

Environmental Quality Council

Mission and philosophy

The Environmental Quality Council (referred to as the EQC and the 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

The council's strategic plan tracks the number of contested case hearings held, the number of rulemaking hearings held, the number of EQC work days, and the various cities in which the EQC held hearings and meetings.

The council docketed 102 cases during this reporting period. This number includes 79 Notices of Violation, five requests for rulemaking, nine contested cases, six bond forfeitures, and three administrative orders on consent. The EQC scheduled three contested case hearings and two of these hearings were cancelled. One hearing was held and it lasted two days. The EQC held seven public meetings and six rulemaking hearings. The EQC reviewed and adopted changes to smoke management rules for air quality, rules for the surface coal program, and water quality standards. The council discussed the timelines for contested cases and found that the statutory and regulatory deadlines were being met.

An electronic docket book is maintained in the EQC office and a review of the docket shows that cases are being tracked and the docket is current. Rule revisions are tracked through the DEQ process and the EQC process. The EQC responded to a rule process survey initiated by DEQ and discussions about how to improve the rule-making process are ongoing.

Another performance measure is the number of days worked by the EQC and the locations in which EQC meetings and hearings were held. The EQC members spent 36 days holding meetings and hearings. This number does not include conference calls, video conferences, or attendance and participation at workshops or seminars. The EQC scheduled hearings and meetings in Cheyenne, Buffalo, Laramie, Casper, Gillette and Thermopolis. Hearings were scheduled for the first quarter of the next fiscal year in Rock Springs, Jackson, and Thermopolis.

During the 2005 fiscal year, the Council members participated in a Stroock Forum at the University of Wyoming that examined environmental issues and

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

Number of 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	\$ 267,194
Total	\$ 267,194

the current and future role of the EQC in Wyoming. Members of the Council also participated in a separate workshop on coal bed methane development sponsored by the Ruckleshaus Institute for Environment and Natural Resources at UW.

The EQC is supported by a three person staff and the staff drafted revisions to the EQC and DEQ rules of practice and procedure. This process will continue into the next fiscal year. All hearings and meetings are open, and the staff responds to all public records requests and maintains a website.

Environmental Quality Council organizational chart

