

Date: July 23, 2010
To: Environmental Quality Commission
From: Dick Pedersen, Director 
Subject: Agenda item G, Informational item: The impacts of climate change
August 18-19, 2010 EQC meeting

Purpose of item Dr. Thomas Peterson, research meteorologist at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center and chair of the World Meteorological Organization's Commission for Climatology, will present on the effects of climate change. The effects include changes to and consequences for public health, forestry, agriculture, water quality and quantity, infrastructure, ocean temperatures and acidification, permafrost, icebergs, weather and sewage treatment plants.

Background This session is the forth in the series of climate change informational items, to be presented at regularly planned commission meetings in 2010. The first item focused on the science of climate change; the second on the politics; the third on the role of The Climate Trust. Items to come are current and proposed actions to combat climate change.

Dr Peterson is a research meteorologist at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina, a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Forth Assessment Report and the President of the World Meteorological Organization's Commission for Climatology.

In December 2007, the IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change." The award is shared with former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore for his work on climate change and the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

In February of this year, Peterson was unanimously elected President of WMO's Commission for Climatology for the next four years. The gathering was the fifteenth session of the commission and included experts from 84 countries who came together to discuss an action plan for providing improved climate services to the global community. Attendees established the Open Panel of Experts to focus on thematic

areas including climate data management, global and regional climate monitoring and assessment, climate products and services and climate information for adaptation and risk management.

The leading role in the coordination of international climate issues dates back to 1929 when the International Meteorological Organization, the predecessor of WMO, established the Commission for Climatology. The vision of the Commission for Climatology is to provide world leadership in promoting expertise and international cooperation in climatology. Its mission is to stimulate, lead, implement, assess and coordinate international technical activity to obtain and apply climate information and knowledge in support of sustainable socio-economic development and environmental protection. CCI advises and guides the standards of climate activities through a network of volunteered dedicated scientists from the 189 members of WMO.

Next steps

DEQ will continue to present informational items on climate change at future commission meetings this year. The October meeting will feature Angus Duncan, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, who will speak about the roadmap to meeting Oregon's carbon goals.

DEQ staff invites commissioners to suggest additional topics or presenters for the series as we continue to prepare for upcoming EQC meetings.

Approved:

Division: _____

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