

## **A Summary of the EQC's Statutory Responsibilities**

**Section 6, Chapter 332, Laws of 2011 (House Bill No. 533)** provides that the Montana Department of Labor and Industry must report to the EQC and the Governor's Office of Economic Development on or before September 1, 2011; January 1, 2012; April 1, 2012; June 1, 2012; September 1, 2012; and January 1, 2013 on the number of jobs that have been created in the state as a result of changes to Montana's coal leasing laws.

**Section 4, Chapter 394, Laws of 2011 (House Bill No. 613)** requires the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to report to the EQC regarding the closure of petroleum storage tank release sites at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council following the passing of each benchmark date. The dates established in statute are December 31, 2011; July 1, 2012; December 31, 2012; July 1, 2013; December 31, 2013; July 1, 2014; December 31, 2014; and July 1, 2015.

**Section 2, Chapter 380, Laws of 2011 (House Bill No. 642)** establishes a select committee charged with determining areas of efficiency and effectiveness in regulatory processes related to natural resource development and looking at technologies and taxation related to natural resources. If the committee chooses to review the Montana Environmental Policy Act, this will overlap with EQC duties.

**2-4-402 through 2-4-412** set out the administrative rule oversight powers and duties of the EQC.

**2-15-1514** requires participation of a Legislative Services Division staff person on the natural resource data system advisory committee.

**2-15-1523** states that a representative of the Legislative Services Division may serve on the ground water assessment steering committee.

**5-5-202, 5-5-211, and 5-5-215** discuss the organization and duties of interim committees. In 2011, the Legislature added the requirement that interim committees review statutorily established advisory councils and required reports of assigned agencies to make recommendations to the next Legislature on retention or elimination of any advisory council or required reports pursuant to 5-11-210, MCA.

**5-5-231** requires the EQC and the Water Policy Interim Committee to coordinate on water issues.

**5-16-101 through 5-16-105** discuss the composition and terms of the EQC.

**75-1-201** calls for state agencies to assist the EQC and to provide copies of all environmental reviews to the EQC for review. (Agency MEPA administrative rules also require agencies to submit environmental review documents to the EQC.)

**75-1-208** allows the sponsor of a project under MEPA review to appear before the EQC at a regularly scheduled meeting. The EQC is required to ensure that state agency personnel are available for questions.

**75-1-314** requires the DEQ, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Department of Agriculture to report specific compliance and enforcement information to the EQC.

**75-1-324** outlines the specific duties of EQC members.

**75-5-313** mandates that the DEQ provide a summary of the status of the development of base numeric nutrient standards, the nutrient standards variances, and implementation of standards and variances, including estimated economic impacts to the EQC on or before July 1 of each year.

**75-5-703** requires the DEQ to report its progress in completing TMDLs (total maximum daily load) and the current schedule for completion of TMDLs, on or before July 1 of each even-numbered year

**75-10-111** obligates the DEQ to circulate solid waste management and resource recovery plans to the EQC for its review.

**76-13-145** requires the DNRC to report its progress in designating wildland-urban interface parcels to an appropriate interim committee assigned to study wildland fire suppression or to the EQC.

**77-2-366** mandates that the DNRC submit a detailed report of the land banking program to the EQC by July 1 of even-numbered years.

**82-2-701** requires the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to report to the EQC and the Education and Local Government Interim Committee on its investigation of the state's sand and gravel deposits within one year of starting its investigations.

**85-1-203** obligates the DNRC to submit a copy of the State Water Plan or any plan changes to the EQC and to solicit advice from the EQC when carrying out its state water planning duties.

**85-1-621** requires the DNRC to submit a biennial report to the EQC describing the status of the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program.

**85-2-105** establishes the EQC's water policy duties. Requires the EQC to analyze and comment on the state water plan, the state water development process, water-related research, and the adequacy of the water resources data management system.

**85-2-281** mandates that the Water Court and the DNRC report to the EQC on the progress of the adjudication process until 2020.

**85-2-350** requires the Clark Fork River Basin Task Force to report annually to the EQC.

**85-2-436** obligates the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to submit a summary report to the EQC by December 1 of odd-numbered years of all appropriation rights changed to an instream flow purpose in the previous 2 years.

**87-1-230** requires the FWP to provide an annual report regarding deposits into and withdrawals from the Good Neighbor Policy state water and land maintenance account to the EQC.