



3117 Cooney Dr. Ste 101
Helena, MT 59602
(406) 443-5541
tsria@mt.net
www.tsria.org

TSRIA NEWS

April 2015

2015 Montana Legislative Session

There are 21 legislative days left in the 2015 Montana Legislative Session. The new projected date for Sine Die is May 1. Governor Steve Bullock has already signed several bills into law while many more remain in the legislative process. The following list describes those that have an impact on Montana's natural resource industries.

Agriculture/Livestock

Signed into Law

- SB 62, Sen. T. Brown-Revise the reporting dates for per capita livestock fees
- SB 108, Sen. Moore-Clarify and revise department of livestock per capita fee calculation
- HB 108, Rep. Salomon-Revise noxious weed budget laws
- HB 194, Rep. Redfield-Revise bison laws (required forage analysis)
- HB 390, Rep. Lang-Revise agricultural commodity committee laws

Transmitted to Governor

- HB 145, Rep. Cuffe-Revise livestock loss laws

Passed Senate

- SB 284, Sen. Brenden-Require county approval for bison relocation
- SB 183, Sen. T. Brown-Revise milk licensing assessments
- SB 210, Sen. Vuckovich-Include mountain lion in livestock loss program

Passed House

- HB 245, Rep. Ballance-Revise laws related to raw milk (Hearing 4/8 in House Public Health Committee)
- HB 557, Rep. B. Harris-Revise laws regarding legal fences

Water

Signed into Law

- SB 56, Sen. Hamlett-Revise riverbed laws
- SB 58, Sen. Connell-Revise public notice for certain water rights
- SB 97, Sen. Vincent-Revise process to modify classification of state water bodies
- SB 82, Sen. Hamlett-Expand water policy interim committee duties

Transmitted to Governor

HB 36, Rep. Lynch-Allow water permit volume change due to incomplete use

HB 168, Rep. Fitzpatrick-Define combined appropriation for exempt wells in certain cases

Passed Senate

SB 160, Sen. Ankney-Revise natural condition of stream

SB 37, Sen. Fielder-Revise laws for filing of exempt water right claims (Hearing 4/8 in House Appropriations)

SB 57, Sen. Vincent-Revise water adjudication funding and benchmarks (Hearing 4/8 in House Appropriations)

SB 112, Sen. Ankney-Require TMDL development for certain water bodies

SB 232, Sen. Moore-Revise stream access laws to reflect Galt decision

SB 262, Sen. Vincent-Implement CSKT water rights settlement (Hearing 4/11 in House Judiciary)

SB 325, Sen. Keane-Revise process for adopting water quality regulations

SB 330, Sen. Hamlett-Clarify state water reservation reviews

SB 389, Sen. Hamlett-Provide definitions for intermittent, ephemeral streams

SB 255, Sen. T. Brown-Revise requirements for advancing agricultural education in Montana-Passed House but returned with amendments

Passed House

HB 553, Rep. Noland-Revise aquatic invasive species laws

HB 525, Rep. Noland-Revise aquatic invasive species laws

HB 180, Rep. B. Smith-Revise regional water laws

HB 519, Rep. Glimm-Revise exempt well laws

Oil and Gas

Signed into Law

HB 67, Rep. B. Smith-Remove Wall Street Journal as source for oil prices

SB 49, Sen. Keane-Expand the use of petroleum mixing zones

HB 393, Rep. Richmond-Certify incidental carbon storage

Filed with Secretary of State

HJ 11, Rep. Lang-Resolution supporting Keystone Pipeline

Passed Senate

SB 145, Sen. Hamlett-Revise allocation of oil and gas revenue for oil and natural gas impact projects (Hearing on 4/8 in House Appropriations)

SB 314, Sen. Webb-Interstate Pipeline Compact

SB 368, Sen. Rosendale-Require certain pipeline information to be publicly available

Passed House

HB 226, Rep. Richmond-Revise oil and gas laws related to the oil and gas damage mitigation account

HB 402, Rep. Knudsen-Generally revise laws related to oil and gas development

HB 411, Rep. Richmond- Revise price of barrel of crude oil in relation to production tax rates

Electricity Generation/Distribution

Signed into Law

SB 111, Sen. Ankney-Wind generation facility impact fee for local governments

Transmitted to Governor

SB 327, Sen. Blasdel-Revise Qualifying Facility laws

Vetoed

SB 114, Sen. Debby Barrett-Classify all hydroelectric power as renewable

Passed Senate

SB 102, Sen. Ankney-Revise air quality fee structure laws

SB 402, Sen. Ankney-Revise laws related to utilities and coal-fired generation

SJ 12, Sen. Connell-Study net metering laws

Forest and Wood Products

Transmitted to Governor

SB 188, Sen. Vincent-Revise liability for forest and range fires

Passed Senate

SB 47, Sen. Pomnichowski-Increase assessments on owners of classified forest land

SB 256, Sen. Hamlett-Authorize Attorney General to intervene in timber reduction projects

Mining

Passed Senate

SB 409, Sen. Vincent-Revise metal mine laws (Hearing in House Natural Resources 4/10)

SJ 2, Sen. Hamlett-Study state assumption of federal dredge and fill permitting

SJ 13, Sen. Ankney-Joint resolution supporting coal

SB 20, Sen. Vincent-Reallocate metal mines license tax (Hearing 4/10 in House Natural Resources)

Passed House

HB 235, Rep. Lynch-Revise disposition of metal mines license tax

Taxation

Signed into Law

HB 41, Rep. Hunter-Revise tax appeal laws

Passed Senate

SB 171, Sen. Tutvedt-Revise income tax and corporate tax laws (Hearing 4/10 in House Tax Committee)

Passed House

HB 156, Rep. Miller-Revise tax laws related to pollution control equipment (Hearing 4/8 in Senate Tax)

HB 421, Rep. Berry-Extend termination date of coal severance coal washing credit

General

Signed into Law

HB 222, Rep. Hollandsworth- Revise laws related to oversize loads

SB 96, Sen. Keane-Revise Controlled Allocation of Liability laws

Transmitted to Governor

SB 321, Sen. Blasdel-Prevent Public Service Commission from regulating propane distribution

HB 270, Rep. Richmond-Revise nutrient laws to provide for modified permits

HB 315, Rep. Harris-Revise federal mandates act-Passed House 58-41.

Passed Legislature

HB 244, Rep. Essmann-Fund litigation to protect Montana's interests in interstate commerce (returned to House with amendments)

Passed Senate

SB 261, Sen. Hamlett-Sage Grouse Stewardship Act (referred to House Appropriations)

SB 136, Sen. Hamlett-Revise hazardous waste fees

SB 355, Sen. Ankney-Revise brownfield site cleanup eligibility

SB 387, Sen. C. Smith-Revise water quality violation penalties

SB 353-Sen. Ripley-Constitutional referendum to divert coal trust to create infrastructure building program

SB 354-Sen. Ripley-Create infrastructure funding program

SB 326, Sen. Hinkle-Revise state land laws to require public notice of land closures and restrictions to recreational use (Hearing 4/10 in House Natural Resources Committee)

SB 298, Sen. Fielder-Enforce provisions of enabling act regarding sale of public lands in Montana

Passed Senate Committee

SJ 18, Sen. Phillips-Study light detection and ranging data

Scheduled for Hearing

SR5, Sen. Vincent-Confirm MDEQ Director and BER appointees (Hearing 4/8 in Senate Natural Resources Committee)

Waters of the U.S. Rule Sent to White House

By **Timothy Cama** of *The Hill* - 04/06/15

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Monday sent to the White House its controversial regulation to redefine the extent of its authority over water pollution control. EPA head Gina McCarthy said the final version of the rule reflects some changes the agency made to the regulation that had been cast as a massive land grab by Republicans, agricultural interests and others.

While the administration is mostly keeping quiet about the final version of the rule, McCarthy outlined some points Monday in a blog post with Jo-Ellen Darcy, who oversees the Army Corps of Engineers, which is developing the rule with the EPA. "In the final rule, people will see that we made changes based on those comments, consistent with the law and the science," they wrote. "We've worked hard to reach a final version that works for everyone — while protecting clean water." Specifically, McCarthy and Darcy said the new rule will better define which bodies of water, tributaries, wetlands and other features are covered, while better ensuring that ditches, agricultural practices and municipal storm sewer systems are not covered.

Asia-Montana Energy Summit

The Asia-Montana Energy Summit (AMES) will take place April 29 - 30, 2015 at the University of Montana. AMES is a strategic initiative led by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center to address the complex issues surrounding the future of energy and how it shapes our global environment, economy, and society.

AMES will bring together international thinkers, business leaders, and policy influencers as keynote speakers and panelists to discuss energy trends around the world, critical developments in energy technology and policy, and opportunities for cooperation between the United States and Asia.

The AMES Expert Conference is free and open to the public. For more information, visit:
<http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/conference/>

Save the Date: TSRIA 2015 Annual Meeting

The 2015 Treasure State Resource Industry Association Meeting will be held September 22-23, 2015 at the Lodge at Whitefish Lake. The event will once again feature a golf scramble, banquet and a full day of presentations on issues important to Montana's natural resource industries. Additional information will soon be available at www.tsria.org.

TSRIA Welcomes New Members

The Treasure State Resource Industry Association recently welcomed two new members.

BP (www.bp.com) provides customers with fuel for transportation, energy for heat and light, lubricants to keep engines moving and petrochemical products used to make everyday items.

Abaco Energy Services LLC (www.abacogroup.us) is a propane distribution company headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota that serves about 200 customers throughout Montana.

Upcoming Events/Dates

April 11 Last day to amend general bills	May 1 90 th Legislative Day
April 20 Transmittal deadline for amendments-appropriations and revenue bills	May 8 Water Pollution Control Advisory Committee MDEQ, Helena
April 21 MT Board of Land Commissioners Supreme Court Chambers Helena	May 20-21 Montana Mining Association Annual Meeting Fairmont Hot Springs
April 29-30 Asia-Montana Energy Summit Mansfield Center, University of Montana Missoula	September 1-2 MT Petroleum Association Annual Meeting Crowne Plaza Billings
April 30 MT Board of Oil & Gas Conservation Billings	September 22-23 TSRIA Annual Meeting Lodge at Whitefish Lake