

## **WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL HEARING**

### **Proposed Revisions to Chapter 1, Water Quality Rules & Regulations Surface Water Standards – Triennial Review**

The Environmental Quality Council will hold a public hearing to solicit public comment and consider proposed revisions to Chapter 1 of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations. The hearing will be held at the Cheyenne City Council Chambers, 2101 O'Neil, Cheyenne, Wyoming beginning at 9:30 A.M. on February 15 and potentially extending through February 16<sup>th</sup>. The Council may convene a meeting after the close of the hearing in order to deliberate and make a decision on that hearing.

Chapter 1 contains the quality standards for surface waters in the state including water classifications, designation of protected uses, numeric and narrative water quality criteria, an antidegradation policy and a new appendix describing agricultural use protection procedures.

The major revisions proposed in this rulemaking include: 1) two new stream classifications and a procedure for calculating ambient-based criteria applicable to "effluent dependent waters; 2) revision of the pathogen criteria for recreational use protection; 3) update of the numeric criteria for a broad range of chemical pollutants; 4) establishment of site-specific criteria in selected watersheds; and 5) creation of new criteria and procedures for establishing effluent limits for the protection of agricultural uses.

The "Agricultural Use Protection" portion of this rule package (item 5 above) has, in the past, been proposed as a policy by the Water Quality Division, and the Water/Waste Advisory Board recommended it as a policy at their October 18, 2006 meeting. However, the Division has since reconsidered and now believes that this portion of the rule package would be more appropriate as an appendix to the rule and is making that proposal to the Council. This proposed change to the rule package will be considered by the Advisory Board at their meeting on February 6, 2007 and the Board's recommendation on this subject will be made to the Council at the hearing.

All persons desiring to be heard in this matter are notified to appear at the designated public hearing. Oral statements will be accepted at the hearing, however, for the record, written statements are required at the time of the hearing or prior thereto. Written statements may be presented without attending the hearing by submitting them to the DEQ/Water Quality Division, ATTN: Bill DiRienzo, Herschler Building- 4W, 122 W. 25th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002; Fax: (307) 777-5973 on or before the close of business on February 14, 2007. Emailed comments will not be accepted.

Copies of the proposed rules, statement of principal reasons and notice of intent to adopt rules are available from the Department of Environmental Quality, 122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building-4W, Cheyenne, WY, 82002. Persons may request a copy of the proposed rules by contacting Connie Osborne at 307-777-5593, fax at 307-777-5973; email address: [cosbor@state.wy.us](mailto:cosbor@state.wy.us). These rulemaking documents can also be downloaded from the Water Quality Division web page: <http://deq.state.wy.us/wqd/events/index.asp>. Questions regarding the proposed rules may be directed to Bill DiRienzo at 307-777-7781.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternative formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.