BEFORE THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW 1 OF THE STATE OF MONTANA 2 3 4 In the matter of the proposed) amendment of ARM 17.30.602 5) and the adoption of NEW RULE I) 6 7 pertaining to the selenium) standards for Lake Koocanusa) 8 and the Kootenai River 9) 10 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - PUBLIC HEARING 11 12 VIA ZOOM 13 September 24, 2020 14 15 9:00 a.m. 16 17 BEFORE CHAIR CHRIS DEVENY, 18 BOARD MEMBERS JOHN DEARMENT, CHRIS TWEETEN, DEXTER BUSBY, JEREMIAH LYNCH 19 20 HILLARY HANSON, and DAVID LEHNHERR 21 22 PREPARED BY: LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR COURT REPORTER, NOTARY PUBLIC 23 24 P.O. Box 1192, Helena, MT 59624 25 lauriecrutcher@gmail.com

2 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were 1 2 had and testimony taken, to-wit: * * * 3 CHAIR DEVENY: My computer says it's 4 5 9:00 so I guess we'll go ahead and get started. I'm Chris Deveny, Chair of the Board of 6 7 Environmental Review, and I call this meeting to Just for the record, this is a special 8 order. meeting of the Board of Environmental Review, and 9 we're meeting via Zoom technology because of the 10 11 COVID-19 pandemic. And with that, I'll turn it 12 over to Deb to take roll call, and then we'll do 13 an introduction of all of the other people that are on board this morning. Go ahead, Deb. 14 15 MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you. We have Chris 16 Deveny. 17 CHAIR DEVENY: Here. 18 MS. SUTLIFF: Hillary Hanson. BOARD MEMBER HANSON: Here. 19 20 MS. SUTLIFF: Jerry Lynch. 21 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Here. 22 MS. SUTLIFF: David Lehnherr. 23 BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: Here. 24 MS. SUTLIFF: John DeArment. 25 BOARD MEMBER DEARMENT: Here.

3 1 CHAIR DEVENY: We should have Dexter and 2 Chris Tweeten yet. MS. SUTLIFF: I don't see Dexter and --3 4 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: Dexter is on the 5 phone. MS. SUTLIFF: All right. Dexter. 6 Thank 7 you. Dexter, could you speak 8 CHAIR DEVENY: up just so we can get it on the record. 9 10 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: Yes, I'm here. 11 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you. 12 MS. SUTLIFF: Chris Tweeten. 13 (No response) 14 MS. SUTLIFF: I do not see him yet. **All** 15 right. And then we have George Mathieus with DEQ. 16 CHAIR DEVENY: We do have a quorum, so 17 we will go on. If you want to do the other 18 introductions, go ahead. 19 MS. SUTLIFF: Absolutely. It looks like 20 we just have one person on the phones as our 21 guest. We have a Michael Ryan as a guest, and 22 Angela. 23 MS. CLERGET: Deb, I'm sorry to 24 interrupt you, but as you go through and introduce 25 people, could you ask them, please, whether or not

4 1 they want to make public comment. 2 MS. SUTLIFF: Absolutely. Michael Ryan. Michael, would you like to make comments today? 3 MR. RYAN: No, thank you. 4 MS. SUTLIFF: We have David Brooks is a 5 quest with us. David, will you be making comments 6 7 today? MR. BROOKS: Yes, I likely will. 8 Thank 9 you. 10 MS. SUTLIFF: We have Brad Smith. Brad, 11 will you be making comments today? 12 MR. SMITH: Yes, please. 13 MS. SUTLIFF: I have Travis Schmidt with the Montana Water Science Center. Travis, will 14 15 you be making comments today? 16 MR. SCHMIDT: If needed. 17 MS. SUTLIFF: I have Angela Colamaria. 18 I'm sorry if I'm pronouncing your name wrong. 19 Angela is with the DEQ Legal. 20 MS. COLAMARIA: I don't need to speak 21 today. 22 MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you. I'm trying not 23 to do this very rough today. Jason Gildea. 24 MR. GILDEA: Hi. No comments. 25 MS. SUTLIFF: We have Erin Sexton.

5 Erin, will you be making comments today? 1 MS. SEXTON: Yes, I will. Thank you. 2 MS. SUTLIFF: We have Kirsten Bowers, 3 4 DEQ Legal. Kirsten, will you be making comments 5 today? MS. BOWERS: No, I will not. 6 7 MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you. Kelsea Harris. She's a guest with us. Kelsea, will you be making 8 9 comments today? 10 MS. HARRIS: No, thank you. 11 MS. SUTLIFF: We have Kayla Glossner is 12 a guest. Kayla, will you be making comments 13 today? 14 MS GLOSSNER: No. 15 MS. SUTLIFF: I have Julianne McLaughlin 16 with EPA. Will you be making comments today? 17 MS. JULIANNE McLAUGHLIN: No comments. 18 Thank you. 19 MS. SUTLIFF: John Kilpatrick with USGS. 20 John, will you be making comments today? 21 MR. KILPATRICK: No comments. 22 MS. SUTLIFF: Lars Sander-Green is a 23 guest with us today. Lars, will you be making comments? 24 25 MR. SANDER-GREEN: Yes, please.

6 1 MS. SUTLIFF: I have Lauren Sullivan 2 with DEQ. MS. SULLIVAN: I'll be presenting, but 3 4 no other comment. 5 MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you, Lauren. We also have a Mark Adzick. (Phonetic) 6 7 MR. ADZICK: Good morning. No comments 8 today. MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you, Marko. We have 9 a Mora Devin (phonetic) a guest with us today. 10 11 Mora, will you be making comments? 12 MS. DEVIN: I will not. Thank you. 13 MS. SUTLIFF: The speaker with us today will be Myla Kelly with Montana DEQ. 14 15 MS. KELLY: Good morning. MS. SUTLIFF: We have a Rachel Malison. 16 17 Rachel, will you be making comments today? 18 MS. MALISON: No, I won't. Thank you. MS. SUTLIFF: We have Rebecca Harbage 19 20 with Montana DEQ. Rebecca, will you be making 21 comments today? 22 MS. HARBAGE: No, I will not. Thanks, 23 Deb. 24 MS. SUTLIFF: Sandy Scherer is with us 25 this morning. Sandy, will you be making any

7 1 comments this morning? No, I will not. 2 MS. SCHERER: MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you. We have Sarah 3 4 Clerget, the Board's attorney. Sarah, will you be 5 making comments today? MS. CLERGET: 6 No. 7 MS. SUTLIFF: We have Steve Gunderson, a guest with us today. Steve, will you be making 8 9 comments? 10 MR. GUNDERSON: Yes, ma'am. 11 MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you, Steve. 12 MR. CUFFE: Can you hear me? 13 MS. SUTLIFF: Yes. 14 MR. CUFFE: This is Senator Mike Cuffe, 15 and I'll be joining Steve on his computer here. 16 Thank you, Senator. We'll MS. SUTLIFF: 17 note that. We have Tonya Fish with EPA. Tonya, 18 will you be making comments? 19 MS. FISH: No, thank you. 20 MS. SUTLIFF: With DEQ Water Quality 21 Division we have Tim Davis. Tim, will you be 22 making comments today? 23 MR. DAVIS: No, but I'll be on to help 24 answer any questions that may arise. 25 MS. SUTLIFF: All right. Thank you. Ι

do believe I've captured names today on our Zoom. 1 2 Welcome, everybody. CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Deb. I think 3 there were some people that might have been 4 5 missed. It looks like Vicki Marquis is on. MS. MARQUIS: Good morning. Thank you, 6 7 Madam Chair, and yes, I would like to give comments today. 8 Thank you. 9 MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you so much. 10 CHAIR DEVENY: Is there any other people 11 that we might have missed? 12 MS. SCHMIT: Good morning. This is Ayn 13 Schmidt with EPA, and I will be making some brief 14 comments. 15 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you. 16 MS. SUTLIFF: I also see a Clayton 17 Elliot. I don't see a microphone for Clayton. 18 And that's our newest member. That's all I have, 19 Madam Chair. Thank you. 20 MR. LEVIT: Madam Chair, if I could, Stu Levit with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai 21 22 Tribes is also on, and I would appreciate the 23 opportunity to make comments. Thank you. Stu 24 Levit, S-T-U L-E-V-I-T. Thanks. 25 MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you, Stu, and

9 1 welcome. 2 MR. JAMISON: Madam Chair, this is Michael Jamison with the National Parks 3 4 Conservation Association, and I likewise would 5 like to make comments, please. CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Michael. 6 7 Anybody else? MR. HADDEN: Dave Hadden with Headwaters 8 9 Montana. 10 CHAIR DEVENY: Welcome, Dave. Thank 11 you. We've got you on the list. 12 MS. JOANNA McLAUGHLIN: Joanna 13 McLaughlin with DEQ. I won't be making comment. 14 CHAIR DEVENY: Anybody else? 15 MR. McGRATH: Good morning. Shaun McGrath from Montana DEQ, and I'll just be on 16 17 observing. Thank you. MS. SUTLIFF: Thank you, Shaun. 18 CHAIR DEVENY: I notice that Chris 19 20 Tweeten has joined us as our Board member, so we 21 have a full board complement this morning. 22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Madam Chair, I know 23 others are trying to call in but they have trouble 24 with the Zoom. 25 CHAIR DEVENY: I think we'll go ahead

10 with the meeting and get started, and then as 1 2 people come in, when it's time for public comment, we'll double check and see if there are others on 3 the list. We wanted to get an idea how many were 4 5 speaking today, so just for matter of time management for the meeting. So thank you 6 7 everybody, and appreciate your patience. So with that, I will proceed. DEQ has, 8

9 the Department has requested that the Board 10 initiate rulemaking for the selenium water quality 11 standards for Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai 12 River, and let's just start out with the 13 presentation by the DEQ folks. And George 14 Mathieus, I'll turn it over to you or whoever else 15 was going to make the presentation.

MR. MATHIEUS: Sorry, Madam Chair. I'm talking with mute. Good morning. Both Lauren Sullivan and Myla Kelly will be presenting to the Board. You should be able to see their power point on our screen shortly.

CHAIR DEVENY: All right. So welcome,
 Myla and Lauren.

23 MS. CLERGET: Folks are who are not 24 talking or Board members, could you turn off your 25 video, because it helps with the bandwidth. Turn

11 off your video and mute your microphone, please. 1 2 Go ahead. Sorry to interrupt. MS. KELLY: Good morning, Madam Chair, 3 Members of the Board. Can you hear me okay? 4 5 CHAIR DEVENY: Yes. We're all muted, but yes, we can hear you. 6 7 MS. KELLY: Okay. Good morning. Madam Chair, Members of the Board, my name is Myla 8 I'm the manager of Montana DEQ's Water 9 Kelly. Quality Standards and Modeling Section. And today 10 11 myself and our technical project lead Lauren 12 Sullivan will be providing you with a presentation 13 to support our request to the Board today to initiate rulemaking for selenium water quality 14 15 standards for both Lake Koocanusa and Kootenai River. 16 17 So I'll begin the presentation 18 discussing the background, framework, and process of how we have arrived here; and then Lauren will 19 20 address the technical and scientific aspects of 21 the standards that we're proposing. Next slide, 22 please. 23 I want to begin with the foundational 24 concept of water quality standards, which may be a 25 review for you all, but it is critical to our

1 presentation and discussion today.

2	As you well know, Montana has been
3	delegated authority under the Clean Water Act to
4	establish water quality standards for the
5	protection of beneficial uses, and in turn,
6	Montana's Board of Environmental Review has
7	authority to adopt water quality standards.
8	We have water quality standards for
9	multitudes of pollutants, and those standards
10	provide a measure for how clean we want our water.
11	And what do we mean by how clean.
12	We want clean water for aquatic life to
13	<pre>propagate; for recreation; for swimming; sometimes</pre>
14	for drinking; or for agriculture; or industry
15	purposes. These are what we call our beneficial
16	or designated uses, and our standards are
17	established to protect those beneficial uses of
18	our water bodies.
19	Selenium standards for Lake Koocanusa
20	and the Kootenai River which we're discussing
21	today are being set to protect our aquatic life,
22	which means that the standard represents the limit
23	or the cap of selenium concentration below which
24	we have confidence that the aquatic life is
25	protected. Next slide, please.

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13 This timeline provides a high level 1 2 overview of how we have arrived at this point. In 2010 as a result of a Memorandum of 3 Understanding and Cooperation between British 4 5 Columbia and Montana, which was spurred by events pertaining to the transboundary Flathead River, 6 7 coordinated efforts began between BC Environmental 8 and DEQ to address regional transboundary water 9 quality issues, including those in Elk Valley, British Columbia, which is upstream of Lake 10 11 Koocanusa. 12 In 2012, increasing trends in selenium 13 concentrations in Lake Koocanusa led Montana DEQ to list the lake as threatened for selenium on our 14 15 impaired water bodies list. In 2013, in 16 recognition of water quality impacts from past, 17 current, and future mining activities in the Elk 18 Valley in Lake Koocanusa, a BC ministerial order 19 was signed to remediate water quality effects, and 20 guide environmental management. 21 This led to the establishment in 2015 of 22 the bi-national Lake Koocanusa Monitoring and 23 Research Working Group, which has guided the 24 subsequent work that we are here to present today.

In 2016, EPA updated their 1987 national

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14 1 criteria for selenium, and that update included 2 standards for fish tissue, as well as the water 3 column, and recommended using site specific data 4 where feasible, due to the unique way that 5 selenium bioaccumulates, depending on local 6 factors, such as species composition, water 7 chemistry, and hydrology.

8 And since 2015, BC and Montana have been 9 working in close collaboration with the goal of 10 establishing an aligned transboundary selenium 11 standard in 2020, which is protective of aquatic 12 life in Lake Koocanusa. Next slide, please.

This has been a multi-year

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14 multi-national transboundary effort with 15 significant collaborative actions, including six 16 years of coordination with DEQ, BC Environment, 17 co-leading this effort. Participation of an 18 engaged working group consisting of broad ranging entitles -- state, tribal, federal, industry, etc. 19 20 -- involvement and dedication from top selenium 21 experts in the US and Canada guiding the 22 development of this standard; coordinated 23 transboundary data sharing and data collection; 24 development of an extensive co-managed public 25 website which houses all of our data, our meeting

15 summaries, our sampling and analysis plans, 1 2 technical reports and relevant literature. Public meetings were held in Montana 3 beginning in 2015. Seven of those were large 4 5 panel formats organized with assistance from the Kootenai River network; and in 2019, DEQ also met 6 7 on a smaller scale with local officials in Troy, 8 Eureka, and Libby, to provide an update on trends 9 and standards developments. 10 As we work through our standards setting 11 process based on the science you'll hear from 12 Lauren, BC Environment is currently working 13 through their standard setting process as well, again with the goal which is an aligned 14 15 transboundary water column selenium standard. 16 Next slide, please. 17 The forum we utilized for this 18 transboundary effort was the Lake Koocanusa 19 Monitoring and Research Working Group. Formed in 20 2015 to address transboundary water quality 21 issues, the group has met eleven times on a 22 semi-annual basis. 23 Selenium, in particular determination of 24 the appropriate water quality standard, was 25 determined to be the first priority, thus selenium

16 technical subcommittee was formed comprised of top 1 2 experts in selenium to guide data collection and modeling work. That group has had nearly thirty 3 meetings during which they consult on sampling 4 5 plans, analyses and selenium modeling. Next slide, please. 6 7 I'll now provide an overview of the proposed standards, so you can have that in your 8 mind as a framework as Lauren explains how we 9 10 arrived at these values. 11 The standard is comprised of fish tissue 12 values. These are the same for Lake Koocanusa and 13 the Kootenai River, and they mirror EPA's national recommended criteria. These are detailed as egg 14 15 ovary, full body, and muscle values. 16 There's also water column values, which 17 for Lake Koocanusa is based on site specific data 18 listed here proposed as 0.8 micrograms per liter; and for the Kootenai River, 3.1 micrograms per 19 20 This is based on EPA's national liter. 21 recommended criteria for flowing waters. Next

22 slide, please.

Why now? So this is a question that has been raised, and so I really want to address it directly. Substantial and critical milestones

have been met. Each of them are significant 1 achievements in and of themselves. 2 We have completed a multi-year data collection effort. 3 The resulting peer reviewed modeling 4 5 report has been completed by the United States Geological Survey. As one of the penultimate 6 7 science agencies in the US, this has been peer reviewed under stringent scientific standards. 8 9 Recommendations on model inputs were solicited and 10 received by our selenium technical subcommittee 11 members. 12 And based on those two previous 13 milestones, BC and DEQ co-developed and agreed upon scenarios for protective water quality 14 15 selenium standard. 16 And I'd like to emphasize these last two 17 These standards are necessary to prevent points. 18 impacts to aquatic life. Remembering back to that timeline, for over a decade there has been 19 20 certainty that the selenium standard that now 21 applies to Lake Koocanusa of five micrograms per 22 liter does not protect our aquatic life, and 23 uncertainty about what the standard should be to 24 protect our aquatic life.

And for that reason, all the ensuing

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1 work, and the reason we're here today, was put
2 into answering that one simple question: What is
3 the right standard? We've arrived at that point
4 of what is the right standard, and we have arrived
5 at that point before seeing the substantial
6 fisheries impacts that are occurring upstream.

7 The Lake Koocanusa and Kootenai River 8 fisheries remain today a healthy fishery, and it 9 is our responsibility to maintain it that way. 10 You will learn from Lauren that selenium impacts 11 to aquatic life can be challenging to first 12 detect, because the impacts happen at the 13 reproductive phase.

If we were to get to the point of a 14 15 fishery population crisis as a result of high selenium concentrations, that would be a hard 16 17 point to come back from, which is why Montana 18 Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been a key partner in 19 all of this work from day one, and their fishery 20 biologists support the standard that we're 21 proposing.

22 Secondly, there are no adverse economic 23 impacts to Montana. The standards proposed today 24 have no adverse impact, economic impacts on our 25 Montana businesses and permitted communities, and 19 1 that is because we don't have selenium sources in 2 this watershed. The known source of increasing 3 selenium in the Elk Valley is the Elk Valley in 4 British Columbia.

5 We have no permitted sources of selenium 6 for a couple of reasons, and the first reason is 7 simple geology. These watersheds simply do not 8 have a selenium rich geologic strata that are 9 found in areas such as the Elk Valley.

10 And secondly, selenium mobilization and 11 introduction to aquatic systems come from only a 12 couple of human activities, one being opencut 13 mining that creates large overburden spoil piles, 14 and without the underlying geology, this is not a 15 factor in the Montana portion of these watersheds.

16 Montanore Mine, a metals mine in the 17 watershed, does not have selenium as a pollutant 18 of concern.

19 Though our regulatory authority is 20 pertinent only in the state of Montana, an 21 established protective standard allows Canadian 22 industry and regulators the certainty to apply 23 treatment technologies and permit conditions to 24 ensure this standard is met, and that our aquatic 25 life is protected.

20 It also allows for certainty in 1 2 determining whether the beneficial use is impaired, and whether transboundary clean water 3 commitments are maintained. 4 5 Finally, outdoor recreation, fishing, and angling are all an important part of the local 6 7 economy, and this standard will be a factor in ensuring that that sector remains strong. 8 9 We preceded this meeting with a presentation to our advisory council, WPCAC, the 10 11 Water Pollution Control Advisory Council, who voted unanimously to bring this rule forward to 12 13 the Board to initiate rulemaking. And with that, I'm going to turn it to Lauren. 14 15 MS. SULLIVAN: Thanks, Myla. Madam 16 Chair, Members of the Board, my name is Lauren 17 Sullivan. I'm a water quality scientist with 18 Montana DEQ, and I'll be presenting the second 19 portion of today's presentation. 20 To orient everybody to the location 21 we're discussing today, this slide shows the 22 Kootenai River watershed. You can see here that 23 it's a transboundary watershed spanning British 24 Columbia, Montana, and Idaho. 25 The Kootenai River originates in

21 northwest British Columbia. You can see it on the 1 2 map over in the middle right. It flows south into Montana, into Lake Koocanusa, and flows out of the 3 Libby Dam, turns west into Idaho, and then around 4 5 Bonners Ferry, Idaho, the river turns north going back into British Columbia, where it enters 6 7 Kootenai Lake, and eventually joins the Columbia River. 8

9 Lake Koocanusa is a reservoir created by 10 the Libby Dam in the 1970s. It is a transboundary 11 reservoir located in both Montana and British 12 Columbia, with the majority located in Montana.

You can see here on the map the northern
portion of the reservoir is located in British
Columbia just below where the Elk River joins the
Kootenai River.

17 Increasing levels of selenium have been 18 detected over time in the Elk River, British 19 Columbia. This graph here on the left shows 20 selenium concentrations plotted over time from 21 1984 through 2019. The data comes from a 22 Federal/Canadian long term water quality 23 monitoring station located on the Elk River where 24 this red circle is located on the map. It is 25 about two miles upstream from Lake Koocanusa.

22 1 The purple line on the graph is marking 2 the two micrograms per liter, which is the current British Columbia Provencial Water Quality 3 Guideline for selenium. British Columbia 4 5 additionally has an alert level at one microgram per liter, which is defined as a concentration 6 7 below the guideline, but above which there may be risk to some environments and/or species that are 8 sensitive to selenium bioaccumulation. 9 10 The graph shows levels quite a bit 11 higher than the provincial guideline, and shows an 12 increasing trend over time in selenium in the Elk 13 River. And it's been identified that 95 percent 14 of selenium entering Lake Koocanusa is coming from 15 the Elk River. The source of selenium in the Elk River 16 17 is from historic and present day coal mining 18 operations in the Elk Valley. The locations of these mining operations are circled here on the 19 20 map on the right. This map shows the upper 21 Kootenai watershed boundary. The orange areas 22 represent existing mines, and the yellow areas 23 represent coal bearing geology. 24 There are currently four mines in 25 operation, solely owned and operated by one

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1 company, Teck Resources, Limited, and there are
2 four mines in the environmental assessment
3 process.

The reason there are high concentrations of selenium detected in the Elk River is because selenium enters surface and groundwater from waste rock piles that are a byproduct of the open pit coal mining operations in Elk Valley.

9 This schematic at the bottom left walks 10 through Step 1, how bedrock, which has naturally 11 occurring selenium, is excavated to access coal 12 seams underneath. That excavation process creates 13 a byproduct called overburden or waste rock; this 14 is labeled two in the schematic.

In this process selenium becomes exposed to oxidation, increasing mobilization or leaching through precipitation, infiltration, and runoff to nearby surface and/or groundwater. And that last step of entering surface water is labeled in the schematic as three.

To put some context to the extent of the mining, what you're seeing in the background of this image in the bottom right is one of these waste rock piles in the Elk Valley. It may be hard to see, but these are very large piles. They

24 can look like mountains themselves. 1 The waste 2 rock in the image is labeled two, and you can see by the sheer size they're too large to cap and 3 piles like these are expansive throughout the Elk 4 5 Valley. The selenium leaches out of these piles 6 7 and enters nearby surface or groundwater, and you can see a stream in the foreground of this photo 8 labeled three. The selenium eventually makes its 9 way downstream into Lake Koocanusa. 10 11 And I'm getting a little bit of feedback, so I might just ask if everyone can mute 12 13 themselves. Thank you. This schematic here is from the USGS, 14 15 and effectively describes the dietary exposure of 16 selenium in an aquatic ecosystem. It is a well 17 established principle in the scientific community 18 that the toxicity of selenium is predominantly through dietary exposure, so I'll just briefly 19 20 walk you through this schematic. 21 In the upper left is the source of 22 selenium, in this case waste rock, from openpit 23 coal mining in the Elk Valley. The mobilized 24 selenium enters surface water as dissolved 25 selenium, from there becomes incorporated into

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particulate matter.

2 That partitioning to biological particulate material is the first step in selenium 3 entering the food web, and the partitioning 4 5 between dissolved selenium to particulate selenium is referred to as a Kd. That step is displayed 6 7 with the red arrow on the diagram. That particulate matter is then consumed 8 9 by invertebrates, transferring selenium into 10 invertebrate tissues. Moving through the food chain, those invertebrates are then consumed by 11 fish, further transferring selenium up the food 12 13 chain and into the fish tissues. The TTF labeled by the green arrows 14 15 stands for trophic transfer factor, and that 16 describes the transfer of selenium from prey to 17 It is a measure of bioaccumulative predator. 18 potential. 19 This understanding of how selenium moves 20 through the food web, how aquatic organisms can 21 experience toxicological effects due to dietary 22 exposure, is important to understand because this 23 is the reason fish tissue standards are necessary, 24 and this understanding is the foundation of the 25 selenium modeling that was done for Lake

1 Koocanusa.

2	One other point that is important to
3	make is that the way selenium is processed in a
4	lake or reservoir is different than in a river.
5	There are a number of factors influencing that,
6	but one of the primary ones is simply residence
7	time. When water is not flowing, there is more
8	time for organisms to interact with selenium to
9	process it, moving that selenium through the food
10	web.
11	This is why the updated EPA national
12	recommended criteria, which is based on years of
13	research in the collective scientific
14	understanding of selenium by scientists across the
15	country and the globe, recommends that lakes and
16	reservoirs have a lower water column selenium
17	standard than rivers.
18	Selenium is an interesting element
19	because while it is an essential nutrient, it can
20	become toxic at only slighter greater
21	concentrations than what is required by an
22	organism.
23	This figure here shows some of the
24	reproductive efforts of selenium for fish.
25	Selenium can cause reduced production of viable

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1 eggs, reduced growth, mortality or deformity,
2 altered liver enzyme function, and winter stress
3 syndrome.

Winter stress syndrome is important to understand, in that fish that will experience any one of these toxicological effects that I just listed may simply not survive the environmental stresses of the winter.

9 Selenium can cause mortality to adult 10 fish, but it's not common. More commonly the fish 11 population level effects occur at the reproductive 12 stage. For example, reduced viable egg production 13 would eventually lead to population decreases.

14Important to note, the Montana Fish15Biologists DEQ works with in Lake Koocanusa has16stated that selenium impacts reproductive success,17and they do not necessarily expect to observe18deformities in surviving adult fish, which is most19often what is captured during their sampling20efforts.

This figure shows selenium concentrations in egg ovary tissue from data collected in Montana and Lake Koocanusa from 2008 through 2018. Along the X axis are the different fish species, and the shaded points indicate the 1 year of data collection.

2	Along the Y axis is selenium
3	concentration in micrograms per gram dry weight.
4	Two horizontal lines are displayed. The lower
5	line represents the British Columbia Provincial
6	fish tissue guideline of eleven for egg ovary
7	tissue, and the upper line represents the US EPA
8	recommended fish tissue criteria of 15.1 for egg
9	ovary tissue.
10	The reason for the difference in these
11	guidelines has to do with the protection goals for
12	the water bodies that differ between the US and
13	British Columbia. As Myla mentioned, DEQ is
14	proposing the 15.1 for Lake Koocanusa, and as you
15	can see, at current water column concentrations,
16	there are some individual fish exceeding that
17	level.
18	The average selenium levels are
19	currently around one microgram per liter. While
20	data in British Columbia dating back to the 1980s
21	for selenium that were shown on one of the
22	previous slides, in Montana selenium has only been
23	monitored in Lake Koocanusa since 2013, so we do
24	not have that same sort of long term trend data.
25	This figure is showing dissolved

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29 1 selenium on the Y axis. Along the X axis is time 2 from 2013 through 2019. The points represent all sites within the reservoir at all depths. 3 And based on these data, the average concentration is 4 5 approximately one microgram per liter. The proposed water column standard of 6 7 0.8 is only slightly lower than current 8 concentrations, and is necessary to ensure that 9 aquatic life beneficial use is being protected, and that no further exceedences in egg ovary 10 11 tissue occur. 12 Data collection efforts for Lake 13 Koocanusa selenium data increased in 2016. 14 Impressive coordination between a whole variety of 15 monitoring entities occurred, and those are listed 16 here at the top: Montana Fish, Wildlife and 17 Parks; the US Army Corps of Engineers; USGS; the 18 US Fish and Wildlife Service; the British Columbia 19 Ministry of Environment; and Teck, which is the 20 company that owns and operates the mines in the 21 Elk Valley, and who leads their monitoring efforts 22 in the Elk River and the British Columbia portion 23 of Lake Koocanusa. 24 A list of parameters collected over the

25 years are shown here. Some of these parameters

30 1 were already included in routine monitoring, while 2 other parameters have not previously been 3 collected, and were recommended by the selenium 4 technical subcommittee to be included.

5 There are four primary monitoring areas 6 described by the boxes in this map. They include 7 south of the Elk River, International Boundary, 8 Tenmile, and Forebay.

9 Important to note: While there is extensive data collection upstream by Teck in the 10 Elk Valley, British Columbia, and downstream in 11 12 Idaho by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Idaho DEQ, 13 and the USGS, the data specifically used to 14 develop a site specific selenium standard for Lake 15 Koocanusa is Lake Koocanusa Reservoir data only. 16 This gets back to the point that lakes and 17 reservoirs process selenium different than rivers.

Working with the selenium technical subcommittee, these eleven resident species were identified to focus on for modeling. Bull trout at the top of that list is a federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act.

And not listed here, but also discussed and considered in standard development is the federally listed endangered downstream Kootenai

31 1 River white sturgeon, which is the known most 2 sensitive fish species to selenium in the country. DEQ partnered with the USGS to complete 3 the selenium bioaccumulation modeling effort. 4 5 That was done throughout the early part of 2020 and completed during the summer. The modeling 6 7 work is quite complex, but to summarize, there are key model inputs required to calculate a 8 protective dissolved selenium value. 9 10 Those inputs include a fish tissue 11 selenium target; a food web; the trophic transfer 12 and bioavailability percentage; the Kd -- which is 13 that ratio between the suspended particulate selenium and the dissolved selenium. 14 15 The modeling effort for Lake Koocanusa 16 was based on the peer reviewed ecosystem scale 17 selenium model by Presser and Luoma that was 18 published in 2010. The Lake Koocanusa model takes the Presser and Luoma model, which is the best 19 20 science available on modeling selenium in aquatic 21 ecosystems, and tailored it to Lake Koocanusa 22 using site specific data. 23 The result of this modeling effort was a 24 peer reviewed Lake Koocanusa modeling report that 25 presented a range of candidate criteria based on

1 specified model inputs.

2	An organizing principle for the
3	methodology of the model is the progressive
4	solution of a set of equations, each of which
5	quantifies a process important in selenium
6	exposure. Ultimately those are combined and
7	described by the equation listed here.
8	Looking at this equation in the
9	numerator in the top where it states, "C tissue
10	criterion element," this is the concentration or
11	target whole body tissue number; and the
12	denominator, the bottom, the TTF, is the trophic
13	transfer factor. The TTF is what links the
14	particulate selenium to prey and predator
15	selenium.
16	The composite means it's the product of
17	all the TTF in a given food web, and then the Kd,
18	which is the base of the food web, and
19	characterizes uptake and bioconcentration of
20	selenium. Solving for this equation then
21	calculates a protective dissolved selenium
22	concentration.
23	The USGS presented two food webs with
24	different consumption patterns. Summarized here,
25	the two webs are the invertebrate to fish model,

32

33 or IFM; and the trophic fish model or TFM. 1 2 First focusing on the IFM on the left, this is the fish consuming insects and/or 3 zooplankton. The TFM model on the right accounts 4 5 for a piscivorous diet in which predator fish consume cray fish, with a diet of aquatic insects, 6 7 zooplankton, or a mixture. That is illustrated here on the right, and that's the culturally and 8 9 ecologically important fish species burbot that has been added to this diagram to represent a 10 11 piscivore. 12 The eleven focal fish species shown on 13 the previous slide were categorized into these different food web models and consumption 14 15 patterns, informed by fish diet data from the reservoir. 16 17 To help visualize how the trophic 18 transfer factors are applied, here are some 19 example food webs and consumption patterns. 20 Remember, TTF's are a measure of bioaccumulative 21 potential. It's the transfer of selenium between 22 an animal and its food. 23 These values here are TTF's from a 24 robust global data set, to include an aquatic 25 insect TTF of 2.8, zooplankton of 1.5, and fish

1 1.1. What you see here is that the highest TTF is
2 lower in the food chain. This is getting back to
3 that point that the greatest step in
4 bioaccumulation is occurring at the base of the
5 food web.

6 Going back to these diagrams on dietary 7 exposure, in the context of the USGS ecosystem 8 scale selenium model, ultimately the model tracks 9 selenium as it bioaccumulates through the food web 10 from dissolved to particulate through multiple 11 trophic levels to fish tissue.

12 The last model input to talk about here 13 Remember, this is the environmental is the Kd. 14 partitioning between dissolved and particulate 15 selenium. It is the base of the food web, and is 16 a critical model parameter because as you've seen 17 in these slides, the greatest step in 18 bioaccumulation potential is occurring at the base of the food web. 19

There is a huge data collection effort in Lake Koocanusa to collect matched, dissolved, and particulate matter to inform this model parameter. This Kd is environment specific, and influenced by local environmental factors, and the Kd's in Lake Koocanusa are influenced by the 35
complex hydrodynamics of the reservoir and dam
operations.

There is a wide range of Kd's from the lowest being around 400, to the highest being around 7500. Each Kd was considered an independent scenario for modeling. There are 87 Kd observations. These are listed on this figure on the left, or from lowest to highest.

9 What was determined and is detailed 10 extensively in the peer reviewed Lake Koocanusa 11 modeling report by the USGS is that any one of 12 these Kd's could exist at any time at any place in 13 the reservoir, so all must be considered. The 14 result was 87 predictive dissolved selenium values 15 for each model scenario.

An example of one of those model scenarios is here on the right, where 87 orange points represent the results of one of these modeling scenarios: The lowest Kd results in the highest predicted dissolved water column selenium concentration; and the highest Kd results in the lowest predicted water column selenium value.

23 MR. GUNDERSON: Lauren, are your slides 24 showing properly? Because we're seeing fish 25 identified by SeTSC for modeling, and nothing else

36 1 that you're covering. This is Representative 2 Gunderson. MR. CUFFE: And Senator Mike Cuffe. 3 MR. GUNDERSON: We're not seeing 4 5 anything other than the fish identified by SeTSC for modeling slide; is that correct? 6 7 MS. SULLIVAN: I'm showing Slide 19, the Kd slide. Is anyone else seeing that Slide 19? 8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm seeing that slide. 9 10 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: This is Chris. 11 I'm seeing that. 12 Yes, I'm seeing it. CHAIR DEVENY: Ιs 13 anybody not seeing Slide 19 besides the people 14 that just spoke up? 15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm seeing 19. 16 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: I'm seeing 19. 17 I'm sorry. This is Board Member Lynch. 18 MS. SULLIVAN: It sounds like it might 19 just be one person or one group that's not seeing 20 the slides. Would you recommend I continue with 21 the presentation? 22 CHAIR DEVENY: Yes. This is Chris Deveny, Chair. It's unfortunate that some people 23 24 are having technical difficulties, but it looks 25 like the majority of the people are able to see

37 it, as well as particularly the Board members. 1 So 2 I'm going to ask you to continue, Lauren, and apologize for the fact that during this pandemic 3 that we sometimes have to have some things that 4 5 don't quite work out. So please go ahead, Lauren. MS. CLERGET: Can I interrupt for one 6

7 second. I'm sorry. The presentation is also available on the BER website. You can download it 8 as a PDF, so you can follow along in hard copy, 9 which is what I'm doing. And if you want to just 10 indicate as you're going through maybe the slide 11 12 number that you're on, and then people could 13 follow along on the PDF or in their hard copy as 14 well, if you can't see the share screen.

15 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Sarah, for 16 always coming up with a good solution.

17 MS. SULLIVAN: So I'll continue on. I'm 18 going to continue on to Slide 20.

19 The USGS modeling applied the EPA 20 national whole body criterion of 8.5 as the target 21 tissue value, although other whole body values 22 could be applied, such as the British Columbia 23 guideline or appropriate target tissue values.

24 Modeling choices and assumptions were 25 quided by the goals stated in the report, and

previously defined by technical subcommittee
 members.

USGS scientists produced a peer reviewed 3 report on the selenium modeling of Lake Koocanusa 4 5 which provided the foundation from which DEQ was able to develop a protective water column selenium 6 7 standard in collaboration with British Columbia. To summarize some of the goals 8 9 previously defined by the technical subcommittee and listed in the report, I'll just read these 10 11 four goals off here: Consideration of 12 ecologically significant species and those 13 important to stakeholders; protection of the 14 ecosystem during maximum dietary exposure, so the 15 most sensitive food web; 100 percent protection of 16 the fish species in the reservoir, assuming a 17 reproductive end point of reproductively mature 18 females feeding in a lentic ecosystem; and long 19 term protection for fish in all parts of the 20 reservoir during all phases of reservoir 21 operation, all selenium profiles in all water 22 years.

Following the USGS publication, DEQ and British Columbia worked collaboratively going through the following steps: First, the Lake

39 1 Koocanusa working group steering committee chaired 2 by both a DEQ and BC representative solicited 3 recommendations from the selenium technical 4 subcommittee and model inputs and final criteria 5 recommendations.

6 Those technical subcommittee members 7 provided recommendations during a half day 8 teleconference, which had 100 percent attendance 9 and participation, and following that meeting 10 additional written recommendations from some 11 members were submitted.

DEQ and British Columbia considered the recommendations from the technical subcommittee, as well as recommendations from members of the broader working group, to develop three additional scenarios for consideration; and ultimately DEQ identified a selenium standard protective of the aquatic life beneficial use.

19 I won't go into all of the detail on 20 this slide, but presented here are a summary of 21 technical subcommittee recommendations and 22 modeling.

Five out of seven members recommended a whole body tissue value of lower than 8.5 be applied. Three out of seven members specifically 40
1 recommended the trophic fish model, or piscivore
2 model, assuming a 100 percent aquatic insect diet;
3 and there were no specific recommendations for any
4 other food web to be used.

5 There is general agreement that the 60 percent bioavailability applied to the literature 6 7 TTF may be over-predicting, and recommendations on 8 this range from maintaining use of this 9 bioavailability percentage of 60 percent as a conservative measure, given the uncertainties in 10 the ecosystem, particularly if applying an 8.5 11 12 whole body value.

Other recommendations were to calculate more site specific TTF, and two of the seven members did that and provided some recommended values.

For Kd selection, there was general agreement that the median or 50th percentile would be appropriate if a whole body tissue value of less than 8.5 is applied; but if 8.5 is applied, then a more conservative Kd percentile would be appropriate.

Final recommendations were presented by four of the seven participating members. Those values ranged from 0.6 to 1.5, with three of the

41 1 four specific water column recommendations falling 2 between 0.6 and 0.8 micrograms per liter. Presented here are four modeling 3 scenarios. The top three were co-developed 4 5 between DEQ and British Columbia, and the bottom one was developed solely by DEQ based on the USGS 6 7 modeling assumption presented in their publication, and it applies to the US EPA 8 recommended fish tissue value. 9 10 British Columbia has more stringent fish 11 tissue guidelines than the US does, and several 12 technical subcommittee members provided a 13 recommendation to apply a whole body value of less 14 than 8.5, and several members recommended a value 15 of 5.6. This value is consistent with British 16 Columbia's guidelines. 17 The 5.6 was calculated using an egg 18 ovary to whole body conversion factor applied to 19 the British Columbia egg ovary guideline of 20 eleven. So similar to the way the EPA recommended 21 8.5 whole body value is linked to recommended egg 22 ovary tissue of 15.1, this 5.6 whole body value is 23 linked to the BC egg ovary guideline of eleven. 24 From there food web scenarios were

discussed, one IFM model and two TFM models with

42 1 different diet considerations. A bioavailability 2 was calculated to 45 percent, which is less 3 conservative, but determined appropriate to 4 consider if using a 5.6 whole body tissue 5 threshold; and a median 50th percentile from the 6 Kd's was selected to come up with the range of 7 values you see here.

8 Following the guidance from the 9 technical subcommittee, DEQ selected the TFM food 10 web model, assuming a diet of 100 percent aquatic 11 insects, and arrived at a protective water column 12 value of 0.8 micrograms per liter.

13 DEQ additionally applied the 8.5 whole 14 body value to create a model scenario in step with 15 our US process, applied the same TFM at 100 16 percent of aquatic insects, the 60 percent 17 bioavailability which was determined appropriate 18 by the technical subcommittee if applying the 8.5 19 whole body value, and a Kd value at the 75th 20 percentile was selected as again following 21 guidance to select a more conservative percentile 22 if the 8.5 whole body tissue value was used. 23 The 75th percentile resulted at a 24 protective water dissolved water column value of 25 .08, following these two methodologies, one

1 co-developed with British Columbia, and the other 2 developed by DEQ but in line with the EPA fish 3 tissue recommendations, to arrive at the same 4 protective water column criteria 0.8 micrograms 5 per liter.

6 Today we are requesting that the Board 7 initiate rulemaking on the following standards: 8 Listed here are the proposed standards for Lake 9 Koocanusa, the dissolved selenium value of 0.8 10 micrograms per liter, and the EPA nationally 11 recommended fish tissue standards are proposed for 12 egg ovary, muscle, and whole body.

13 And in the absence of site specific data for the Kootenai River, DEQ is proposing the EPA 14 15 nationally recommended criteria for the Kootenai 16 River, which includes water column standards, a 17 water column standard of 3.1, and fish tissue 18 standards the same as the EPA recommended values 19 for Lake Koocanusa, which are 15.1 for eggs and 20 ovaries, 11.3 for muscle, and 8.5 for whole body. 21 That is the end of the presentation, and 22 at this point, we're happy to take questions. 23 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Lauren. Let's 24 give everybody a minute to get back on their 25 videos, for Board members particularly. And

44 unmute if you're going to be speaking. 1 So first of all, I'd like to ask: Do 2 any of the BER members have questions of Lauren or 3 4 Myla regarding their presentation this morning? BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: 5 This is Board Member Lynch. I do have a question, Madam Chair. 6 7 CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Jerry. BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: If I understand 8 correctly -- Lauren, I guess this is directed to 9 you -- British Columbia has a 5.6 standard, is 10 11 that correct, for whole body? 12 MS. SULLIVAN: Madam Chair, Board Member 13 Actually British Columbia has a whole body Lynch. fish tissue standard of four micrograms per gram 14 15 dry weight, so it's lower than the 5.6. 16 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: And so the DEO is 17 proposing, again if I understand correctly, an 8.6 18 standard for whole body? MS. SULLIVAN: 8.5. 19 That's correct. 20 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Why would we go 21 higher than the British Columbia standard? Is it 22 necessary? 23 MS. SULLIVAN: That's a great question, 24 and that comes back to the different protection 25 goals between the US and British Columbia. And so

45 the 8.5 is following the US EPA guidance, which 1 2 protects 95 percent of species nationwide. British Columbia has more stringent 3 guidelines. They updated their selenium 4 5 guidelines in 2014, and they included a safety factor of two, which provides protection at 100 6 percent species in all life stages, and so it's 7 8 more protective. BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: That's where I'm a 9 bit confused, if you bear with me for a moment. 10 11 The 8.5 seems dramatically higher than what British Columbia has imposed, not that the United 12 13 States or Montana is bound by that. But I 14 understand the State's wanting to go along with, 15 if you will, the EPA suggestion, but the State is 16 not -- Montana is not bound by that, right? It 17 has discretion? 18 MS. SULLIVAN: In the absence of data 19 for site specific tissue standards, DEQ is 20 comfortable adopting the US EPA recommended 21 criteria. The science behind the EPA criteria is 22 more recent than British Columbia's. And Myla, do 23 you want to expand on that at all? 24 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Let me interrupt 25 for one moment. I'm very sorry for doing this.

	4 6
1	But one of my concerns is the white sturgeon,
2	which as I understand the presentation is the most
3	sensitive species, yet we have no data regarding
4	how this affects white sturgeon, correct?
5	CHAIR DEVENY: That's correct. We need
6	an oral response.
7	BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: That is correct,
8	right?
9	MS. KELLY: Madam Chair, and Member
10	Lynch, the 8.5 value from EPA does include data
11	from the white sturgeon, so that incorporates the
12	white sturgeon into that analysis.
13	And I would just add one additional
14	note. The modeling efforts were designed, that we
15	were discussing today, were designed to establish
16	that protective water column value. So it's
17	perhaps feasible, or potentially in the future
18	there would be additional data collection that
19	might adjust those fish tissue values; but we
20	don't have that data at that time. So at this
21	point in time, those EPA values are what we are
22	confident moving forward with.
23	BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: So a followup
24	question, if I may.
25	CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Jerry.

47 1 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: The EPA analysis 2 regarding white sturgeon, is that based upon the white sturgeon in the ecosystem we're talking 3 about, or is it somewhere else? 4 5 MS. KELLY: It's based on toxicity data 6 for the white sturgeon, so --7 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: From which 8 ecosystem? MS. KELLY: I believe that was on a 9 national scale. I'm not sure. I don't have the 10 11 details of how the EPA conducts their toxicity 12 studies. 13 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: The reason I bring 14 that up is I'm familiar with the problems created 15 by the Libby Dam and the white sturgeon population 16 in the Kootenai River, and the tremendous efforts 17 made by the Kootenai Tribes of Idaho. 18 And I'm concerned that this level that 19 DEQ is proposing for that ecosystem, the Kootenai 20 ecosystem, may be dangerous to the white sturgeon 21 without any data as to that population. 22 MS. KELLY: Thank you. And I do want to 23 note that the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho has been 24 integral throughout this entire process, and is 25 supportive of the criteria that we're moving

48 1 forward with, and might be here to speak on their 2 behalf today. In addition, I think moving forward, I 3 think it would be important to collect some 4 5 additional site specific data on the Kootenai River to ensure that we have the correct standard 6 7 in place. BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Just a final 8 9 question, if I may, and then I'll be --CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Jerry. 10 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: 11 The Tribe, according to the letter that I read in the 12 13 materials -- Richard Jamison from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Susan Ireland from the 14 15 Kootenai Tribe of Idaho -- they're proposing a 16 5.6, which is more conservative than the 8.5 17 proposed by the DEQ. Why shouldn't the Board look 18 at the 5.6? Give me the most compelling reason the Board should not consider the 5.6. 19 20 MS. KELLY: Well, Board Member, Chair, 21 Members of the Board. I would like to refresh our 22 memory that in the last, the second to last table 23 that Lauren was highlighting, the water column 24 value of .8, based on the three scenarios that BC 25 and Montana co-developed, the water column of .8

49 1 was based on an input of using the fish tissue 2 value of 5.6. BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Thank you. 3 That helps very much. 4 5 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chair, this is Tim Davis with DEQ. If I can add one more thing. 6 7 CHAIR DEVENY: Okay. Go ahead, Tim. Thank you. 8 MR. DAVIS: I just wanted to 9 add, Board Member Lynch, one thing I just wanted to note is the 3.1 on the main stem, micrograms 10 per liter on the main stem of the Kootenai that 11 we're proposing matches Idaho's 3.1 as well, and 12 13 the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho was supportive of that in its design to be protective of white sturgeon. 14 15 Myla is right. There may be additional 16 site specific data could be used in the future, 17 but right now it would match up with what's across the border on the main stem of Idaho as well. 18 19 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Thank you. 20 CHAIR DEVENY: Other questions from Board members? 21 22 (No response) 23 CHAIR DEVENY: I have one, either Myla 24 or Lauren, and/or Tim, and that kind of has to do 25 with the fact that we have a limited amount of

50
1 data, and that things may change in the future.
2 Do you have a monitoring plan in place to
3 determine if in the future we need to change these
4 standards to be lowered, or even if they're too
5 stringent?

MS. KELLY: Madam Chair, one of the 6 7 really excellent outcomes of all of this work has been this collaboration and these partnerships 8 that have been developed, so we have very close 9 partnerships at the United States Geological 10 Survey, with Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, all who 11 12 are partnering with us in monitoring efforts; and 13 the USGS has monitoring efforts that will be 14 continuing in the next couple of years, and maybe 15 beyond that as well.

We've established, in conjunction with our Canadian partners, a transboundary monitoring group, where we set out our goals for monitoring for a variety of pollutants and parameters; and in that, we have I think strengthened those partnerships for long term monitoring.

And of course, as with any water quality standard, we go through a process where we look at our standards every three years through a triennial review.

51 1 CHAIR DEVENY: Okay. Great. Thank you, 2 Ms. Kelly. Any other questions from Board members? 3 BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: Madam Chair, I 4 5 have a question. CHAIR DEVENY: Yes. 6 David. BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: I actually have 7 a question and then a request, a question for 8 9 either Lauren or Myla. 10 As I understood, the current selenium 11 level average in Lake Koocanusa is 1.0, and we're 12 proposing a selenium standard of 0.8, so there's a 13 .2 difference obviously. Does that have any 14 practical implications? What does that mean, if 15 you're proposing a slightly lower selenium standard than the current average? 16 17 MS. KELLY: Madam Chair, Board Member 18 Lehnherr. I think that we do, our research labs 19 do have the capacity to test and analyze selenium 20 levels in water column to very low levels, so that 21 there is actually a difference between a 0.8 and a 22 one, if that's what was -- micrograms per liter, 23 and we can detect that. 24 BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: I'm just 25 wondering. I understand that. I'm just wondering 52
1 if you have a slightly -- if you're proposing a
2 slightly lower standard than the current average,
3 does any action have to be taken to lower that
4 average of 1.0 to 0.8?

5 MS. KELLY: Yes. So any standard that we have in place is the standard, the judgment by 6 7 which we determine whether through our monitoring efforts, whether there's an impairment on a water 8 9 body, and then subsequent actions that would -- or load allocations through a TMDL process that would 10 11 need to be taken from there. So it would be the 12 .8 that we would be -- if that is the standard 13 that we ultimately end up adopting, it would be 14 the .8 that we would be looking at for impairment 15 decisions and subsequent load allocations.

BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: Thank you. And what would you have to do to then lower the -what sort of enforcement actions, or mitigation actions would have to be taken to lower the current level of selenium to 0.8?

MS. KELLY: Tim, do you want to take
that one?
MR. DAVIS: Madam Chair.
CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Tim.
MR. DAVIS: Again, Tim Davis, DEQ. So

53 1 Myla is correct. If the Board sets the standard 2 as a protective standard as proposed at .8, and we do, we find that the monthly average, on a monthly 3 average that that standard is exceeded, we would 4 5 then determine that there's an impairment coming, and we would work with our federal partners, BC, 6 7 in order to make sure that steps are taken on the British Columbia side of the border to address 8 9 that impairment.

Teck has made significant investments in research and development on wastewater treatment for selenium, so we would -- but we would work with our federal partners as well as British Columbia to make sure that the selenium levels are brought down to address the impairment going forward.

BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: Thank you, Tim, and Myla. And just one last thing, just for my information.

There's a difference between the selenium standard between a river and a reservoir, and can you -- I know Lauren dealt with that, but can you just give me another nutshell summary of why, sort of the biodynamics that are different that justifies or that explains why there's a

54 1 difference between the selenium standard in rivers 2 and reservoirs.

MS. SULLIVAN: Madam Chair, Board Member 3 Lehnherr, I can summarize a bit on that. So like 4 5 I mentioned in the presentation, there are a number of factors contributing to that, and one of 6 7 the main ones is residence time.

So if you think of selenium in water 8 9 passing by an organism, if it's flowing water, it's going to pass by faster, there's less time 10 11 for interaction to occur; versus in a lake or a reservoir where the water is still. There's just 12 13 more time for that selenium to interact with 14 organisms, for organisms to process it, and move 15 it through the food chain.

16 Other contributing factors include water 17 chemistry, dissolved oxygen, organic matter in the 18 system, species composition, zooplankton or other 19 species. Does that help answer your question? 20 BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: Yes. That was 21 very helpful. Thank you. 22 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Madam Chair.

23 CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Board Member 24 Tweeten.

25

BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Thank you. Just

55 to clarify my thinking on this. Since all of the 1 2 selenium exists in Canada and not in the United States, as I understand your presentation, any 3 mitigation -- (inaudible) --4 5 CHAIR DEVENY: Chris, we lost you. Can 6 you start over. 7 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Okay. Since all of the sources of selenium are in Canada and not 8 in the United States, as I understand the 9 presentation, any mitigation effects to try to 10 11 reduce that level from 1.0 to 0.8 are going to have to take place in Canada, correct? Anybody? 12 13 MS. KELLY: Yes, Board Member Tweeten, I 14 think that really has been the impetus of why this 15 partnership and collaboration between the two 16 countries has been so important all along, and why 17 we're striving for that aligned standard. 18 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Madam Chair, 19 follow up. 20 CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Chris. 21 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: And we don't know 22 of any geology on the US side of the border that 23 could produce releases of selenium into this water 24 body, correct? 25 MS. KELLY: We do not have any sources

56 1 of selenium right now in Montana, that's correct, 2 in those watersheds, that's correct. BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: So the likelihood 3 of the selenium standard affecting a permitting 4 decision for some release into the water on the 5 United States side, the likelihood of the standard 6 7 affecting that is you think very, very low, correct? 8 MS. KELLY: Negligible, yes, and we do 9 not see any permits right now that will be 10 affected. 11 12 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Okay. Thank you. 13 CHAIR DEVENY: Any other questions or comments from Board members? 14 15 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: This is Board 16 Member Lynch, Madam Chair. 17 CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Jerry. 18 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Question to either 19 Lauren or Myla. Do we have information as to what 20 the concentration is on the Canadian side, concentration of selenium in the Elk River? 21 22 Because I understood that British 23 Columbia is striving for a low standard of four, I 24 think, Lauren, you said. What is the information 25 that the DEQ has in terms of the concentration in

1 that river? Which is the main source.

2 MS. SULLIVAN: Madam Chair, Board Member 3 Lynch. The current concentrations in the Elk 4 River most recently range between six and nine 5 micrograms per liter, and that was displayed on 6 that figure I think on eight or so of the 7 increasing trends over time.

BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: So in a nutshell, 8 why should the Board not consider the two tribes 9 10 5.6 standard versus the 8.5? That's where I'm 11 struggling in terms of -- I know you mentioned the 12 Idaho tribe was in agreement, but I don't see that 13 in the letter. I'm just trying to get my head wrapped around the 5.6 versus the 8.5 proposed by 14 15 DEQ.

16 MS. KELLY: Board Member Lynch, I don't 17 think I have a better answer other than what I 18 said previously, but just want to refer back to that we don't have -- (inaudible) -- process of 19 20 collecting the data that we needed to in order to 21 establish what exactly the right fish tissue 22 selenium concentrations would be in Lake 23 Koocanusa, but again that was used as an input --24 the 5.6 was used as an input to come up with a 25 water column value of .8.

58 1 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chair, Board Member 2 Lynch. CHAIR DEVENY: Tim Davis. 3 Go ahead. MR. DAVIS: This is Tim Davis again. Ι 4 5 would just when -- I do think it's important just to remember that those scenarios, those three 6 7 scenarios that use the 5.6, were developed with British Columbia, and that they were technical 8 scenarios that we're calculating. 9 10 British Columbia has -- they are still 11 working through their standard setting process at 12 this point, but that 5.6 which did result in the 13 0.8 water column criteria that we're proposing was developed with British Columbia, just the scenario 14 15 itself. 16 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Thank you. 17 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Madam Chair. 18 CHAIR DEVENY: Board Member Tweeten. 19 Chris, go ahead. 20 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: This is just a 21 I think Jerry raises an interesting and comment. 22 potentially important question, but I think it's 23 important for us to remember that we're at the 24 stage of initiating rather than adopting at this 25 point, and I would expect that both of the

59 affected tribes would be offering comments at the 1 2 hearing or in writing through the rulemaking process --3 CHAIR DEVENY: Chris, we lost you again. 4 5 Can you -- just the very last part of what you said. 6 7 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: During the rulemaking process, I'm confident that the Tribes 8 9 will voice any concerns they have about the 8.0 standard with respect to their own standards, and 10 that will be information that we can take into 11 12 consideration with respect to the question of 13 final adoption. 14 Okay. Great. CHAIR DEVENY: I'm seeing 15 a phone flashing up, and I just want to check in. 16 Dexter, are you trying to speak up? 17 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: Not yet. 18 CHAIR DEVENY: All right. Just wanted 19 to make sure we weren't leaving you out. 20 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: (Inaudible) 21 CHAIR DEVENY: Last call for Board 22 members that might have any comments or questions. 23 There'll be opportunity later as well. But I 24 think I'd like to move forward. 25 I think what Chris Tweeten just said

60 kind of segues into the fact that we're here today 1 2 to take action on whether or not DEQ should initiate rulemaking. We're not actually adopting 3 rule at this point, so I want everybody to keep 4 5 that in mind. Let me, before we start in with public 6 7 comments -- which we have quite a few of --We're going to take a ten minute break, and we 8 will reconvene then at about 10:23. I wanted to 9 10 thank Myla and Lauren for their presentation. See 11 you in ten minutes. 12 (Recess taken) 13 CHAIR DEVENY: Our ten minute break is Just double check in with Board members. 14 over. 15 Deb, do you want to run through the roll call. I'm here. 16 17 MS. SUTLIFF: Chris Tweeten. 18 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Here. 19 MS. SUTLIFF: John Dearment. 20 BOARD MEMBER DEARMENT: Here. 21 MS. SUTLIFF: Dexter Busby. 22 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: I'm here. 23 MS. SUTLIFF: Hillary, are you still on? 24 (No response) 25 CHAIR DEVENY: Hillary, are you here?

61 1 (No response) 2 MS. SUTLIFF: David Lehnherr. BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: 3 Here. MS. SUTLIFF: Jerry Lynch. 4 5 (No response) CHAIR DEVENY: We're missing Jerry and 6 Hillary. 7 Let's wait another 15 seconds or so. 8 Sarah, are you on? MS. CLERGET: Yes. 9 10 CHAIR DEVENY: Hillary, have you joined 11 us yet? 12 (No response) 13 CHAIR DEVENY: We do have a quorum, so I think we'll go ahead and continue. 14 15 At this point, do we have any other 16 members of the public that have joined the meeting 17 since we did an introduction at the beginning? 18 And particularly, we need to find out if there are other members of the public besides those who 19 20 identified themselves earlier that want to give 21 public comment today on the proposed initiation of 22 the selenium rulemaking. Deb, could you check in 23 with folks. 24 MS. SUTLIFF: I have Sue Ireland has 25 joined us. Sue, will you be offering comments?

62 MS. IRELAND: Yes, I would like to offer 1 2 comments, please. Thank you very much. MS. SUTLIFF: Sue Ireland is with the 3 4 Kootenai Tribes. I don't see any other new 5 connections. CHAIR DEVENY: Let's just ask. 6 Are 7 there people who have joined in this meeting since we did an introduction at the beginning? 8 If you 9 could speak up right now. 10 MR. ELLIOTT: Madam Chair, this is 11 Clayton Elliott with Montana Trout Unlimited, and 12 actually David Brooks, our Executive Director, had 13 to get on another call, but I will just be taking 14 his place. CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Clayton. 15 16 Anybody else? 17 (No response) 18 CHAIR DEVENY: Okay. That gives me a 19 good idea. It looks like we have about a dozen to 20 15 people that want to speak, so I'm going to ask 21 people to limit their comments to three minutes, 22 and Sarah Clerget is going to time for us, and 23 when she -- she has to leave by eleven, so after 24 that, Deb will take over as timer. 25 And I'm going to start out with opening

63 the proposed initiation of rulemaking for public 1 2 comment, and I really request that people limit their comments to whether or not the BER should 3 initiate this rulemaking. This isn't the time for 4 5 comments on the specifics of the proposed rules, it's whether or not we should initiate rulemaking 6 7 or not on this particular subject. So just try to keep that in mind. 8

9 With that, I'm going to ask Clayton 10 Elliott to go ahead and start, because I believe 11 David Brooks was the first person I had on my 12 list.

MR. ELLIOTT: Thank you, Madam Chair. And lucky enough as I may be then, I appreciate the opportunity today to offer public comment on the question, and I do really think that that is the heart of the matter here is the question of whether or not to initiate rulemaking.

I think, one, I just wanted to say how deeply Montana Trout Unlimited and our chapters appreciate the thoroughness, the thoughtfulness, and the integrity of which DEQ has approached the question of selenium on Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River.

I think this has been a robust public

64 1 process; I think it's been a scientifically valid 2 process; and I think that the right question today is about whether or not we go forward through the 3 Administrative Procedures Act. So I just wanted 4 5 to offer our thanks to the Department, obviously a whole threaded support of moving forward, and that 6 7 the Board do in fact initiate rulemaking on this 8 question. I'll reserve our substantive comments 9 about the merits of the question to that public 10 comment period, but I think to not move forward 11 12 would be the incorrect way to go here. So I just 13 wanted to again thank the Department, thank the 14 Board for the opportunity to offer this public 15 comment, and thank you. 16 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. 17 Let's go now to Brad Smith. 18 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Madam Chair, and 19 Members of the Board. My name is Brad Smith. I'm 20 the North Idaho Director of the Idaho Conservation 21 League, and on behalf of ICL and our members, I 22 want to urge the Board to initiate rulemaking on 23 this matter. 24 Here in Idaho we're downstream of just 25 about everybody else in the Kootenai River

drainage, and actions that are taken upstream of
 us affect our water quality and our fisheries here
 in the Kootenai River as it flows through Idaho.

Although I'm not here to represent the Kootenai Tribe, I want to acknowledge and commend their work to recover Kootenai River sturgeon which are protected under the Endangered Species Act, as well as their proactive efforts to recover burbot and prevent them from being added to the Endangered Species list.

Adoption of a limit on selenium pollution in Lake Koocanusa and the river below the dam is necessary to protect our water quality and our fisheries in Idaho, and prevent regression of those recovery efforts.

And in fact, as suggested by Board Member Lynch, a more protective standard for the Kootenai River below the dam may be necessary, and following this process, I would urge Montana DEQ and its partners to gather site specific data, so that we can review that proposed standard in the future and to see if it is adequate.

I want to address a couple of concerns I've heard during other meetings on this matter. I've heard it expressed that this process could

66 1 negatively affect the economy here in the United 2 States.

3 It's my understanding that there are 4 currently no sources of selenium pollution in the 5 Kootenai River south of the border, and in fact, 6 as you've heard, 95 percent of the selenium 7 pollution in Lake Koocanusa originates from coal 8 mines in the Elk River Valley north of the border.

9 Therefore these standards will not 10 affect current industry in the United States, and 11 while not necessarily advocating for pollution on 12 either side of the border, a strong standard at 13 the border would provide more flexibility for 14 industry in the US if that is your concern.

15 It has also been suggested that this 16 process should be slowed down, but we know that 17 selenium pollution in our waterways is rising and 18 needs to be addressed. The proposed standards will be reviewed triennially, and as the science 19 20 is further refined, there will be future 21 opportunity to update these standards as 22 necessary.

23 So in conclusion, I would urge the Board 24 to initiate rulemaking on this matter. Thank you, 25 Madam Chair, and Members of the Board.

67 CHAIR DEVENY: 1 Thank you, Mr. Smith. 2 Travis Schmidt. MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, ma'am. I don't have 3 a prepared statement. I think I was going to make 4 5 myself available to chime in on science issues, and I think they've been handled. 6 7 CHAIR DEVENY: You're with USGS? 8 MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, ma'am. 9 CHAIR DEVENY: So okay. Thank you. Moving on, and I'm sorry I didn't get this 10 11 person's last name, but his first name I believe 12 was Jason. 13 MR. GILDEA: This is Jason Gildea, and I 14 don't have any comments. Thank you. 15 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Jason. Thank 16 you very much. Next I have an Erin Sexton. 17 Thank you, Madam Chair. MS. SEXTON: 18 And I really appreciate the opportunity to make a brief comment here. 19 20 My name is Erin Sexton. I'm a senior 21 scientist for the University of Montana Flathead 22 Lake Biological Station, and a water quality 23 scientist by training. I've also represented the 24 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in the 25 long history of mining processes, mine expansion

68 1 processes that have taken place over the last 2 decade and a half, starting with the process in BC 3 to expand the Line Creek Coal Mine in 2012.

And so I just want to emphasize that this has been a very -- one of the most collaborative processes I've ever engaged in in terms of setting a site specific criteria for the reservoir.

9 There has been great cooperation across 10 the province of BC, the State of Montana, all of 11 our federal entities that have monitoring 12 interests and activities in the reservoir in the 13 river, as well as the -- (inaudible) -- nation in 14 BC, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, 15 and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho.

And so I think it should not be under emphasized how long this process has gone on, how much science has gone into it, and the collaborative nature of the work done to date.

I also just want to highlight the really amazing stature of the scientists that have been involved in the process. They're some of the top selenium experts from North American that have been participating in these conversations over the years.

69 And so with all that, I just want to say 1 2 that we know that for decades contaminants have been leaching from the mines in the Elk and 3 Fording Rivers into Koocanusa Reservoir and the 4 5 Kootenai River downstream; and that the time, this is the right time to initiate this rulemaking 6 7 process. We very much support this, very appreciative of the great conversation across the 8 members of the Board, and very good questions 9 regarding protection of water quality and fish 10 11 species in the reservoir and the Kootenai River 12 downstream. 13 And with all that, I just want to 14 support the initiation of the rulemaking process, 15 and also express support for the site specific 16 criteria of 0.8 micrograms per liter at the 17 international boundary and the reservoir. So 18 thank you very much for your time. 19 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Ms. Sexton. 20 Lars Sander-Green. 21 MR. SANDER-GREEN: Yes. Hello. Thanks 22 for the opportunity to speak. So I'm Lars 23 Sander-Green. I'm with Wild Side, which is a 24 conservation organization in the southeast of 25 British Columbia, so just north of the border

there, and I just want to say we're very
 supportive of starting the rulemaking process
 here.

We also, like Erin, we've been very impressed with the quality of the science. It's frankly better than what we're used to in British Columbia, so we're very happy to see that.

8 And I also want to emphasize the long 9 term nature of this problem. It's not a pollution 10 problem that's only going to last as long as the 11 mines are operating, it's a pollution problem 12 that's going to be coming downstream for hundreds 13 of thousands of years after the mines stop 14 operating.

So it's really important when we have these four proposed mines in environmental assessment process in BC that both BC and Montana can adopt a shared standard that's going to provide some certainty for industry and regulators with respect to those expansions before they're approved.

And I also want to emphasize that we're not just upstream and the source of this problem, but we're also downstream. The Kootenai River of course returns to Canada at Creston, and into

71 1 Kootenai Lake, and there are a lot of concerns 2 where with that same population of white sturgeon, who are also endangered in Canada, and travel back 3 and forth between Idaho and Canada, so we're very 4 5 concerned that the Koocanusa limit be set in a way that's going to be protective of that population 6 7 as well. Thank you. 8 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Mr. 9 Sander-Green. 10 Let's see. Next Steve Gunderson, and he 11 has a State Senator with him who I apologize, but I didn't catch your name because we were having 12 13 some technical difficulties. But Mr. Gunderson, 14 if you'd go ahead. 15 MR. CUFFE: Representative Gunderson had 16 to go to another meeting. This is Senator Mike 17 Cuffe, Senate District 1, which is Lincoln County, 18 home to Lake Koocanusa, Kootenai River, Libby Dam. And I will start -- I made a question to 19 20 Director McGrath at DEQ and Myla Kelly that this 21 process should be slowed down just a little bit. 22 We seem to be rushing it all of a sudden. I was 23 part of it in the beginning, a very integral 24 active part; and then later we broke into two groups, and the group I was in kind of 25

1 disintegrated or something.

2	But anyway, I have trouble keeping up
3	with all the data when it's particularly presented
4	on the screen, and the malfunction which we
5	lost a good part of the presentation today, the
6	visual part we were listening, and blamed on
7	COVID-19 when I requested a meeting at DEQ
8	headquarters, so I could sit down and review and
9	touch the paper I'm more of a paper kind of guy
10	and discuss. And I was told because of
11	COVID-19 we couldn't do that, we did it by phone.
12	So number one, it looks to me like, if I
13	understand it right, what we're proposing is the
14	lowest selenium standard anyplace in the world.
15	Please correct me if I'm wrong. I have a little
16	bit of confusion. There was talk about .85, and
17	8.5, 5.6, 3.2, and I'm not sure how those are
18	comparable.
19	I'd like to also point out there was
20	discussion that we should lower if I understood
21	it right someone was suggesting that we lower
22	the number for Lake Koocanusa and the site
23	specific number there because of white sturgeon,
24	and white sturgeon are not in the lake. I would
25	think you would be more concerned about the down

73 1 stream river flow than what's in the lake, of 2 reducing it when it's already at 1.5. The fish species involved, where the --3 how accurate, how much double check there has 4 I felt earlier that there was some 5 been. misleading data, some outlier data that was 6 7 included in some of the graphs earlier. And there's also Teck -- as I believe it 8 9 was Tim Davis said -- Teck hasn't already invested 10 considerable time and money, with I believe 11 considerable success. If you pay attention to the 12 numbers. I've been to the sites. I've looked at 13 the water treatment facilities, and their new 14 breaking ground. 15 And this is cutting edge stuff. Teck 16 has been criticized a lot over the years, and I'm 17 sure as heck not here to protect Teck. I live 18 downstream. My house is only a few miles from the 19 mouth of the Elk River. But I'm also about being 20 fair, and being protective as we need to be, but 21 not over-protective. 22 Now, we say that there would be no 23 economic, no adverse economic impact; that could 24 be argued. This isn't the place for me to argue 25 it. We're saying that there's no potential source

1 of selenium in that lake.

2	Now, there could be some minerals in the
3	mountains on the east side of the Tobacco Valley
4	which is not far away. Is that the timer with
5	your hand up? Anyway I'm nearing the end.
6	So there are some mineral deposits,
7	potentially mineral, important mineral deposits up
8	there that at some point could want to be
9	developed.
10	So I'm going to stop there, but I will
11	make the same request to the Board that I did to
12	Director McGrath, that this almost seems to me
13	like it exploded, and I'm the Senator for this
14	district, and all of sudden hit in the face with
15	this. So are the County Commissioners, so are the
16	two State Representatives.
17	So with that, we are in agreement. It
18	should be just slowed down a little bit. There's
19	nothing imminent, there's no crisis here that
20	waiting until January, April, July. There's no
21	crisis that all of a sudden, bam, the world turns
22	upside down.
23	Please consider my request to slow down
24	on this thing, and help all of us to understand
25	what the heck we're really talking about; and I

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75 1 think including information that the Board may 2 need to digest. Thank you. CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Senator. 3 Vicki Marquis. 4 5 MS. MARQUIS: Good morning, Madam Chair, Members of the Board. Thank you for this 6 7 opportunity. My name is Vicki Marquis. I'm an attorney with Holland and Hart in Billings, and I 8 represent Teck. And I've confined my comments to 9 10 initiation of this rulemaking package, and we 11 believe that it should not go forward for two 12 reasons. 13 First, the basis that's been presented 14 for initiation is wrong at this time. The 15 threatened listing for Lake Koocanusa is wrong, 16 and you can see this by looking at DEQ's water 17 quality assessment records that are all available 18 online. As Myla noted, the lake was listed as 19 20 threatened in 2012, and at that time DEQ projected 21 based on estimates from the Elk River that Lake 22 Koocanusa would exceed the current water quality 23 standard of five micrograms per liter by 2015; but 24 now here we are in 2020 and DEQ reports --25 (inaudible) -- in Lake Koocanusa is less than 1.5

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micrograms for selenium.

So clearly the estimates that led to the impairment listing or the threatened listing were wrong, and it's really not impaired based on water quality.
Now, DEQ has presented long term water quality data for the Elk River, but that's inappropriate to consider here. If you look at

the data that's presented for Lake Koocanusa --9 which should take precedence because this is a 10 11 site specific standard -- that data indicates that 12 from 2013 to the present, there is no increasing 13 trend in selenium concentrations, and that is seen on Page 20 of the derivation document that you 14 15 have before you. It's a clear graph with no 16 increasing trends.

17 Also it's inappropriate to rely on the 18 Elk River data, and this was presented in Slide 9 19 by Lauren. DEQ uses that data to say that there's 20 an increasing trend in selenium, but in fact --21 and this is shown in a 2016 report by a study team 22 that included DEQ -- the trends in selenium 23 loading in the Elk River have been decreasing, and 24 the loads in 2019 were less than in 2018 and 2017. 25 So to the extent that the proposed rule relies on

a presumption of increasing loads and
 concentrations, it simply is erroneous.

Similarly, most of what you've heard 3 today has included some reference to Teck. The 4 slides had a lot of information about Teck. 5 There's a lot of stuff in the derivation document. 6 7 No other Montana water quality standard setting process has been premised on a single 8 corporation's operation, let alone a corporation 9 that operates on the other side of an 10 international border, and is wholly regulated by a 11 12 foreign government.

So to the extent that this rulemaking is
being initiated based on Teck's operation, it's
ultra vires.

16 One other important point I want to make 17 -- I realize I'm getting to the end of my time --18 but you've been told here today by DEQ that there 19 are exceedences in egg ovary fish tissues, and 20 that they don't want to see any more exceedences. 21 But that statement presumes that there's 22 a threshold level for exceedences in Montana which

23 doesn't exist. So what DEQ and what this
24 rulemaking is asking you to do is they've said,
25 "Here we're exceeding 15.1, so you have to adopt

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78 15.1 as the criterion." That's not accurate or 1 2 true. It's circular reasoning. And in fact we don't even have an 3 assessment method in Montana for considering fish 4 5 tissue data, and that's really important. So I ask you if you're going to go down 6 7 this road -- which as Board Member Lehnherr has suggested -- would result in an impairment 8 9 listing, let's make sure we understand what that impairment listing is going to be, and that we 10 11 have a valid assessment method for that. 12 We have that in other scenarios. There 13 are two out for public comment --14 CHAIR DEVENY: Ms. Marquis, you've 15 exceeded your time by quite a bit. I'd like you 16 to just take ten seconds and wrap up if you could. 17 MS. MARQUIS: Thank you. I apologize. 18 I asked you to -- You know, the science and the 19 research isn't going anywhere. It will still be 20 there. Let's back this up, send this back to DEQ, 21 get an assessment methodology in place, go back to 22 the selenium subcommittee and make sure that 23 there's consensus among all of those experts. The 24 numbers here today indicate there isn't consensus. 25 And then do this the proper way, because

79 we know that triennial reviews --1 2 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Ms. Marquis. 3 I appreciate your comments. 4 MS. MARQUIS: Thank you. 5 CHAIR DEVENY: I apologize for my scribbling here. There was somebody from EPA, 6 7 Tim. Thank you, Madam Chair. 8 MS. SCHMIT: This is Ayn Schmit with EPA. Would you like me 9 10 to --CHAIR DEVENY: Yes, thank you. 11 Go 12 ahead. 13 MS. SCHMIT: Thank you. Good morning, Madam Chair, Board members. My name is Ayn 14 15 Schmidt, and I'm senior water policy advisor in 16 EPA's Region 8 office in Denver, and I have been 17 leading EPA's multi-office engagement on Lake 18 Koocanusa and the Kootenai watershed. I 19 appreciate this opportunity to make a brief 20 statement on behalf of EPA. 21 EPA appreciates the robust process that 22 Montana DEQ in collaboration with British Columbia 23 has implemented to develop a site specific 24 selenium water quality criterion for Lake 25 Koocanusa, a process which has been scientifically 1 rigorous and broadly inclusive.

-	rigorous and broadly inclusive.
2	As was mentioned earlier, EPA's selenium
3	criteria guidance encourages states to adopt site
4	specific standards for selenium where the data
5	exists to inform that.
6	EPA supports the State moving forward at
7	this time using the existing science that was so
8	clearly explained by Lauren to establish a site
9	specific selenium criterion for Lake Koocanusa and
10	an updated selenium criteria for the Kootenai
11	River.
12	If Montana ultimately adopts the
13	proposed criteria, EPA will be reviewing those
14	criteria as submitted by Montana DEQ in accordance
15	with the Federal Clean Water Act and our
16	implementing regulation.
17	Recognizing that scientific
18	understanding of complex pollutants like selenium
19	evolve over time, I'll note that the standards
20	adoption process under the Clean Water Act is
21	designed to set protective standards based on
22	existing science, with states required to revisit
23	those every three years, and resubmit to EPA where
24	appropriate.
25	Finally I'd like to note that a

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81 protective water quality standard is the best tool 1 2 we have to assure that water flowing across the boundary of Canada is not, quote, "polluted on 3 either side to the injury of health or property," 4 5 end quote, in the US as required by Article 4 of the Boundary Waters Treaty, and to give the US the 6 7 clarity and certainty to ensure that Canada is accountable for meeting Article 4. 8 Thank you, Madam Chair, and Board members. 9

10 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Ms. Schmit.11 Stu Levit, please.

MR. LEVIT: Thank you, Madam Chair, and Board. Hopefully this is -- I apologize -- I'm on the phone, having a little bit of digital issues with other users in my area on broadband. So I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

The CSKT and the State DEQ have worked for many years on this process, and the CSKT greatly appreciates the State coordination and consultation on the matter.

The collaborative group that has been working on this has included, as Erin Sexton noted, the foremost experts in selenium, fish, and water, that we could really ask for, including US EPA and USGS experts and staff. You couldn't ask 82 1 for a more robust and experienced, knowledgeable 2 team working on this.

I personally have been working in mining 3 issues for the better part of thirty years, and 4 contamination in the Elk watershed is consistent 5 with my experience, that without an enforceable 6 7 standard, polluters have many reasons to state that they're dealing with things, and are being 8 unfairly singled out, but the pollution keeps on 9 happening. We are urged to believe based on the 10 11 past pollution is a problem of old mines and old 12 ideas, and the new processes and new thinking will 13 change things, but contamination keeps happening.

14 These impacts degrade water, and 15 species, and cultural uses that depend on the The contamination of the Elk has been 16 water. 17 going on for many years, and in fact mining in Elk 18 watershed is increasing, with new mining companies seeking operating permits, and Teck itself seeking 19 20 to almost double its mining activities with the 21 proposed Castle Mine permit.

The criteria process has been going on for years also, and that process is robust, supportable, and essential. I therefore urge the Board to move forward with this process. Thank 1 you.

CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Mr. Levit.
Dave Hadden.

MR. HADDEN: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
committee. My name is Dave Hadden. I work for
Headwaters Montana, a regional conservation
organization in northwest Montana with over 2,000
subscribers. I'll try to be very brief, of
course.

I would want to observe first that there were several other Lincoln County citizens who wished to be participating in this conversation and observe the meeting, but because of work obligations were unable to join, including two elected officials.

I would like to state that I've been involved in this as an observer on the selenium technical committee. This process has gone on for five years. Those who have wanted to stay engaged, the opportunities to stay informed and keep abreast of this issue were available to them.

This has been a robust process, as has been commented before. The science is peer reviewed. It's been highly collaborative. Myself as just an observer have had plenty of opportunity 1 to comment on the process throughout the process.
2 And I think the adoption of -- the initiation of
3 the rulemaking process at this time is very
4 timely.

5 I think Montana must protect itself. We 6 needn't and we shouldn't rely on BC to set a 7 standard for us, or promise, make promises as to 8 what that standard should be, or what they think 9 they can achieve.

10 One of the questions earlier in the 11 conversation amongst the Board was what the levels 12 of contamination were in the Elk River. They are 13 off the charts. And BC probably will never meet 14 their own guidelines. They don't have standards, 15 they have guidelines.

So I believe Montana needs to protect itself. We need to set a current standard based on best science. The 5 micrograms per liter standard is too high. And there's been plenty of opportunity to participate. I would urge you to adopt and move on rulemaking at this time. Thank you very much.

CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Mr. Hadden.
Michael Jamison.

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MR. JAMISON: Yes. Madam Chair, thank

85 you very much, and thank you to the Board for 1 2 giving us the opportunity to participate today. Ι also want to thank the agencies, and particularly 3 the scientists who have undertaken this process 4 5 over many years. I work for the National Parks 6 7 Conservation Association. We've been working on transboundary river issues for many, many years 8 now over where I live full time in the 9 transboundary Flathead drainage, as well as where 10 11 I live part of my year in the 12 Flathead/Elk/Kootenai system. 13 This process, as has been mentioned, has 14 been one of really quite remarkable integrity. 15 It's been very satisfying to see agencies as diverse as EPA, USGS, DEQ, the UM Bio Station, and 16 17 even now the Province of British Columbia, come 18 together around consensus, scientific consensus, 19 and around that number that they agree should be 20 implemented. 21 Industry clearly has an opinion contrary 22 to that science, which is perhaps not surprising. 23 This has gone on for a long time. Teck has 24 acknowledged its selenium problems as far back as

25 the early to mid-1980s. The trend lines since

86 1 then have been troubling, and it's not just the 2 selenium trend lines, but also the industrial 3 trend lines.

As Mr. Levit spoke to earlier, Teck and other companies have active proposals on the table today to actively expand the mining footprint in our headwaters, and I would suggest that any delay initiating our rulemaking process at this time only increases our long term exposure to Canadian mining contamination.

It is correct that Teck Resources has been investing heavily in mitigation technologies, and hopefully will at some time in the future reduce selenium to an appropriate level. But in the meantime, we strongly support moving forward with this rulemaking process at this time.

As Mr. Hadden mentioned, those of us who have chosen to stay involved have been able to keep up with the science, and keep up with the process over many, many years. We've been dedicated to sticking to it. Any delay at this point really only exposes our liabilities. Thank you.

CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Mr. Jamison.Sue Ireland.

MS. IRELAND: Good morning. Thank you
 very much. On behalf of the Kootenai Tribe, we
 would like to support that the Board of
 Environmental Review move forward with this
 rulemaking process.

We very much appreciate Board Member 6 7 Lynch's remarks, and we agree that potentially fish tissue may be needing to be lowered to 5.6 at 8 some point in time in the future, but we support 9 the water column number of .8 at the border. 10 We 11 feel like this is extremely important to support 12 all of the -- and protect all of the downstream 13 resources.

The Kootenai Tribe has been implementing 14 15 large scale restoration over many, many decades in their area of cultural concern. And we have the 16 17 endangered white sturgeon, the burbot that were 18 almost wiped out, that have been restored to the point that we have a public fishery on them now in 19 20 Idaho. We implement millions of dollars of large 21 scale river restoration downstream on the banks of 22 the Kootenai River.

And to have this threat of additional selenium coming downstream and potentially affecting all of those important cultural

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resources is very, very concerning to Kootenai
 Tribe.

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We support the .8 micrograms per liter 3 at the Canadian border. It's really, really 4 5 important to have a protective water quality standard. We need an enforceable standard, and so 6 7 for that reason Kootenai Tribe would like to say that we have appreciated the collaborative and 8 9 inclusive process that has gone on. There has 10 been so much science that has gone into all these 11 developed recommendations. 12 And so for that reason, we would like to

13 support the initiation of rulemaking. Thank you. 14 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Ms. Ireland. 15 That's all I have on my list, but that doesn't 16 mean that there aren't more members of the public 17 who would wish to comment, so at this time I'd 18 like to ask: Are there any other members of the 19 public either on phone or on Zoom that would like 20 to comment this morning on the rule initiation for selenium standards? 21

MS. SUTLIFF: Madam Chair, I believe
Rachel Malison had some comments. Rachel?
MS. MALISON: Thank you, but no.

(No response)

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89 1 CHAIR DEVENY: Are there any other 2 members of the public that would wish to comment? 3 (No response) CHAIR DEVENY: At this point, I'd like 4 5 to thank everybody for their patience this morning, and for the comments, and for sticking to 6 7 the limits, time limits; and I believe there was some good opportunity for people to comment on 8 this, and I think the Board has a feel for maybe 9 where people are standing on that. 10 11 At this point I'd like to have a 12 discussion among the Board members, and I see 13 Chris Tweeten, you're ready to start that. Go ahead, Chris. 14 15 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Question for Tim Davis. 16 17 CHAIR DEVENY: Mr. Davis. Tim. 18 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chair, Board Member 19 Tweeten. 20 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Hi, Tim. We're 21 having a special -- This is a special meeting of 22 the Board, and as I recall, we scheduled it as a 23 special meeting because of some time concerns. 24 Can you refresh our memory about that. 25 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chair, Board Member

90 1 Tweeten. Yes, we have been targeting for years 2 now 2020 for the proposed adoption of the rule, 3 and we've been working towards that for years, and 4 we've been working with the stakeholders, as well 5 as the other agencies and industry on that, and 6 British Columbia.

7 So when we looked out towards the -- in 8 order to meet that, or propose to the Board to be 9 able to meet that time period, we proposed this meeting, so that we could have a 45 day public 10 comment period, get everybody's comments on the 11 proposed rule prior to -- so then you would 12 13 possibly take action at your final meeting of the 14 year.

15 So that was the primary reason to remain 16 consistent with our goal. We have all the science 17 completed, and for all the reasons that Myla Kelly 18 laid out as well, we're requesting today that you 19 move forward, that the Board move forward with the 20 rulemaking.

BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Madam Chair,
follow up.
CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Chris.
BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: I'm concerned,
because under MAPA, the Legislature can of course

91 1 overrule our rulemaking decision if we decide to 2 adopt a rule. I'm concerned about Senator Cuffe's 3 comments regarding complaints about process.

If challenges are to be made to any rule that we adopt -- not just this one, but any rule -- I would really prefer that they be made on the basis of substance, not process.

So I want to, if we do decide to proceed 8 9 with rulemaking, I want to encourage DEQ to provide Senator Cuffe with whatever paper 10 documents he needs, and to engage in whatever 11 12 outreach needs to be done between now and the time 13 of the hearing that's in the rulemaking request set for the fifth of November to be sure that all 14 15 of their concerns regarding information are addressed as best we can. 16

And it may be that they can't all be eliminated, but certainly any opportunities for attacks on our regulations based on process I think need to be eliminated, if we can.

So I really want to encourage DEQ to work with Senator Cuffe and his colleagues to make sure that they have all of the information that they request, and that any questions they have about the data are answered, and that those

92 answers are documented, so if any issues arise 1 about that later on, we'll have a record with 2 respect to how those matters were addressed. 3 Madam Chair, Board Member MR. DAVIS: 4 5 Tweeten. I actually sent Senator Cuffe a note after his testimony this morning offering to send 6 7 him a hard copy. I do want to note that we have had years 8 9 of public meetings. There were two public meetings, and obviously they're virtual, just in 10 11 the last couple weeks with local leaders, decision 12 makers, to address their questions, walk through, 13 you know, Lauren and Myla present a --14 We're more than happy to continue to 15 work with Senator Cuffe and others. We will --16 The Water Policy Interim Committee has requested a 17 presentation on the science as well, and so we'll 18 be doing that in October. 19 But I hear your request, and we're 20 taking it very seriously. 21 Thank you, Tim. CHAIR DEVENY: Chris, 22 do you have any followup on that? 23 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: I don't, but I'm 24 prepared with a motion as soon as the Board 25 comment is concluded.

93 1 CHAIR DEVENY: Let's have some more 2 discussion by Board members, if there is any. Jerry. 3 BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: Thank you, Madam 4 5 Chair. I just want to first of all thank Lauren and Myla, as well as the DEQ and other agencies, 6 7 for an excellent report and analysis. That being said, I believe it's better 8 9 to start sooner than later the process to address 10 the standard. The environment does not wait until we administratively do things. 11 12 And with due respect to the two 13 opponents who spoke today, I did not hear anything 14 that persuasively -- or no persuasive argument why 15 this process should not proceed, understanding 16 that the brakes can always be put on if new 17 information comes to light. So I emphasize here we're talking about 18 19 process. I want to thank Chris for reminding me I 20 was putting the cart before the horse, because we 21 are just simply talking about initiating 22 rulemaking. The Board is not making a final 23 decision. 24 And so I believe with the five years of 25 collaborative effort, the excellent scientific

94 1 report, that there's no harm in proceeding forward 2 with the initiation -- again emphasize -initiation of the rulemaking. Thank you. 3 CHAIR DEVENY: John DeArment. 4 5 BOARD MEMBER DEARMENT: Thanks, Madam I would just second what Jerry Lynch had 6 Chair. 7 to say. Clearly some world class science went into this, a very robust collaboration process. 8 9 It seems to me that the Department has very clearly met any bar they would need to meet for us 10 11 to move forward with initiation, and I think by 12 starting that process, we give opponents a chance 13 to weigh in with suggestions on how to improve the 14 standard or change the standard, but we should 15 move forward with initiation today, would be my 16 vote. 17 And also just thanks for the 18 presentation, and to DEQ and everybody who was 19 involved in the many years that have gone into the 20 process. A lot of great work. So thanks, 21 everyone. 22 Thanks, John. CHAIR DEVENY: Other 23 Board member comments? 24 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: This is Dexter. Α 25 couple quick questions to Tim Davis, please.

95 1 CHAIR DEVENY: Tim, are you still there? 2 MR. DAVIS: Madam Chair, Board Member --CHAIR DEVENY: 3 Busby. MR. DAVIS: Busby. That's right. Ι 4 5 can't see your picture, Dexter. Sorry. Go ahead. BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: I'm on the phone. 6 7 So Tim, as a practical matter, I've always been opposed to regulating for regulation sake, and 8 9 regulating when we have no control or no way of enforcing. 10 11 So tell me how, from a practical side, will you be able to as the Water Quality Division 12 13 enforce any regulation we pass, much less a little more stringent than what's already existing in the 14 15 lake. MR. DAVIS: Madam Chair, Board Member 16 17 I think I would start by just reiterating Busby. 18 what Myla and Lauren had pointed out. Right now 19 we don't have a standard that is protective. The 20 first place that we need to begin when adopting it 21 to be able to protect Montana's water quality is 22 to have a protective standard based on the 23 science. 24 Then as Ms. Schmit from EPA talked 25 about, once we have that standard in place, then

96 1 we have a benchmark in order to work either under 2 the boundary waters treaty, or work directly with 3 British Columbia, to make sure that that standard 4 is met.

5 So we do think there's ways to be able 6 to implement the standard, but the first thing we 7 need to do is to have a protective standard, which 8 we do not have, to ensure that Montana's water 9 quality and aquatic life is protected. Does that 10 help?

BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: Yeah, that goes a way in helping my thought pattern. My concern really comes from the whole idea of -- We don't know the impact of these standards downstream. They will have actually at this point no impact on the Idaho, and the Kootenai folks, or what goes back into Canada on the river.

But I'm just really reluctant to say we're going to have a one standard, or .8 standard, when the lake is already one -- and tell if I'm wrong on the tech -- and there is no upstream true enforcement mechanism that has been enacted.

They may be working very hard
technically, and they may be successfully working

97 very hard; but as Montana, we really don't have 1 2 any input on a foreign entity, a foreign state, or any other state. We can talk, we can advise, but 3 we certainly don't have any control. 4 5 So I'm not sure we're going to affect the selenium in the river or the lake by passing 6 7 these rules or by not passing these rules, but even initiating rulemaking until we have some form 8 of commitment that's enforceable, and I don't see 9 10 that happening. Madam Chair, Board Member 11 MR. DAVIS: I would just reiterate that I think this 12 Busby. 13 really is foundational. It's not possible right 14 now, given our nonprotective standard, for us to 15 -- we don't have a benchmark to work with British 16 Columbia or Canada that is protective. 17 Until we have that in place, there 18 really isn't a -- we can't have those conversations about whether or not that standard 19 20 is being violated, and what steps they will take. 21 Once we have a standard in place that is 22 protective, that's where the State department gets 23 involved, and it is possible that we could work 24 out an agreement with BC on implementation once we 25 have it.

98 1 But without that benchmark to begin 2 with, it's not possible to have those enforcement 3 conversations because we don't know, because right now, nothing in the United States is being 4 5 violated, and we haven't taken that first important step to protect ourselves. 6 7 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: Okay. That's all I 8 had. Thank you. Thank you, Dexter. 9 CHAIR DEVENY: Other Board members that wish to make comments or have 10 11 questions of DEQ? 12 (No response) 13 Seeing none, I guess I'd CHAIR DEVENY: 14 like to commend DEQ for the work that they've done 15 on this, and I have to say I'm very impressed with 16 the collaborative work, and the number of 17 agencies, and cross border groups, tribes, that 18 have been involved in this. 19 I'm not sure in my tenure with the Board 20 that I've seen quite that expansive amount of 21 collaboration, and work, and I have to say from my 22 reading of the science, it does seem quite 23 rigorous, and that there's been a lot of really 24 good work done there. 25 With that, Chris, I think you were ready

99 to make a motion for the Board, and so if you'd 1 2 like to do so, I'll call on you. BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Madam Chair, I 3 move that we initiate rulemaking in accordance 4 5 with the notice of intended rulemaking that's been provided to us by DEQ, and that Sarah Clerget be 6 7 appointed as the party to conduct the administrative hearing. 8 CHAIR DEVENY: I would second that. 9 Is 10 there Board member discussion on the motion before us? 11 12 (No response) 13 CHAIR DEVENY: Any discussion? 14 (No response) 15 CHAIR DEVENY: With that, we will have a 16 vote. All those in favor of initiating rulemaking 17 as proposed by DEQ, and assigning Sarah Clerget as 18 our Hearing Officer, please signify by saying aye. 19 (Response) 20 CHAIR DEVENY: Are there any opposed? 21 BOARD MEMBER BUSBY: I'm opposed. This 22 is Dexter. 23 CHAIR DEVENY: So we have five in favor, 24 one opposed. The motion passes. So with that, I 25 believe we can move on to opening the meeting up

100 1 to any general public comment that is not 2 concerning issues that we've already discussed today and I'd --3 BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: Madam Chair. 4 5 CHAIR DEVENY: Go ahead, Chris. BOARD MEMBER TWEETEN: I'm late for an 6 7 appointment, so I'm going to have to get off. 8 CHAIR DEVENY: Okay. Any other public 9 comment? MR. GUNDERSON: Madam Chair, I would 10 like to make comment. Representative Gunderson. 11 12 CHAIR DEVENY: Yes, Mr. Gunderson. 13 MR. GUNDERSON: Madam Chair, the process I think that we're making -- and I apologize by 14 15 not being able to make comment before because I 16 had a meeting that conflicted here -- but I would 17 like to point out that the procedural problems 18 with the standard setting are great. 19 DEQ has not followed through following 20 proper procedure by utilizing EQC or WPCAC to 21 actually keep the Legislature in the loop on the 22 standard. 23 I also feel there's scientific data that 24 has been left out, and that includes the water 25 treatment numbers from -- (inaudible) -- made

101 great strides in reducing the amount of selenium, and I think we are making a decision that's too fast, too soon. We need to take a step back and actually look at that data, and see what --(inaudible) -- long term.

6 But again, nobody has shown me the trout 7 where there is a selenium crash. Nobody has shown 8 me the cause of the fish population decline on the 9 Elk and upper Fording, and that's still under 10 investigation to find out what actually caused it, 11 and it appears that it's not selenium related.

12 So again, I think we're going too fast. 13 We're on a steam roller mission to get something 14 done that can actually take a little more time, 15 and take in a little more debate, and look at more 16 scientific data.

17 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, Mr. Gunderson.
18 And with that, I would like to move that we
19 adjourn this meeting.

20BOARD MEMBER LYNCH: I'd second.21CHAIR DEVENY: It's been moved and22seconded. All in favor of adjourning today's23meeting, please signify by saying aye.

24 (Response)

25 CHAIR DEVENY: Any opposed?

102 1 (No response) 2 CHAIR DEVENY: Thank you, everybody, and we'll see you in a couple weeks. 3 4 (Chat received by Myla Kelly 5 to be included in the transcript) * * * * * 6 7 From Shawna Kelsey to Everyone: 10:02 AM. I apologize for missing the 8 9 introductions at the beginning of the meeting. My name is Shawna Kelsey. I'm on the City Council in 10 Troy, MT. I was born and raised in Troy and am 11 12 now raising my family here and starting a business 13 after many years in the non-profit world. Thank you for all of the detailed 14 15 information about selenium standards and the 16 biological effects. I am in support of the DEQ 17 recommended standards and that the BER move 18 forward with establishing the standard. It is in 19 the best interest of our watershed, our community 20 and our economy to act now to prevent the negative 21 consequences of higher selenium levels -22 especially when we can do so based on the best 23 available science. Thank you for your work 24 protecting this watershed that many of us take for 25 granted.

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2	(The proceedings were concluded	
3	at 11:17 am.)	
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104 CERTIFICATE 1 2 STATE OF MONTANA) : SS. 3 COUNTY OF LEWIS & CLARK 4) I, LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR, Court Reporter, 5 Notary Public in and for the County of Lewis & 6 7 Clark, State of Montana, do hereby certify: That the proceedings were taken before me at 8 the time and place herein named; that the 9 10 proceedings were reported by me in shorthand and transcribed using computer-aided transcription, 11 12 and that the foregoing - 103 - pages contain a 13 true record of the proceedings to the best of my 14 ability. 15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 5th day of 16 17 October, 2020. 18 19 LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR 20 Court Reporter - Notary Public 21 My commission expires 22 March 9, 2024. 23 24 25

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