



Water Policy Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

SENATE MEMBERS

JILL COHENOUR
SHANE MORIGEAU
WALT SALES
JEFF WELBORN, presiding officer

HOUSE MEMBERS

WILLIS CURDY, vice-presiding officer
ROBERT FARRIS-OLSEN
TOM FRANCE
RHONDA KNUDSEN
MARTY MALONE
BOB PHALEN

COMMITTEE STAFF

JASON MOHR, Lead Staff
CORI HACH, Legal Staff
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

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 Kooconusa. WPIC created the special committee at its July 15 meeting in order to conduct a study under House Joint Resolution 37 (Study of Lake Kooconusa 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 Kooconusa 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 shall set the first meeting of the special committee after our October meeting.

Sincerely,

Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, presiding officer
Water Policy Interim Committee