



Public Participation

Getting involved in the Rulemaking Process

Anyone can participate in the Air Pollution Control Division's (Division) stakeholder process and the Air Quality Control Commission's (AQCC) formal rulemaking process by giving written comments to the Division, the AQCC or by filing a petition for party status. Rulemaking is the process by which the AQCC adopts regulations. The AQCC encourages members of the public to participate in this process and it maintains a long-term calendar of projected meeting topics to inform interested individuals of potential rulemakings.

Tips for making effective public comment:

1. **Read before you react.** Thoroughly review the proposed rule and associated documents before preparing your public comments.
2. **Make sure we can act on your comment.** While we accept all comments, we can only make changes that are in line with applicable requirements and within the scope of the rulemaking.
3. **Begin your comment with what you want.** Do you support or oppose the proposed rule in general? Are you trying to catch and correct specific errors, typos or data gaps? Thinking through this will help you make a clear and concise comment that will help us understand your position.
4. **Be specific and stick to the facts.** Identify why you support or oppose the proposed rule. Include additional information that we may not know about to help us understand your comment.
5. **Offer creative solutions.** If something in the proposed rule can be better addressed in a different way, let us know. Alternative ideas and improvements are always welcome.
6. **Keep it clear and concise.** Try to only include what must be said to accomplish your purpose. Focus on the information that we can act on. Key points get lost in extensive comments or documents. Avoid repeating your points.

7. **Consider submitting written comments.** Stakeholders may provide written or oral comments. Written comments are most effective so we can have adequate time to review and respond to the comments.
8. **Be careful using letters or mass email.** Mass emails may get caught in a spam filter. Before you use any pre-drafted comment letter, review it to see if it follows these tips for effective communication. If it doesn't, write your own. The comment process is not a vote - a single, well supported comment may carry more weight than a thousand comments that say the same thing without supporting evidence.

Helpful vs. Unhelpful Comments

Example of a Helpful Comment: *“I support the change proposed for Section III.R.3.a., the addition of language concerning a solid waste transfer station’s ability to accept asbestos waste only after approval from the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division and the local governing body. This section clearly identifies requirements and establishes alignment between state and local rules for asbestos waste disposal. However, I suggest that in Section II.L. it state “...personnel will be exempt from paying this fee” instead of “...personnel may be exempt from paying this fee.”*

This comment is easy to understand and act on and the suggested changes align with our state regulations so we are able to make them.

Example of an Unhelpful Comment: *“I don’t like the changes you made to Section III.”*

This comment is welcome, but it does not provide information we can act on.

Even though we are limited in the changes we can make to a proposed rule, we do read and consider every comment we receive. We appreciate you taking the time to get involved in the stakeholder and rulemaking processes!