

# Utah Uranium Recovery – Introduction, Overview, and Public Outreach

Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
Adam Wingate



UTAH DEPARTMENT of  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
**WASTE MANAGEMENT  
& RADIATION CONTROL**

# Overview

## Who?

Organization Structure and Introduction

## Why?

Statue, Rules, and Licenses

## What?

Our Role, Processes, and Public Outreach

## When and How?

Required Public Outreach  
Additional Public Outreach



# Who? - Organizational Structure

Governor of Utah



Spencer Cox  
Governor of Utah



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# Who? - Organizational Structure

Governor of Utah

Department of Environmental Quality



Kimberly D. Shelley  
DEQ Executive Director



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# Who? - Organizational Structure

Governor of Utah

Department of Environmental Quality

Division of Waste Management and  
Radiation Control



Douglas J. Hansen  
Division Director



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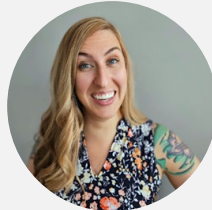
# Who? - Organizational Structure

Governor of Utah

Department of Environmental Quality

Division of Waste Management and  
Radiation Control

Uranium Recovery Section



Stevie Norcross, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director



Chris Leahy, P.G.  
Hydrogeologist



Ryan Johnson, P.G.  
Health Physicist



Adam Wingate, M.S.  
Section Manager



Dean Henderson, P.G.  
Hydrogeologist



Heather Mickelson, P.E., P.G.  
Engineer

# Why? - Regulatory Structure

**Act**

Set by Legislature  
Federal – Atomic Energy Act  
Utah – Utah Code Section 19-3

**Rules**

Set by WMRC Board  
Federal – 10 CFR  
Utah – Utah Admin. Code Section R313

**License**

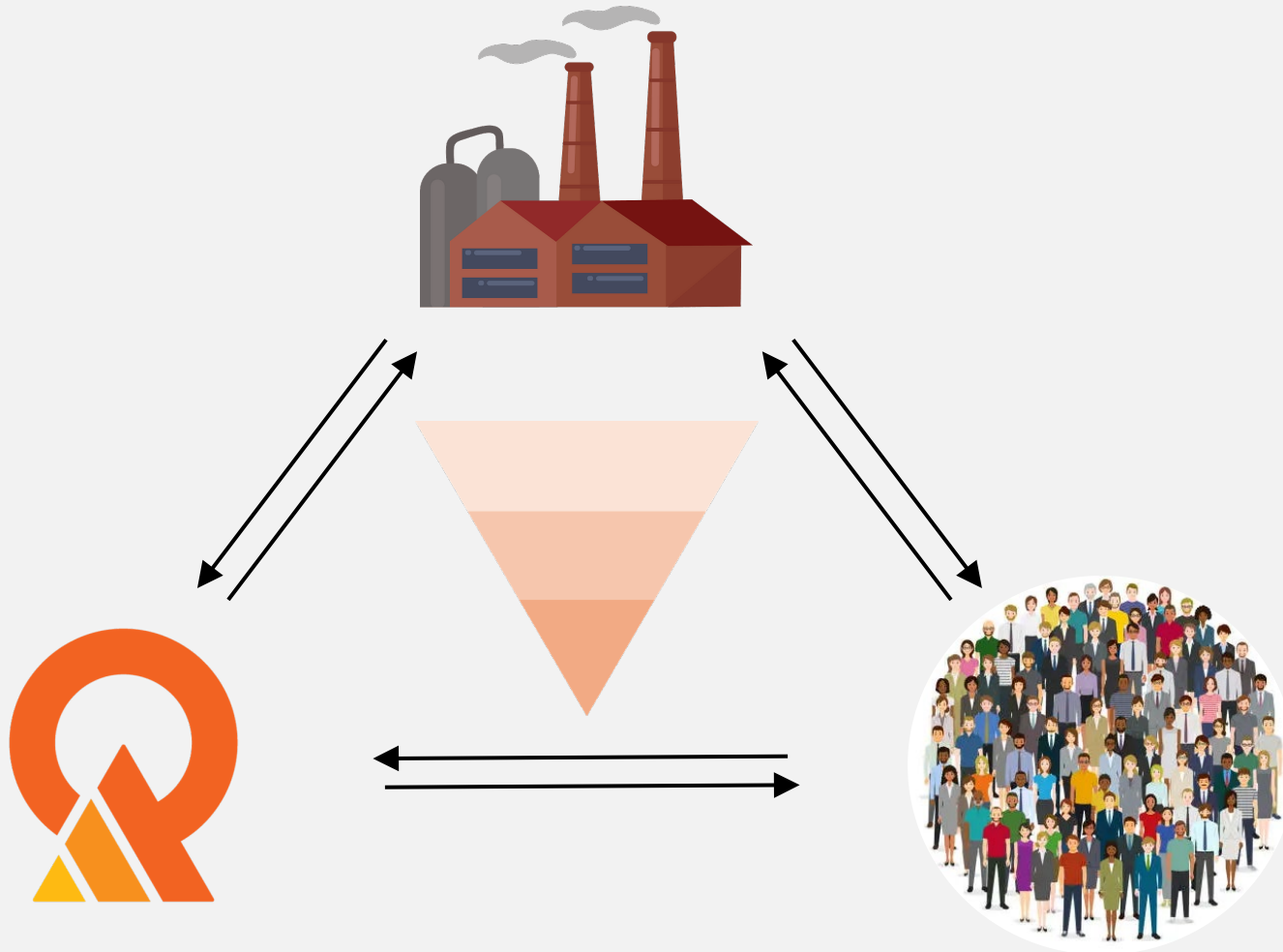
Issued by Division  
Site Specific

Guidance



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# What? – Our Role and Process



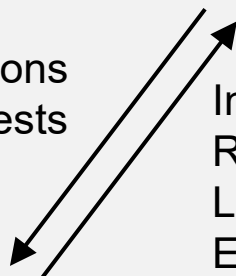
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# What? – Our Role and Process



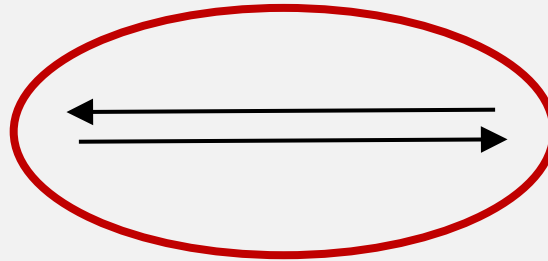
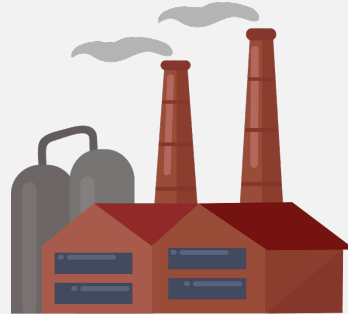
Report Submissions  
License Amendment Requests



Inspections  
Requests for Information  
Licensing Actions  
Enforcement Actions



# What? – Public Outreach



# When and How? – Required Public Outreach

## Utah Code

- 19-1-3 Environmental Quality, General Provisions, Administration
- 63G-2 General Government, Government Records Access and Management Act

## Utah Administrative Code

- R305-7 Environmental Quality Administrative Procedures
- R313-14 Radiation, Violations and Escalated Enforcement
- R313-17 Radiation, Administrative Procedures
- R313-24 Uranium Mills and Source Material Mill Tailings Disposal Facility Requirements



# When and How? – Required Public Outreach

## Example:

- Rio Algom submits a request to Renew their License
- The Division reviews the request, has discussions with Rio Algom, and ultimately decides to approve or deny the request.
- R313-17-2(1)(a)(i)(B) says License Renewal is a Major Licensing Action, and the Director must “give public notice of and provide an opportunity to comment on” Major Licensing Action.
- R313-17-2(3) says “Public notice shall allow at least 30 days for public comment.
- R313-17-2(5) says notice of public comment must be posted in local newspaper or on Division website
- R313-17-4 says that Major Licensing Actions at licensed Uranium Mills also must have a question-and-answer hearing, and then lists a lot of rules for that.



# When and How? – Required Public Outreach

Process doesn't engage the public until after Division review

- If comments require the Division to reevaluate the decision, we have to start all over

Legal Requirements are the Bare Minimum

- This is what we are **REQUIRED** to do, but we're not necessarily prohibited from doing more.



# When and How? – Additional Public Outreach

- Copy Local Health Department on letters and correspondence
- After a meeting at the capital this year, we have started working on a fact sheet for how notifications would be sent out during an emergency
- During a recent rule making, we scheduled informal meetings with stakeholders BEFORE coming to a final decision. This let us incorporate feedback early and reduced tension during the formal public comment period.



# When and How? – Additional Public Outreach

# What Else?



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