

**From:** [Ashley Martinez](#)  
**To:** [DNR HQT OAH](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MBIA comments on the Proposed Rule Package  
**Date:** Friday, August 8, 2025 11:43:30 AM

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Director Kaster,

The Montana Building Industry Association appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed DNRC ARM related to water right permitting.

Our primary concern is the newly added definition of "aquifer system" and the resulting change to "source aquifer." We are not aware of any legislative action that prompted or justifies these changes. While we understand the intent may be to provide clarity, the new definition introduces ambiguity and could create uncertainty for project planning and development across Montana.

The Montana Building Industry Association recommends using the nationally accepted definition from the National Groundwater Association Compendium of Hydrogeology stated below.

Aquifer System – One or more aquifers, either continuous or connected through leakage, considered integrated at the scale of interest.

Thank you for considering our perspective on behalf of Montana's building industry. We value the opportunity to collaborate on policies that balance resource management with the state's growing development needs.

Sincerely,

Ashley Martinez  
On behalf of the Montana Building Industry Association

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