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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Comment Sought on Solvent Rule Aimed at Scrubbing Utah's Air

SALT LAKE CITY – Businesses who use cleaning solvents are being asked to help scrub the air by using products with less-polluting chemicals, under a proposed new rule by the Air Quality Board.

The public has a chance to comment on the proposed new [“solvent rule”](#) at a public hearing scheduled at 10:30 a.m. March 16 at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) room 4100 West, located at the Multi Agency State Office Building, 195 N. 1950 West.

Under the rule, businesses along the Wasatch Front, Tooele County and Cache County that use 55 gallons or more of cleaning solvents a year would need to use products that are low-producing in Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), a contributor to Utah's smog-forming pollution.

DEQ's Division of Air Quality is looking at ways to improve Utah's air and meet the federal air quality standards for fine particulate pollution, known as PM_{2.5}. Similar to the consumer products rule the board adopted several years ago, the solvent rule is an additional effort to address high episodic levels of particulate pollution that form during winter inversions.

“Many states have already enacted VOC-limitations on a wide-range of products to help address air quality. Less-polluting products are effective and available in the marketplace that will help improve Utah's summer and winter air quality,” said Bryce Bird, air quality director.

DAQ will receive public comment on the rule from March 1 to March 31. For information and comments, contact Joel Karmazyn at DAQ at 801-536-4423 or jkarmazyn@utah.gov.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah's air, land and water through balanced regulation. 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](#)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](#)), or call 1-800-458-0145.