


State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: Sept. 7, 2017

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Richard Whitman, Director 

Subject: Agenda item M, Informational item: Agency processes for permit decisions and public comment
Sept. 13-14, 2017, EQC meeting

Purpose of item DEQ will present an overview of its decision-making processes for permits, and its processes for accepting, evaluating and responding to public comments. This overview will also clarify what the role of the Commission is in agency actions on permit. This item was requested at the July 2017 EQC meeting.

Background DEQ makes a variety of decisions related to permit applications, renewals, revocations and other modifications. The agency also receives, reviews and responds to public comments on many of these regulatory actions concerning a specific facility or location. The processes vary somewhat between different programs, and the public can easily be confused about who the decision-makers are. The commission has asked for an overview of the processes the agency uses for these types of decisions.

The statutes, and to some degree, the commission's rules prescribe specific review and decision-making processes for regulatory decisions concerning individual facilities. In addition, in some cases, DEQ has developed guidance and internal policies to assist the public and staff. In this item, staff will discuss several examples of permit decision-making and walk the commission through typical processes for seeking, receiving, reviewing and responding to external input on proposed agency actions.

EQC involvement This item is informational, and no commission action is requested at this time.

Report compiled by Stephanie Caldera from agency information
Commission assistant