

DEQ MEPA Workgroup: Subgroup Meeting on Public Engagement Agenda

February 6, 2024 / 1:00-4:00 pm

Zoom Link:

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88285257228?pwd=cFBwN3BRNIU0NFYzM0RQWVppRFZCdz09>

(Webinar ID: 882 8525 7228 / Passcode: 753752)

Outcomes: To draft a clear and concise problem statement surrounding the current public engagement process in MEPA's implementation, that includes identified problems this subgroup sees that could benefit from revision to implementation procedures

1:00 Welcome and Introductions, Agenda Review

1:15 Define and identify goals of this subgroup's work

- What do we mean by public engagement, what is the scope of our exploration?
- Draft a problem statement – what is that we are trying to address?
 - Develop goals for the subgroup within this problem statement
 - What types of products do we want/hope to produce?

1:45 Overview of current statute and rule requirements for public engagement (DEQ staff)

- Goal: to compile a comprehensive list of public engagement requirements
 - Identify the various MEPA triggers and what sort of timeline and type of public engagement happens under each
- Discuss: interaction between MEPA public engagement requirements and permitting statute public engagement requirements
- Discuss and identify potential problems we see in these processes

2:30 Break

2:40 Continue current statute and rule requirements discussion

- (1) *Tentative*: Complete the above exercise with FWP and DNRC MEPA processes, presentation from those agencies like DEQ above
OR
- (2) Identify places where modernization needs, or opportunities exist (i.e., antiquated technology language that requires duplicity or precludes new types of relevant technology that would improve process).

3:15 Revisit and revise problem statement from beginning of the meeting

- Additional problems that we have identified through the discussion of the day

3:30 Public Comment

4:00 Adjourn