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AGENCY IMPLEMENTAION
OF
THE MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
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The Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), 75-1-101, MCA (1981), was passed by the Legislature and became law in 1971. The stated purpose of the act is "... to declare a state policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment, to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man, to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the state, and to establish an environmental quality council." 75-1-102. In 75-1-103, it is declared that ... "the continuing policy of the State of Montana, in cooperation with the federal government and local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations, to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can coexist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Montanans."

The principal tool designed to achieve these goals is the requirement that state agencies prepare a detailed statement