



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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August 27, 2010

TO: EQC members

FR: Sonja Nowakowski, EQC staff

RE: Biomass draft bills and public comment

During the EQC's July meeting, members directed staff to put two draft bills out for public comment -- LC 7000 and LC 7002. Members also directed staff to work with Rep. French in developing a draft letter in support of biomass research being done at Montana's Agricultural Experiment Stations.

The first bill draft, LC 7000, clarifies the powers of the Board of Environmental Review related to air quality permitting and rulemaking for wood chippers and grinders. LC 7002 separates renewable energy credits from renewable electricity requirements under Montana's renewable energy portfolio standard. The bill drafts were out for public comment from August 5 through August 25.

The bill drafts and draft letter are also included in Appendix C of the draft "Harvesting Energy" report to the 2011 Legislature, which is posted online but not included in your mailing.

The EQC received little public comment by the deadline. Additional comment is expected after the deadline and before the September 13-14 meeting. Attached is the comment received by the deadline. Any additional comment will be included in your meeting folders on September 13.

Sonja Nowakowski

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