

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill: requires the Environmental Quality Board to develop model standards and criteria for silica sand mining, processing and transporting that local governments can use when developing ordinances; establishes and appropriates money for a technical assistance team to help local governments with silica sand related ordinances, zoning, and permitting issues; and requires rules developed in Wisconsin related to silica sand issues to be amended into Minnesota Rules.

Section

1 Silica sand mining model standards and criteria. Adds § 116C.99.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines various terms for purposes of the section.

Subd. 2. Standards and criteria. Requires the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), in consultation with local units of government, to develop model standards and criteria for mining, processing, and transporting silica sand that local governments may use when developing local ordinances. Requires the standards and criteria to include a number of items, including various setback requirements, groundwater and surface water requirements, criteria related to air quality, noise requirements, inspection requirements, reclamation requirements and financial assurance requirements.

Subd. 3. Silica sand technical assistance team. Requires the EQB to assemble a silica sand technical assistance team by October 1, 2013, to provide local governments with assistance with ordinance development, zoning, environmental review, and permitting, and other issues related to silica sand. States that the team can be up to seven members and specifies the agencies and institutions the members may be drawn

Section

from.

Subd. 4. Consideration of board recommendations. Requires local government units to consider any findings or recommendations related to a proposed silica sand project that the board has for the protection of human health and the environment when approving or denying a project. Requires a silica sand project proposer to cooperate in providing local government, and members of the board and technical team with information regarding the project.

- 2 Rules.** Requires the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to adopt rules to incorporate regulations contained in the Wisconsin Administrative Code related to nonmetallic mining reclamation and control of particulate emissions into Minnesota Rules.
- 3 Appropriation; Technical assistance team and model standards and criteria.** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the PCA for the EQB to develop the model standards and criteria required under section 1.