

## **HYBRID QUARTERLY ACP STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

December 12, 2024| 2pm – 3pm via ZOOM and In-Person

Location: Metcalf Building - 1520 E. 6th Ave, Helena MT

Room 111

#### **Attendees (in-person):**

Denise Kirkpatrick, Waste Management Bureau, Section Supervisor (DEQ)

Greg Kurvink, Asbestos-Meth Environmental Specialist (DEQ)

Amanda Allen, Data Control Specialist (DEQ)

Travis Biedermann, Asbestos-Meth Environmental Specialist (DEQ)

Ryan Foley, Asbestos-Meth Environmental Specialist (DEQ)

Rick Thompson, Waste Management Bureau, Bureau Chef (DEQ)

Amy Steinmetz, Waste Management Bureau, Division Administrator (DEQ)

Sonja Nowakowski, Director (DEQ)

#### **Attendees (on-line):**

Scott Vosen

Bruce Kirby

Cara O'Donnell

Jacqueline Shaver

Jerry Sauter

Tasha Neil

Deven Vignali

#### **Introductions:**

Denise Kirkpatrick - Started the meeting at 2:00 p.m., welcomed stakeholders, and conducted introductions in the room and online.

#### **Programmatic Environmental Assessment:**

Ryan Foley- discussed: The department has determined that issued Asbestos Project Permits must comply with Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). To comply with MEPA, the program will draft and finalize a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA). EAs consist of the analysis of potential impacts that asbestos projects may have on the environment.

A systematic approach is in the process being approved in lieu of -drafting individual EAs for each asbestos project. The department will utilize checklists to streamline asbestos project reviews for asbestos projects that fall within the bounds of the programmatic EA. The programmatic EA has been submitted to DEQ's Legal review team. Once approved, a draft will be posted on the department's website allowing for a 30-day public notice and comment period. The program will respond to comments received.

An email will be sent to all stakeholders consisting of a fact sheet and memo describing EAs and where they can be found on the website. The department does not anticipate any new impacts to stakeholders during the permitting process.

**Foreign Language Courses:**

Travis Biedermann- discussed the development of Asbestos Control Program (program) policy for foreign language courses. The program worked with department legal staff on parameters for the review of foreign language courses. The following are the Foreign Language Training Course Requirements:

- ARM [17.74.408](#) requires an application and fee per course. If a training provider is already certified to teach the course, an application for the foreign language course and fee (now the cost of a course renewal) is required. This will cover the course until the two-year course approval period ends.
- The Department will require certified training providers of foreign language courses to meet ARM [17.74.364](#)(3) requirements. Bilingual instructors or professional translators fluent in the foreign language being taught must be used when teaching.
- Bilingual instructors or professional translators must be approved by the Department and meet or be used in conjunction with instructors who meet the requirements of ARM [17.74.364](#)(3).
- The Department will require certified training providers of foreign language courses to submit any additional course materials used in the foreign language course. If these materials are in the language to be taught, an identical copy in English is required for course auditing.

The department's goal is to ensure that any training provider teaching courses in a foreign language provides the same quality learning experience, covers the same materials, and meets all ARM requirements.

**Potential Asbestos Work Group:**

Rick Thompson -discussed: Over the last few months, we've had discussions with people in the industry regarding the rules that are currently in place. In particular, the compositing portion of the rule. To address any issues the industry has with the rules, the department would consider reconvening an Asbestos Advisory Group (AAG) style study group or a dedicated meeting to look at any part of the rule.

Nothing is off limits; the department would like to further discuss future refinement of the rules and possible legislation down the road. We do want to encourage the industry to work with the department and the program. The department is therefore seeking an indication of interest from stakeholders today., or in the next few weeks if an issue comes to mind by then.

If we don't reconvene, then please bring your concerns to our attention before it becomes a crisis and before going to your legislator or the governor's office. Allow the department a chance to address your concerns.

**Public Comments:**

A commenter asked about the use and effectiveness of the duplicate one-pager form required in inspection reports intended to be used at the gate of disposal facilities for quick identification of asbestos wastes.

Greg Kurvink answered: Asbestos Control Program have been attending Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meetings to. to inform and remind the Solid Waste Program and regulated solid waste community of this inspection requirement and how it would benefit their facilities.

This is new to the facilities, and they are becoming familiar with this new tool. Feedback from the facilities is positive. The new form is appreciated by the disposal facilities and helps streamline waste screening at the gate. Staff turnover at the gate is a consideration as well, in keeping staff aware of the one pager report. The program will continue to remind folks of this inspection requirement intended to assist.

**Next meeting:**

Denise Kirkpatrick indicated the next meeting would be in March if stakeholders would like to return to quarterly meetings. Otherwise, the next meeting will be set for June. Regulatory topics are encouraged.

**Adjourn:**

Denise Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40pm.

End