

SEPA Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
June 13, 2013
conference call meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Neil Aaland, Facilitator, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made around the room and on the phone. Neil reviewed the agenda for today.

Revised schedule

The schedule for adopting the rule has been revised based on a three month extension of time. Neil reviewed the draft schedule with committee members. The target for receiving any comments for consideration of inclusion in the next draft is a week before that meeting [for July 25 meeting, deadline is July 18]. Ecology is looking at the entire categorical exemptions section and will be revising and adding to the draft language previously sent out. In response to a question on the scope of review, Brenden McFarland reiterated the areas for review include:

- Categorical exemptions
- Environmental checklist
- GMA/SEPA integration
- Public notice
- Cultural and historic resources (notice)

Other questions/points:

- What do you think is needed to assess each exemption in light of environmental protection under other laws?
- It would be helpful to review each exemption and provide a response
- One example is lands covered by water; have to comply with HPA, Corps permit, SMA/SMPs, and others – why is SEPA needed? Why aren't those other laws and processes adequate?
- Some of the exemptions are covered only generally and need to describe where they are NOT covered by laws/regulations

Brenden mentioned there was pretty universal support for three month extension

- Carl said there is support but concerns about what Ecology will do with the time
- What can stakeholders expect?

Brenden acknowledged that Ecology needs a better way to respond to comments, go into more depth on issues, needs to be explicit.

There were conflicting ideas about the meeting in August being only a conference call. Some felt that there should be a full regular meeting, to keep the pressure on. Other said don't meet in August just to have a meeting.

Questions came up about the side groups – how is Ecology managing those?

- Neil said he has been hearing regularly from the city/county/building/environmental side group; he isn't aware of others meeting, but has heard state agencies are considering developing a proposal
- Pamela Kruger confirmed that state agencies are considering that idea
- It would be good to know what the "test" is for Ecology to accept proposals

Jeff Wilson made some observations about the city/county/building/environmental side group. He said they have had two meetings, and have defined some tasks. They have another meeting ahead. They are looking at lands covered by water, mixed use, rezones, SEPA/GMA integration, and minor land use decisions.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.