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NEWS RELEASE

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DEQ Welcomes Public Comments on Seasonal Wood Burn Ban

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is now accepting public comments on a proposal before the Air Quality Board to ban wood burning from November to March in seven northern Utah counties to improve air quality during the winter.

The 40-day public comment period runs from Jan. 1-Feb. 9, and includes seven public hearings in each of the counties affected by the proposed ban. Oral and written comments will be considered equally.

“We welcome everyone’s input,” said Bryce Bird, air quality director. “We’ve made some progress by implementing 23 new rules aimed at improving air quality but still aren’t quite where we need to be to meet the federal health standards. Wood burning does contribute to poor air quality and a seasonal ban during winter inversions will make the air healthier.”

Under current rules, wood burning is prohibited on days when the federal health standard for particulate pollution (PM2.5) is expected to be exceeded because an inversion is settling in the valley. The ban would mean no burning in fireplaces and wood/coal stoves from Nov. 1 to March 15, with a possible exemption for sources above 7,000 feet. The proposal would exempt restaurants and homeowners whose only source of heat is solid fuel, but they must register with the Division of Air Quality after February 1, 2015 when the sole source registry opens.

Public hearings will be held at:

- 4 p.m., Jan. 14: Tooele County Health Department, 151 N. Main. St. Room 181
- 6 p.m., Jan. 15: Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 195 N. 1950 West, Room 1015
- 11:30 a.m., Jan. 20: Bear River Health Department, 991 S. 800 West, Room B. Brigham City
- 5 p.m., Jan. 20: Morgan Weber Health Department, 477 23rd St., Auditorium, Ogden
- 4 p.m., Jan. 21: Logan Historic Courthouse, 199 N. Main St., Council Chambers, Logan
- 10 a.m., Jan. 28: Davis County Administration Building, 61 S. Main St., Farmington
- 11 a.m., Jan. 29: Utah County Health Department, 151 S. University Ave., Room 1600

You may submit written comments via email to mberger@utah.gov, or mail to: Mark Berger, DAQ, P.O. Box 144820, 195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4820.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.