

If you have questions regarding the information in this alert or would like to receive further information regarding our Environmental Department, please contact:

**Steven C. Nadeau**  
Department Chair  
313.465.7492  
[snadeau@honigman.com](mailto:snadeau@honigman.com)

**Richard A. Barr**  
313.465.7308  
[rbarr@honigman.com](mailto:rbarr@honigman.com)

**Kenneth C. Gold**  
313.465.7394  
[kgold@honigman.com](mailto:kgold@honigman.com)

**S. Lee Johnson**  
313.465.7432  
[sljohnson@honigman.com](mailto:sljohnson@honigman.com)

**Megan Conlon McCulloch**  
313.465.7444  
[mmcculloch@honigman.com](mailto:mmcculloch@honigman.com)

**H. Kirk Meadows**  
517.377.0739  
[hkmeadows@honigman.com](mailto:hkmeadows@honigman.com)

**Jeffrey L. Woolstrum**  
313.465.7612  
[jwoolstrum@honigman.com](mailto:jwoolstrum@honigman.com)

## MDEQ Announces Implementation Schedule for Environmental Advisory Rules Committee Recommendations

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) recently announced a detailed schedule for its proposed implementation of the recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Rules Committee (EARC) of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' Office of Regulatory Reinvention. The MDEQ's schedule proposes an aggressive process that will include, depending upon the particular recommendation being implemented, additional stakeholder input, rulemaking, rule rescissions, statutory amendments to be proposed to the Legislature, internal policy reforms or, in a few cases, requests for approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The MDEQ took its first public steps toward implementing most of the EARC's Part 201 recommendations by establishing and convening the Collaborative Stakeholders Initiative (CSI) earlier this year. Many of the CSI's recommendations are scheduled for proposed statutory changes, the commencement of rulemaking or other implementation steps in 2012 or 2013. The MDEQ already implemented the EARC's recommendation to replace the Part 201 Lansing-based Quality Review Team process that some viewed as an impediment to progress on many projects ([click here](#) to see Honigman's Client Alert dated April 12, 2012).

Most of the recommendations in the air, resource management (formerly referred to as waste management) and water quality categories of the EARC recommendations are scheduled for at least initial action by the third quarter of 2012, with many scheduled for completion by June 2013. Many of the air related recommendations, which do not require statutory changes, are expected to proceed directly to rulemaking in 2012 with completion in 2013.

The MDEQ's implementation schedule represents a more definitive and aggressive schedule than was promised or implemented during previous reform efforts. It promises to be a busy year for both MDEQ staff and the regulated community as the MDEQ and its programs are "reinvented."

Honigman Environmental Department partner Richard A. Barr participated on the EARC and remains involved in the reinvention process. Please feel free to contact any member of the Honigman Environmental Department with any questions or if you would like additional information on the EARC recommendations or implementation process.