



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Minutes: Oregon Environmental Quality Commission special meeting

Oct. 9, 2020: Teleconference

Friday, October 9: 9-10 a.m.

- **Present:** Chair Kathleen George, Vice-chair Sam Baraso, Commissioner Greg Addington, Commissioner Molly Kile, Commissioner Wade Mosby

Welcome and meeting open

Chair George convened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. People attended the special meeting by online teleconference, through the Zoom platform, or by toll-free telephone line.

Director Whitman explained that DEQ is proposing two actions, one order and one temporary rulemaking, related to the cleanup, management and disposal of debris from wildfires across the state. The proposed order would allow a temporary variance to certain requirements for the management and disposal of asbestos-containing materials. The proposed temporary rules would allow temporary modifications to the regulations for the storage and disposal of solid waste at certain disposal facilities. Both proposed actions would protect human health and the environment while allowing people to manage debris efficiently from the catastrophic wildfires across much of the state in August and September.

In addition to Director Whitman's presentation, Becka Puskas, Office of Compliance and Enforcement, described the proposed action related to the management of asbestos-containing debris. Commissioners asked clarifying and informational questions throughout the presentation, and emphasized the importance of specific local outreach, communication and engagement for people who are recovering from these catastrophic wildfires and may not have access to traditional outreach mechanisms, such as the DEQ website and other online resources. The commission took separate actions for the proposed order, related to asbestos, and the proposed temporary rules, related to solid waste management at disposal facilities.

Action: Approve the proposed order, included as Attachment A of this report.

Move: Vice-chair Baraso

Second: Commissioner Addington

The commission unanimously approved the action.

Action: Determine that a failure to act promptly would result in serious prejudice to the public interest or the interests of the parties concerned as provided under the Justification section of Attachment B, and adopt the 2020 Wildfire Response, Solid Waste Letter Authorization

temporary rules as seen on page five of Attachment B as part of Chapter 340 of the Oregon Administrative Rules to be effective on filing with the Oregon Secretary of State

Move: Commissioner Addington

Second: Commissioner Mosby

The commission unanimously approved the action

Chair George adjourned the special meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Remaining 2020 meeting dates (via teleconference)

November 19-20