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Water Policy Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS
JILL COHENOUR
SHANE MORIGEAU
WALT SALES
JEFF WELBORN, presiding officer

HOUSE MEMBERS
WILLIS CURDY, vice-presiding officer
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CORI HACH, Legal Staff
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL 2021-22

July 20, 2021 Exhibit 3

July 17, 2021

Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear council members,

The Water Policy Interim Committee respectfully requests and invites members of the Environmental Quality Council to participate in a Special Committee on Selenium Standards for Lake Koocanusa. WPIC created the special committee at its July 15 meeting in order to conduct a study under House Joint Resolution 37 (Study of Lake Koocanusa selenium standard).

HJ37 comes in response to ARM 17.30.632, which set numeric selenium standards based on fish tissue and water column concentrations in Lake Koocanusa and a section of the Kootenai River. After review by WPIC in October 2020, the rule was adopted in December 2020. The study seeks to analyze the data and processes referenced in and used to support this rulemaking. The special committee may ultimately offer recommendations for the administrative rule or the supporting documentation.

The Water Policy Interim Committee created the special committee to honor language within HJ37, which anticipates EQC participation. WPIC is seeking four members from the council: one from each house and each political party. A WPIC member will preside over the special committee.

Please advise me or WPIC staff at your earliest convenience of what council members may want to participate. I would like to set the first meeting of the special committee as soon as possible or no later than by our October 12-13 meeting.

Sincerely,

Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, presiding officer
Water Policy Interim Committee