

Appendix C. Certification of public hearing

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

HEARING SUMMARY (revised)

M E M O R A N D U M

June 23, 2015

TO: Maia Bellon
Director

FROM: Cynthia Wall
Hearings Officer

SUBJECT: Public Hearing Summary on inclusion of SRCAA woodstove rules into the State Implementation Plan

The Air Quality Program conducted two public hearings (am and pm) on the inclusion of Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) rules into the State Implementation Plan. The hearing was held on April 2, 2015, in the SRCAA conference room. Air Quality was represented by Karen Wood (ERO) and Joanna Ekrem (HQ) and SRCAA board members and staff were in attendance. Brook Beeler attended as the public relations staff person. Joanna and Margee Chambers from SRCAA gave a short presentation and answered questions during the Q/A portion of the hearing.

Fourteen members of the public attended the morning hearing, and seven provided testimony. Twenty members of the public attended the evening hearing, and twelve provided testimony.

Summary of Comments:

At the request of SRCAA, Ecology conducted two hearings on the inclusion of SRCAA woodstove rules into the SIP - something that hasn't been a big issue in the past. Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR) felt otherwise and packed the room for both hearings (different folks for each hearing). The attitude of the crowd during the QA and the hearing was intense. At times, individuals threatened that they would continue with their right to burn, regardless of the rules. No threats were made to or against any of the participants. Margee (SRCAA) and Joanna had a very difficult job trying to explain this administrative action incorporating "existing" rules into the SIP. Attendees were under the impression that rules were changing, they would not be able to use their existing woodstoves, that it was government overreaching their authority, and unconstitutional. There also was a lot of discussion about the real risk to air quality coming from "chem trails" rather than woodstoves. The evening hearing was video recorded by CAPR, who announced it would be posted to YouTube.

CW:jab

cc: Heather Bartlett, Water Quality Program Manager
Grant Pfeifer, Director, Eastern Regional Office
Jim Bellatty, Water Quality Section Manager, ERO
Karen Wood, Department of Ecology, AQ – ERO
Stu Clark, Department of Ecology, AQ - HQ
Joanna Ekrem, Department of Ecology, AQ – HQ
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Brook Beeler, Communications Manager, ERO
Margee Chambers, SRCAA