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TSRIA NEWS

July 2015

New TSRIA Executive Director Hired – Note New Contact Information

The new Executive Director for the Treasure State Resource Industry Association (TSRIA) is Peggy Trenk. Peggy started her new position on July 1, 2015 replacing Mark Lambrecht who accepted a job as Director of Government Affairs for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. TSRIA's new office location is in the Browning Kaleczyc Berry & Hoven office at 800 No. Last Chance Gulch in Helena, Montana. Please note that the new mailing address for the association is P.O. Box 1700, Helena, MT 59624. The email address is ptrenk@tsria.net. The TSRIA phone number remains the same: 406-4430-5541. You can also reach Peggy on her cell phone at 406-461-9945.

Peggy was the Executive Director for WETA, now TSRIA, for eight years prior to leaving in 1996 to join the staff of Montana Congressman Rick Hill. She later spent fourteen years with the Montana Association of REALTORS® as Government Affairs Director and then CEO before retiring from that position in the Fall of 2014 to pursue other interests. She most recently served as the Amendments Coordinator for the Montana Senate during the 2015 Legislative Session.

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. Golfers can look forward to a great day outdoors on Tuesday, September 22nd. That evening everyone will enjoy plenty of in-person "social networking" time. Then get ready for a full day of exploring the key issues impacting Montana's economy and natural resource development. TSRIA's annual membership meeting will be held at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. Program topics will include updates on Sage Grouse, the new rule defining the "waters of the United States" and the Clean Power Plan. **Room reservations can now be made for the meeting and members are encouraged to contact the hotel as soon as possible to ensure the best selection and rate. Our room block expires Friday, August 21st.**

Contact a group reservations specialist at 877-887-4026, extension 4013, or by email at groups@lodgeatwhitefishlake.com. Please be sure to mention you are with the **Treasure State Resource Industry Association**. Rooms are available in both the Viking Lodge and the Main Lodge depending on your needs. Guests may also use the online booking system for groups at <http://www.lodgeatwhitefishlake.com/weddings-groups/group-reservations/>. GROUP ID: TSRIA15 PASSWORD: 2015MEETING.

A limited number of rooms have been set aside on Monday, September 21 for those planning to participate in TSRIA's annual golf scramble scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 22 at the Northern Pines Golf Club.

Watch for Registration and Sponsorship Information to be sent later this month. We look forward to seeing you there.

Montana DEQ Looking for Emergency Response Information

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is looking for information to update the state's emergency response framework for oil and hazardous materials. According to Regulatory Affairs Manager Bonnie Lovelace, in addition to the state's response roles the DEQ recognizes industry also has significant resources that are brought to bear in an incident response. However, as they update their current emergency plans, they would like to identify any other potential resources that might be available for oil and hazardous material response they may not be aware of, similar to the health department's ability to call on the Red Cross. If anyone is familiar with other key resources for emergency response, please let TSRIA know by sending information to ptrenk@tsria.net, or contact Bonnie Lovelace, DEQ Regulatory Affairs Manager at 406-444-1760. Information is requested by the end of July.

Public Comment Period Opens on Proposed Redesignation of the Yellowstone County Nonattainment Area

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is inviting public comment on a proposed Request for Redesignation of the Yellowstone County (part) SO₂ nonattainment area and a proposed Yellowstone County (part) attainment area Maintenance Plan. The proposal will be submitted to the EPA as a revision to the Montana SIP.

On August 5, 2013, a portion of Yellowstone County near the City of Billings was designated nonattainment for the 2010-revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards or NAAQS for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The designation became final on October 4, 2013. Since that time, the nonattainment area has attained the SO₂ NAAQS and DEQ has demonstrated that the area will maintain compliance according to the Maintenance Plan. The proposed SIP submittal and supporting documents are available for review on the DEQ's website at:

<http://deq.mt.gov/pubcom.mcp>. A paper copy may be requested by contacting DEQ at 406-444-3490.

DEQ will be accepting public comment on the proposal for 30 days beginning on Monday, July 13, 2015, through Wednesday, August 12, 2015, and will hold a public hearing regarding the proposal on August 4, 2015 from 10:00am until 11:30am in Room 45 of the Lee Metcalf Building located at 1520 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, MT.

Interested parties may provide written or oral comment during the scheduled public hearing or submit their comments in writing to Stephen Coe, DEQ Air Quality Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59621; by faxing them to the attention of Stephen Coe at 406-444-1499, or by email at scoe@mt.gov. Comments must be received by Wednesday, August 12, 2015.

For more information contact: Eric Merchant, DEQ Air Quality Bureau, by telephone at (406) 444-1457 or by email at emerchant@mt.gov.

Editors' Note: TSRIA has challenged the EPA's 2013 nonattainment designation in the D.C. Circuit Court. The case has been briefed and is set for argument in September.

Legislative Interim Committees Begin Work

Although the 2015 Legislative Session just ended in late April, interim legislative committees have already begun work in preparation for 2017. Committee work plans are taking shape and details about what we might expect for 2017 proposals should become clearer in September.

The Environmental Quality Council, which can have far-ranging interests, initially settled on continued focus on Sage Grouse and a study of federal road management and access. They will also be conducting a review of DEQ permitting programs, as well as DNRC management of Trust Lands. The Energy and Telecommunications Committee was charged with looking at the net metering issue following considerable debate on the subject during the 2015 session.

Meetings dates for key interim committees are:

Economic Affairs Committee – August 31 – September 1, 2015

Water Policy Interim Committee – September 2-3, 2015 in Helena

Environmental Quality Council – September 9-10, 2015 in Helena

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee – September 11, 2015 in Helena

Revenue and Transportation Committee – TBD – Likely October

Upcoming Events/Dates

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| July 20-21 Montana Coal Council KwaTaqNuk, Polson |
| August 19-21, 2015 Montana Contractors Association Summer Outing Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula |
| September 1-2 MT Petroleum Association Annual Meeting Crowne Plaza Billings |
| September 10-11 MT Wood Products Assoc. Annual Convention Hilton Garden Inn Missoula |
| September 22-23 TSRIA Annual Meeting Lodge at Whitefish Lake |