



west virginia department of environmental protection

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Environmental Protection Advisory Council 2016 Annual Report

I. INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report is submitted in accordance with W. Va. Code § 22-1-9(e)(6), to apprise the Joint Committee on Government and Finance of the activities undertaken by the Environmental Protection Advisory Council for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The Council was created in 1994 by an Act of the West Virginia Legislature, and it is currently organized and administered within the auspices of the Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”). In addition to the preparation and submission of this Report, the Council’s mission, set forth in W. Va. Code § 22-1-9, embraces the following duties:

- (1) To consult with and advise the DEP Cabinet Secretary on program and policy development, problem solving, and other appropriate subjects;
- (2) To identify and define problems associated with the implementation of the legislative statement of purpose and policy set forth in W. Va. Code § 22-1-1(b) (a full recitation of which is made below) and observed by DEP;
- (3) To provide and disseminate to industry and the public early identification of major federal program and regulatory changes;
- (4) To provide a forum for the resolution of conflicts between constituency groups; and
- (5) To strive for consensus, to the extent possible, on the development of overall environmental policy.

II. COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eight members comprise the Council. The Cabinet Secretary is an *ex officio* member and serves as the Chair. The remaining seven members are appointed by the Governor, typically for full terms of four years, and any member may serve successive terms upon renewal of appointment. The balance of constituencies among the Council members is fixed by statute and must be maintained: two members are associated with industries regulated by DEP; two members represent organizations advocating environmental protection; one member represents local government organizations; one member represents public service districts; and one member represents the largest coal miner's labor organization in the State.

There were no changes among the eight appointed members during 2016:

MEMBER	APPOINTMENT	REPRESENTS	TERM EXPIRES
Lisa K. Dooley Madison, West Virginia	10/01/1999 2002, 2005, 2015	Local Governments	June 30, 2017
Charles "Larry" Harris, Ph.D. Morgantown, West Virginia	10/12/1995 1997, 2002, 2005, 2015	Environmental Organizations	June 30, 2017
Rebecca M. McPhail Huntington, West Virginia	01/22/2015	Industry	June 30, 2018
William Raney Charleston, West Virginia	10/12/1995 1996, 2000, 2004, 2015	Industry	June 30, 2016
Charles "Rick" Roberts, Jr. Charleston, West Virginia	10/12/1995 1996, 2000, 2004, 2015	Public Service Districts	June 30, 2016
Ted Hapney Roane County, West Virginia	10/29/2010 2015	UMWA	June 30, 2018
James VanGundy, Ph.D. Elkins, West Virginia	04/29/2015	Environmental Organizations	June 30, 2018

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING 2016

The Council met three times during 2016. The first meeting, on March 17, 2016, discussed the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature as it pertained to environmental laws. At the June 16, 2016 meeting, DEP presented for the Council's review and comment the entire slate of agency rules proposed for 2017 Legislative Session. The September 15, 2016 meeting was canceled because council members did not have any items for the agenda and a quorum did not confirm attendance. The Council's final meeting for the year, on December 15, 2016, was a briefing by Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman regarding current issues facing the agency and the upcoming transition for the newly elected Governor. These activities are summarized in the Council's official minutes, which are attached to this Report.

IV. STATEMENT ON DEP'S PERFORMANCE

The Council is required to include within its Annual Report its findings with regard to DEP's performance in accomplishing the purposes set forth in W. Va. Code § 22-1-1(b). These statutory purposes, upon which DEP was established, are:

- (1) To strengthen the State's commitment to restore, maintain, and protect the environment;
- (2) To consolidate environmental regulatory programs in a single State agency;
- (3) To provide a comprehensive program for the conservation, protection, exploration, development, enjoyment, and use of the natural resources of the State;
- (4) To supplement and complement the efforts of the State by coordinating its programs with the efforts of other governmental entities, public and private organizations, and the general public, to improve the quality of the environment, the public health and public enjoyment of the environment, and to propagate and protect animal, aquatic, and plant life, in a manner consistent with the benefits to be derived from strong agricultural, manufacturing, tourism, and energy-producing industries;
- (5) To endeavor, insofar as federal environmental programs require State participation, to obtain and continue State primacy in the administration of such programs, to endeavor to maximize federal funds that may be available to accomplish the purposes of the State and federal environmental programs, and to cooperate with appropriate federal agencies to meet environmental goals;
- (6) To encourage the increased involvement of all citizens in the development and execution of state environmental programs;
- (7) To promote improvement in the quality of the environment through research, evaluation, and sharing of information;
- (8) To improve the management and effectiveness of State environmental protection programs;
- (9) To increase the accountability of State environmental protection programs to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public generally; and
- (10) To promote pollution prevention by encouraging reduction or elimination of pollutants at the source through process modification, material substitutions, in-process recycling, reduction of raw material use, or other source reduction opportunities.

The Council finds that DEP has engaged in good-faith, reasonable efforts to accomplish the statutory purposes with which it is charged, a fair representation of which are outlined in

DEP's Annual Report and State of the Environment publications. It is recognized that the challenges facing the agency in fulfilling its mission are not static, but instead demand constant adaptation. DEP strives to do the best possible job with all resources it may access to implement the letter and the spirit of the Legislature's charge.

V. CONCLUSION

SUBMITTED this 30th day of December, 2016.

/s/Kristin A. Boggs _____

Kristin A. Boggs, General Counsel