

Date: October 8, 2010

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item U, Informational and discussion item: Strategic Directions Attorney General's office discussion
October 20-22, 2010, EQC meeting

Purpose of item This item will provide the commission with information and discussion with Attorney General John Kroger regarding Oregon's environmental challenges and regulatory priorities. The information and discussion will prepare the commission for its November 2010 retreat, in which it will consider and recommend updates to DEQ's Strategic Directions.

Why this is important DEQ, as the state regulatory agency for environmental protection, works closely with the Oregon Department of Justice, and Attorney General John Kroger. The discussion will help the commission prepare for its retreat and evaluate opportunities for cooperation, cross-agency collaboration and efficiencies in state government when evaluating DEQ's Strategic Directions update for 2012.

Background and other information The mission of the Oregon Department of Justice is to provide outstanding legal and child support services to Oregonians and their government. The Oregon Department of Justice is committed to a series of goals, which are to:

- Fight crime
- Protect crime victims
- Improve the well-being of Oregon's children
- Protect the environment
- Fight for Oregon consumers, workers, investors and taxpayers
- Promote a positive business climate
- Provide great legal services to Oregon's state government
- Defend the rights of all Oregonians

Attorney General Kroger has demonstrated a commitment to protecting the environment and maintains a staff of two criminal prosecutors and one special council staff person dedicated to environmental issues. These staff members work closely with DEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement, and all DEQ programs, to coordinate state resources and efforts for environmental protection.

Attorney General Kroger was elected in November 2008. Prior to his election, Attorney General Kroger served as a federal criminal prosecutor and a professor at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Next steps EQC will meet in November 2010 for a special meeting and retreat focused on the 2012 update to DEQ's Strategic Directions. The information and discussions shared during this, and other, items will help inform the commissioners about Oregonian's concerns and priority work for DEQ over the next six, 10 or 20 years. After the commission meets in November, DEQ will begin a process to draft and share its proposed updates throughout 2011 for final EQC review and approval by late 2011.

Attachments None

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Background information provided by Oregon Department of Justice