feet from where materials were mined or are permitted to be mined are not part of the opencut~~
14 ~~operation;~~

15 (d) ~~transporting, depositing, staging, and stockpiling of overburden and materials unless the activity~~
16 ~~occurs more than 300 feet from where the materials were mined or are permitted to be mined;~~

17 (e) ~~storing or stockpiling of materials at processing facilities that are part of the opencut operation;~~

18 (f) ~~reclamation of affected land; and~~

19 (g) ~~parking or staging of vehicles, equipment, or supplies unless:~~

20 (i) ~~the activity is separated from other opencut operations by at least 25 feet and is connected to the~~
21 ~~opencut operation by a single road that is no more than 25 feet wide; or~~

22 (ii) ~~the activity is inside the construction disturbance area shown on a construction project plan.~~

23 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Operator" means a person who holds a permit issued pursuant to this part. For purposes of
24 enforcing the provisions of this part, the term also includes any person conducting opencut operations on
25 affected land that is not covered by a permit.

26 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Overburden" means the earth that lies above a natural deposit of materials.

27 ~~(10)(9)~~ "Person" means:

28 (a) ~~a natural person;~~

1 ~~(b) a firm, association, partnership, cooperative, or corporation;~~

2 ~~(c) a department, agency, or instrumentality of the state or any governmental subdivision; or~~

3 ~~(d) any other entity.~~

4 ~~(11)(10) "Plan of operation" means a plan that:~~

5 ~~(a) meets the requirements of 82-4-434; and~~

6 ~~(b) contains a description of current land use, topographical data, hydrologic data, soils data,~~

7 ~~proposed mine areas, proposed mining and processing operations, proposed reclamation, and appropriate~~

8 ~~maps.~~

9 ~~(12)(11) "Processing facilities" means:~~

10 ~~(a) crushers, screens, and pug mills;~~

11 ~~(b) asphalt, wash, and concrete plants;~~

12 ~~(c) treatment, sedimentation, or retention areas for processing facilities; and~~

13 ~~(d) areas receiving washout from vehicles and equipment using the processing facilities.~~

14 ~~(13)(12) "Reclamation" means the reconditioning of affected land to make the area suitable for~~

15 ~~productive use, including but not limited to forestry, agriculture, grazing, wildlife, recreation, or residential or~~

16 ~~industrial development.~~

17 ~~(14)(13) "Soil" means the dark or root-bearing surface matter that has been generated through time by~~

18 ~~the interaction of biological activity, climate, topography, and parent material and that is capable of sustaining~~

19 ~~plant growth and is recognized and identified as such by standard authorities and methods."~~

20

21 **Section 105.** Section 82-4-406, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"82-4-406. Exemption -- opencut operations on federal and state lands.** This part is not applicable

23 to operations on certain federal and state lands as specified by the ~~board~~ department, provided it is first

24 determined by the ~~board~~ department that laws, regulations, or rules administered or issued by the federal or

25 state agency administering or having jurisdiction over the affected land impose controls for opencut operations

26 on those lands equal to or greater than those imposed by this part."

27

28 **Section 106.** Section 82-4-422, MCA, is amended to read:

1 **"82-4-422. Powers, duties, and functions.** (1) The department has the powers, duties, and functions
2 to:

3 (a) issue permits when, on the basis of the information set forth in the application and an evaluation of
4 the proposed opencut operations, the department finds that the requirements of this part and rules adopted to
5 implement this part will be observed;

6 (b) amend permits in accordance with the provisions of 82-4-436;

7 (c) reclaim any affected land with respect to which a bond has been forfeited;

8 (d) make investigations or inspections that are considered necessary to ensure compliance with any
9 provision of this part; and

10 (e) enforce and administer the provisions of this part and issue orders necessary to implement the
11 provisions of this part.

12 (2) The ~~board~~department shall:

13 (a) adopt rules that pertain to opencut operations in order to accomplish the purposes of this part;

14 (b) adopt rules:

15 (i) establishing uniform procedures for filing of necessary records;

16 (ii) providing procedures for the issuance of permits and filing of annual reports; and

17 (iii) providing other administrative requirements ~~that the board considers~~ necessary to implement this
18 part; and .

19 (3) THE BOARD SHALL conduct hearings and, for the purposes of conducting those hearings, administer
20 oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel attendance of witnesses, hear evidence, and require the
21 production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, documents, or other records
22 relevant or material to the inquiry."

23

24 **Section 205.** Section 82-4-427, MCA, is amended to read:

25 ~~"82-4-427. Hearing -- appeal -- venue.~~ (1) (a) Subject to subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), a person

26 whose interests are or may be adversely affected by a final decision of the department to approve or

27 disapprove a permit application and accompanying material or a permit amendment application and

28 accompanying material under this part is entitled to a hearing before the board department if a written request

1 stating the reasons for the appeal is submitted to the board department within 30 days of the department's
2 decision.

3 (b) ~~If an application was noticed publicly as required by this part, to be eligible to file for an appeal a~~
4 ~~person must have either submitted comments to the department on an application or submitted comments at a~~
5 ~~public meeting held under 82-4-432.~~

6 (c) ~~Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to a person filing for an appeal of an application that was not~~
7 ~~required to be noticed publicly by this part.~~

8 (2) ~~An operator may request a hearing before the board department on:~~

9 (a) ~~a final decision of the department director pursuant to 82-4-436(4) by submitting a request for a~~
10 ~~hearing within 15 days of receipt of notice of the director's decision; and~~

11 (b) ~~an order of suspension or revocation issued under 82-4-442 by filing a request for hearing within~~
12 ~~30 days of receipt of the decision.~~

13 (3) ~~The operator or the landowner may request a hearing before the board department on a decision~~
14 ~~on a bond release application by submitting a written request stating the reasons for the appeal within 30 days~~
15 ~~of the receipt of the decision.~~

16 (4) ~~The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4,~~
17 ~~part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.~~

18 (5) ~~A petition for judicial review of a board department decision made pursuant to this section must~~
19 ~~be brought in the county in which the permitted activity is proposed to occur or, if mutually agreed upon by both~~
20 ~~parties in the action, in the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County. If an activity is proposed to occur in~~
21 ~~more than one county, the action may be brought in any of the counties in which the activity is proposed to~~
22 ~~occur.~~

23 (6) ~~The petition for judicial review must include the party to whom the permit was issued or the~~
24 ~~applicant unless otherwise agreed to by the permit holder or applicant. All judicial challenges of permits for~~
25 ~~projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of more than \$1 million must have precedence over any~~
26 ~~civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without~~
27 ~~merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or~~
28 ~~increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action."~~

1

2 **Section 107.** Section 82-4-437, MCA, is amended to read:

3 **"82-4-437. Annual report -- fees.** (1) For each opencut operation, the operator shall file an annual
4 report on a form furnished by the department. The report must contain the information and be submitted at
5 times provided in rules of the ~~board~~ department.

6 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), each opencut operation shall submit with the annual
7 report a fee of 4.5 cents per cubic yard of materials for all operations mined during the period covered by the
8 report.

9 (b) Opencut operations that mine, extract, or produce bentonite are not subject to the fee in
10 subsection (2)(a).

11 (3) The department:

12 (a) shall require the operator to pay the following fees:

13 (i) \$1,500 for each permit application submitted pursuant to 82-4-432(1); and

14 (ii) for each amendment application submitted pursuant to 82-4-432(11):

15 (A) \$750 if the date of the amendment application is 10 years or less from the date of the permit
16 approval; or

17 (B) \$1,500 if the date of the amendment application is more than 10 years from the date of the permit
18 approval; and

19 (b) shall adopt rules for applications or responses that are administrative. Fees, if any, for
20 administrative actions identified under this subsection (3) may not exceed \$250.

21 (4) Pursuant to the provisions of 82-4-441, a person who mines materials without a permit in violation
22 of this part shall submit a report and the fees required by subsections (2)(a) and (3)(a)(i) of this section."
23

24 **Section 207.** Section ~~82-4-441~~, MCA, is amended to read:

25 ~~"82-4-441. Administrative and judicial penalties -- enforcement.~~ (1) When the department has
26 reason to believe that a person is in violation of this part, a rule adopted or an order issued under this part, or a
27 term or condition of a permit issued under this part, it shall send a violation letter to the person. The violation
28 letter must describe the provision of the statute, rule, order, or permit alleged to be violated and the facts

1 ~~alleged to constitute the violation. The letter must also recommend corrective actions that are necessary to~~
2 ~~return to compliance. Issuance of a violation letter under this subsection does not limit the authority of the~~
3 ~~department under this part to bring a judicial action for penalties or injunctive relief or to initiate an~~
4 ~~administrative enforcement action.~~

5 ~~(2) By issuance of an order pursuant to subsection (5), the department may assess against a person~~
6 ~~who violates any of the provisions of this part, rules adopted or orders issued under this part, or provisions of a~~
7 ~~permit:~~

8 ~~(a) an administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for the violation; and~~

9 ~~(b) an additional administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each day during~~
10 ~~which a violation continues.~~

11 ~~(3) The department may bring a judicial action seeking a penalty of not more than \$5,000 against a~~
12 ~~person who violates any of the provisions of this part, rules adopted or orders issued under this part, or~~
13 ~~provisions of a permit and a penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each day that the violation continues. In~~
14 ~~determining the amount of the penalty, the district court shall consider the factors in subsection (4).~~

15 ~~(4) Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors~~
16 ~~in 82-4-1001.~~

17 ~~(5) (a) In addition to the violation letter sent pursuant to subsection (1), the department may also~~
18 ~~issue an order if it has credible information that a violation listed in subsection (2) has occurred. The order must~~
19 ~~specify the provision of the part, rule, order, or permit alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute~~
20 ~~the violation. The order may require necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time, may assess~~
21 ~~an administrative penalty determined in accordance with this section, or both. The order must be served~~
22 ~~personally or by certified mail.~~

23 ~~(b) An order issued pursuant to subsection (5)(a) becomes final unless, within 30 days after the order~~
24 ~~is served, the person to whom the order is issued submits to the board department a written request for a~~
25 ~~hearing stating the reason for the request. Service of an order by mail is complete 3 business days after~~
26 ~~mailing. If a request for a hearing is filed, a hearing must be held within a reasonable time under the contested~~
27 ~~case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6. After a hearing, the~~
28 ~~board department shall affirm, modify, or rescind the order.~~

1 ~~(6) The department may bring an action to enjoin an operator or other person violating or threatening~~
 2 ~~to violate this part, rules adopted pursuant to this part, or a permit issued pursuant to this part. Actions for~~
 3 ~~injunctions or penalties must be filed in the district court of the county in which the open-cut operation is located~~
 4 ~~or, if mutually agreed on by both parties in the action, in the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County.~~

5 ~~(7) The provisions of this section do not limit the authority of the department to bring a judicial action~~
 6 ~~for penalties or injunctive relief prior to or instead of initiating an administrative enforcement action under this~~
 7 ~~part."~~

8
 9 **Section 208.** Section 82-4-442, MCA, is amended to read:

10 ~~"82-4-442. — Suspension and revocation orders. (1) (a) The department may, after affording the~~
 11 ~~operator an opportunity for an informal conference, order the suspension of a permit if:~~

12 ~~(i) the operator fails to comply with a penalty order or a corrective action order issued pursuant to 82-~~
 13 ~~4-441; or~~

14 ~~(ii) the operator has violated this part, a rule adopted pursuant to this part, or the permit and the~~
 15 ~~violation could reasonably be expected to create a danger to the health or safety of persons outside the permit~~
 16 ~~area or significant environmental harm to land, air, or water. The order of suspension must be served on the~~
 17 ~~operator personally or by certified mail addressed to the permanent address shown on the most recently filed~~
 18 ~~annual report. The order of suspension must specify the provision of this part, the rules adopted under this part,~~
 19 ~~or the permit violated and the facts alleged to constitute the violation and must, if the violation has not been~~
 20 ~~corrected, order corrective action within a specified time period.~~

21 ~~(b) The department may order immediate suspension of a permit whenever it finds that a violation of~~
 22 ~~this part, the rules adopted under this part, or a permit is creating an imminent danger to the health or safety of~~
 23 ~~persons outside the permit area. The order must require immediate corrective action.~~

24 ~~(c) The operator upon whom an order is served may file a request for hearing with the board~~
 25 ~~department within 30 days of service of the order. The request for hearing must specify the reason for the~~
 26 ~~request. The filing of a request for hearing on an order issued does not stay the suspension or corrective action~~
 27 ~~requirement, but the board department may, upon written request of the operator, stay either or both of these~~
 28 ~~requirements.~~

1 ~~(2) If the operator has not complied with the requirements set forth in the order of suspension within~~
 2 ~~the time limits set in the order, the permit may be revoked by order of the department and the performance~~
 3 ~~bond forfeited to the department. The operator may request a hearing before the board department by~~
 4 ~~submitting a written request stating the reason for the request to the board department within 30 days after~~
 5 ~~service of the order. If a hearing is requested within the 30-day period, the permit may not be revoked and the~~
 6 ~~bond may not be forfeited until the board department makes a final decision.~~

7 ~~(3) If an operator fails to file the report required under 82-4-437, the department shall serve~~
 8 ~~personally or by certified mail a notice letter informing the operator of the failure. If the operator does not file the~~
 9 ~~report within 30 days of receipt of the letter, the department may issue a penalty order pursuant to 82-4-441 or a~~
 10 ~~suspension order pursuant to this section. If the permit has been suspended, the department shall reinstate the~~
 11 ~~permit upon compliance.~~

12 ~~(4) Maintenance, monitoring, reporting, reclamation, and other activities required by statute, rule, or~~
 13 ~~the permit and intended to protect public health or safety or the environment must continue during any period of~~
 14 ~~suspension unless otherwise provided in the order."~~

15

16 **Section 108.** Section 82-4-445, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"82-4-445. Reclamation of abandoned mine sites.** (1) Agents, employees, or contractors of the
 18 department may enter upon property for the purpose of conducting studies or exploratory work to determine
 19 whether the property has been mined and not reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements
 20 of this part and to determine the feasibility of restoration or reclamation of the property or abatement, control, or
 21 prevention of the adverse effects of past mining practices. The department may bring an injunctive action to
 22 restrain interference with the exercise of the right to enter and inspect granted in this subsection.

23 (2) (a) The department may enter upon property pursuant to subsection (2)(b) if it makes a finding
 24 that:

25 (i) land or water resources on the property have been adversely affected by past mining practices;

26 (ii) the adverse effects are at a stage that, in the public interest, action to restore or reclaim the
 27 property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects should be taken; and

28 (iii) the owners of the land or water resources where entry must be made to restore or reclaim the

1 property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices are not known or readily
2 available or the owners will not give permission for the department or its agents, employees, or contractors to
3 enter upon the property to restore or reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of
4 past mining practices.

5 (b) If the department has made findings pursuant to subsection (2)(a), agents, employees, or
6 contractors of the department may enter upon property adversely affected by past mining practices and other
7 property necessary for access to the adversely affected property to do all things necessary or expedient to
8 restore or reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices after:

9 (i) giving notice by mail to the owner, if known, and a purchaser under contract for deed, if known; or

10 (ii) if neither is known, posting notice upon the property and advertising in a newspaper of general
11 circulation in the county in which the property lies.

12 (c) Entry upon property pursuant to this section is not an act of condemnation of property or of
13 trespass but rather an exercise of the power granted by Article IX, sections 1 and 2, of the Montana
14 constitution.

15 (3) The ~~board~~department may acquire the necessary property by gift or purchase, or if the property
16 cannot be acquired by gift or purchase at a reasonable cost, proceedings may be instituted in the manner
17 provided in Title 70, chapter 30, against all nonaccepting landholders if:

18 (a) acquisition of the property is necessary for successful reclamation;

19 (b) the acquired property after restoration or reclamation or after abatement, control, or prevention of
20 the adverse effects of past mining practices will serve recreation and historic purposes or conservation and
21 reclamation purposes or provide open space benefits; and

22 (c) (i) permanent facilities, such as treatment plants or relocated stream channels, will be constructed
23 on the property for the restoration or reclamation of the property or for abatement, control, or prevention of the
24 adverse effects of past mining practices; or

25 (ii) acquisition of refuse disposal sites and all refuse on the sites will serve the purposes of this part in
26 that public ownership is desirable to meet emergency situations and prevent recurrences of the adverse effects
27 of past mining practices.

28 (4) The department may record in the office of the clerk and recorder in the county in which property

1 that has been reclaimed pursuant to 82-4-424 or this section is located a notice that the property has been
2 mined and reclaimed. The notice must include the date and a brief description of the reclamation."

3

4 **Section 109.** Section 82-4-1001, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"82-4-1001. Penalty factors.** (1) In determining the amount of an administrative or civil penalty
6 assessed under the statutes listed in subsection (4), the department of environmental quality or the district
7 court, as appropriate, shall take into account the following factors:

8 (a) the nature, extent, and gravity of the violation;

9 (b) the circumstances of the violation;

10 (c) the violator's prior history of any violation, which:

11 (i) must be a violation of a requirement under the authority of the same chapter and part as the
12 violation for which the penalty is being assessed;

13 (ii) must be documented in an administrative order or a judicial order or judgment issued within 3 years
14 prior to the date of the occurrence of the violation for which the penalty is being assessed; and

15 (iii) may not, at the time that the penalty is being assessed, be undergoing or subject to administrative
16 appeal or judicial review;

17 (d) the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violator's action;

18 (e) the violator's good faith and cooperation;

19 (f) the amounts voluntarily expended by the violator, beyond what is required by law or order, to
20 address or mitigate the violation or impacts of the violation; and

21 (g) other matters that justice may require.

22 (2) Except for penalties assessed under 82-4-254, after the amount of a penalty is determined under
23 (1), the department of environmental quality or the district court, as appropriate, may consider the violator's
24 financial ability to pay the penalty and may institute a payment schedule or suspend all or a portion of the
25 penalty.

26 (3) Except for penalties assessed under 82-4-254, the department of environmental quality may
27 accept a supplemental environmental project as mitigation for a portion of the penalty. For purposes of this
28 section, a "supplemental environmental project" is an environmentally beneficial project that a violator agrees to

1 undertake in settlement of an enforcement action but which the violator is not otherwise legally required to
2 perform.

3 (4) This section applies to penalties assessed by the department of environmental quality or the
4 district court under 82-4-141, 82-4-254, 82-4-361, and 82-4-441.

5 (5) ~~The board of environmental review and the department of environmental quality may, for the~~
6 ~~statutes listed in subsection (4) for which each has rulemaking authority, adopt rules to implement this section."~~

7

8 **Section 110.** Section 82-15-102, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"82-15-102. Enforcement of part -- rules.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), this part must be
10 enforced by the department. It may adopt necessary and reasonable rules for the implementation of the
11 provisions and intent of this part, and those rules have the effect of law.

12 (2) Section 82-15-110(8) must be enforced by the department of environmental quality.

13 (3) ~~The board of environmental review~~ department of environmental quality shall adopt rules for the
14 regulation of methyl tertiary butyl ether in accordance with this part. The rules must establish:

15 (a) a trace level or trace levels of methyl tertiary butyl ether that may be contained in gasoline that is
16 imported into the state, stored, distributed, sold, offered or exposed for sale, or dispensed in the state of
17 Montana. ~~The board~~ department of environmental quality shall establish trace levels in a manner that prevents
18 the intentional addition of methyl tertiary butyl ether to gasoline but that allows for a residual amount of methyl
19 tertiary butyl ether to remain in tanks following implementation of 82-15-110(8).

20 (b) reasonable sampling and reporting requirements; and

21 (c) requirements that the ~~board~~ department of environmental quality determines are reasonable and
22 necessary for implementation of the portions of this part that apply to methyl tertiary butyl ether."

23

24 **Section 212.** ~~Section 82-15-120, MCA, is amended to read:~~

25 ~~"82-15-120. Department of environmental quality to enforce prohibition on methyl tertiary~~
26 ~~butyl ether -- notice requirements -- hearing -- penalties.~~ (1) (a) Whenever the department of environmental
27 quality believes that a violation of 82-15-110(8) or of the rules adopted pursuant to 82-15-102(3) has occurred,
28 it may serve written notice of the violation on the alleged violator or an agent of the alleged violator.

1 ~~(b) The notice must specify the facts alleged to constitute a violation and may include an order~~
 2 ~~assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to subsection (3), an order to take necessary corrective action~~
 3 ~~within a reasonable period of time stated in the order, or both.~~

4 ~~(c) The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person named in~~
 5 ~~the order requests in writing a hearing before the board of environmental review department of environmental~~
 6 ~~quality. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.~~

7 ~~(d) Upon receipt of the request, the board of environmental review department of environmental~~
 8 ~~quality shall schedule a hearing. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act~~
 9 ~~provided in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section.~~

10 ~~(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board of environmental review department of~~
 11 ~~environmental quality finds that a violation has occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the its order of the~~
 12 ~~department of environmental quality. An order issued by the department of environmental quality or by the~~
 13 ~~board of environmental review may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe~~
 14 ~~time limits for a particular action. If, after hearing, the board of environmental review department of~~
 15 ~~environmental quality finds no violation has occurred, it shall rescind the department of environmental quality's~~
 16 ~~order.~~

17 ~~(3) A violation of 82-15-110(8) or of a rule adopted pursuant to 82-15-102(3) is subject to an~~
 18 ~~administrative penalty of up to \$1,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.~~

19 ~~(4) Any person who violates 82-15-110(8), a rule adopted pursuant to 82-15-102(3), or an order~~
 20 ~~issued under this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation. Each day of~~
 21 ~~violation constitutes a separate violation.~~

22 ~~(5) The department of environmental quality is authorized to commence a civil action seeking~~
 23 ~~appropriate relief, including temporary and permanent injunctions and penalties under subsection (4) of this~~
 24 ~~section, for a violation of 82-15-110(8), a rule adopted pursuant to 82-15-102(3), or a violation of an order~~
 25 ~~issued under this section. The action must be brought in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and~~
 26 ~~Clark County, or in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred."~~

27
 28 NEW SECTION. Section 111. Repealer. The following sections of the Montana Code Annotated are

- 1 repealed:
- 2 ~~2-15-3502. Board of environmental review.~~
- 3 ~~75-2-111. Powers of board.~~
- 4 75-6-103. Duties of board.
- 5 75-10-106. Duties of board.
- 6 82-4-111. Rules of board -- hearings.
- 7 82-4-204. Board rules.

8

9 ~~NEW SECTION. SECTION 214. Name change -- directions to code commissioner. Wherever a~~
 10 ~~reference to the board of environmental review, meaning the board established in 2-15-3502, appears in~~
 11 ~~legislation enacted by the 2021 legislature, the code commissioner is directed to change it to an appropriate~~
 12 ~~reference to the department of environmental quality.~~

13

14 NEW SECTION. SECTION 112. TRANSITION. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY AND EXISTING RULES UNDER THE
 15 JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
 16 QUALITY ON [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT].

17

18 NEW SECTION. SECTION 113. EFFECTIVE DATE. [THIS ACT] IS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

19

20

- END -