

TO: Coal Board Chairman: John Williams
FROM: Southeastern Montana Development
RE: Coal Board Application Review / Recommendations
DATE: February 19, 2020

The following are a few recommendations concerning the current Montana Coal Board Application process. These were part of a recent Review conducted by staff members of the Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC). These are only suggested recommendations in-order to make the application process more meaningful and productive for DOC Staff, Coal Board Members and Applicants.

1) Millage Rates: (Item #13)

SEMDC uses the following Format to clearly explain the Millage Rate Flow. We would suggest putting this question into a standard format so it is easy to compare for staff and board members:

Year	Mills	Taxable Value	Is this max that can be levied?
2019-20	<u>189.82</u>	\$2,098,000	Y/N
2018-19	190.83	\$2,000,000	Y/N
2017-18	175.92	\$1,987,345	Y/N
2016-17	163.11	\$1,999,045	Y/N
* <u>Average of Previous Three Years: 176.62</u>			

Are current mills being charged higher than the average of the three previous years? _____

2) Brief Project Summary: (Item #17)

- * Good Section – Responses should be kept Short and Sweet
- * Bullet Points are Good
- * Use as an Executive Summary

3) DOC Staff Responses:

- * Could Use Additional Staff Responses Concerning all Five (5) Criteria, not just Funding

4) Environmental Requirements:

- * Planning Applications should be Categorical Exclusions – no public meeting requirement, have board make determination at meeting for planning applications
- * Any Exclusive Equipment Applications should be Categorical Exclusions – no public meeting requirement, have board make determination at meeting for planning applications
- * Any Construction Applications should have the needed MEPA Environmental Hearings

*** This would Save Time and Money when dealing with Planning and or Equipment Applications**

5) Presentations before the Coal Board and DOC Staff:

- * Brief Summary – Only Present New/Revised Information or staff review concerns
- * Perhaps a Time Limit – 8 Minutes exclusive of board member questions
- * Encourage Dialogue / Q & A between the Board and the Applicants

6) Combine Sources and Uses and Budget Table into one section:

Combine these tables by adding a couple rows into the budget table to indicate what type of funds and whether or not they were firmly committed within the budget table. Also, make that table an excel spreadsheet so numbers automatically total.

7) Create a fillable form where data can be entered directly on to the form.