

Environmental Quality Council

Mission and philosophy

The Environmental Quality Council (council) holds hearings and renders decisions on cases or disputes arising under the laws, rules, regulations, standards or orders issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The council also enacts the air, land, water, and waste regulations that are used by DEQ to implement environmental programs in Wyoming.

Results of outcomes

To adequately measure the council's performance, it must be determined if a fair hearing was provided to all those who came before the council. A fair hearing is one where all the core values are met. A partner in the hearing process, the DEQ, will be included in this review.

The council received 26 appeals during this reporting period and 4 requests for rulemaking hearings from the DEQ. The council held 4 contested case hearings. The length of the contested hearings ranged from 1 to 15 days. The council met and reviewed its work for FY 04 in conjunction with the council's strategic plan. The council discussed the timelines for contested cases and found that the statutory and regulatory deadlines were being met. Several of the council's time limits are due to statutory constraints and therefore cannot be increased or decreased without legislative approval. However, a policy was instituted to set time limits for all contested case hearings.

Another performance indicator is effective and appropriate notice to interested parties. The council published notices in newspapers for the affected regions and notices were also sent to interested parties by mail. Notices are also posted on the DEQ and council websites and mailed to permanent mailing lists. Public notices were reviewed and revised for rulemaking hearings. In an effort to assure that the council has scientific and technical information available, additional dollars were added to the council's budget to hire consultants. Various members of the council and the staff also attended assorted workshops, lectures and seminars on scientific developments and current trends. Opportunities for furthering the members' education are presented regularly.

Support for the council members is ongoing, and the council's director is an attorney. Support staff maintains a website and responds to inquiries from the public. Participants in hearings may now file documents by fax or email within certain guidelines. The statewide video system is used to provide easier access to citizens around the state in rule making hearings. The Attorney General's office is available for legal assistance when needed and provides

General information

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Year reorganized

Reorganized into separate operating agency in 1993

Statutory references

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

Authorized personnel

Three full-time

Organizational 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.

Clients served

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

Budget information

General Funds	\$232,342
Total	\$232,342

ethics training. Staff for the council is also available to help with preparations for hearings and meetings. All hearings and meetings are open, and the staff responded to all public records requests.

Strategic plan changes

The council's strategic plan was revised as part of an initiative by the state planning coordinator to simplify the state's strategic planning process in FY 04. This planning process will now be used throughout state government for the coming year. As part of the new format, terms such as outcomes, objectives, and outputs are no longer being used. The council now uses a performance measurement process to evaluate the cases before it. The council has established a list of core values and indicators that the council will use in an annual evaluation process. Core values are critical aspects of the hearing process and the values are: timely hearings; effective and appropriate notice; availability of technical and scientific information; preparation of council members; legal guidance; adequate opportunity for parties to hearing to prepare; compliance with statutory and procedural requirement; adherence to ethical standards; compliance with open meeting and open records requirements; and a user friendly process.

Environmental Quality Council organization chart

