

Environmental Quality Council

Mission and philosophy

The mission of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council on Quality Control is to adjudicate environmental disputes and promulgate environmental regulations for Wyoming.

Results of outcomes

The EQC is a board, appointed by the governor to hear and determine all cases or issues arising under the laws, standards, rules, regulations or orders issued or administered by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and to promulgate all regulations necessary for the implementation of the Environmental Quality Act.

The council held 17 hearings from June 2000 to July 2001. This includes seven hearings on proposed regulations, two pre-hearings, five motion hearings, one rehearing, one informal hearing on coal-bed methane production, one hearing on a resident's petition to initiate rule-making for odor standards, and one hearing on a petition to designate an area in Natrona County as rare or uncommon. The council's docket averaged 35 cases at any one time.

Discuss and decide

Once cases have been heard, the council must deliberate and reach a decision. The decision making phase is completed in a public meeting. Using parliamentary procedure, the council members discuss and decide on contested issues and proposed regulations. In addition, the council reviews cases and issues orders, such as compliance orders for the DEQ and approves orders issued by DEQ. During the time covered by this report, the council scheduled eight meetings throughout the state.

Because the EQC members promulgate and enforce the environmental regulations managed by the DEQ, the council members must become familiar with the air quality, water quality, land quality, solid waste and hazardous-waste programs. Education and training are an integral part of serving on the council and meeting the mission and objectives of the council's strategic plan.

DEQ programs

To obtain a better understanding of the DEQ programs, the council travels to different areas of the state to tour facilities and monitoring sites. In the past year, the council visited air and water quality monitoring sites in the Wind River Mountains with the U.S. Forest Service.

General information

Terri A. Lorenzon, Esq., director

Agency Contact

Carmen C. Curtis
122 W. 25th St.

Herschler Building, Room 1714, One West
Cheyenne, WY 82002

307/777-7170

Fax 307/777-6134

*ccurti@state.wy.us, tloren@state.wy.us,
jgirar@state.wy.us*

Year established and reorganized

Established 1973, reorganized into separate operating agency in 1993

Statutory references

Environmental Quality Act 35-11-101
through 35-11-1803, W.S. 2000, as amended

Number of authorized personnel

Three full-time

Organization structure

The governor appoints the seven members of the Environmental Quality Council, and the Wyoming Senate confirms the appointments. The EQC members are not full-time employees but are reimbursed and paid in the same manner as members of the Legislature. The EQC members and the three-person staff form a separate operating agency. There are no divisions or sections in the organization due to the size of the agency.

Clients served

The council serves the entire state, including private residents, organizations and businesses.

(Continued on Page 174)

The tour was a sequel to the tour of the gas development south and west of the town of Pinedale taken the previous summer. In November, the council toured Black Thunder Mine in the Powder River Basin.

Strategic plan changes

Although changes have been made to the EQC strategic plan, the goal of the plan has remained the same. The goal is to provide fair hearings in all matters that come before the council.

Budget information

General funds	\$ 185,283
Total	\$ 185,283

Agency to which group reports

Does not apply, decisions are appealed to Wyoming State District Court

Number of meetings

Average of eight meetings a year, does not include number of hearings

Meeting frequency

Meets every two months, additional meetings scheduled as needed

Environmental Quality Council organization chart

