

May 23-24, 2018

**ITEM 179-1507-R0518**

**Request to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Environmental Engineering upon  
Dr. Bill Drury; Montana Tech of the University of Montana**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Bill Drury from the faculty of Montana Tech of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedication and valued service to the institution and the Department of Environmental Engineering, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Bill Drury earned his BS in Civil Engineering in 1978 from Marquette University and MS in Environmental Engineering in 1979 from Northwestern University and PhD in Civil Engineering from Montana State University in 1992.

He came to Montana Tech in 1992 as Assistant Professor, promoted to Associate Professor in 1995, and then promoted to full professor in 2000. He retired in May 2017.

Dr. Bill Drury worked for the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and for the University of Wisconsin from 1979 until 1988 when he moved to Montana State University. Bill was a Graduate Research Assistant at MSU as a doctoral student. He was involved in several major research projects while at Montana Tech. Notably he worked on the ARCO sponsored research project and developed wetland studies. His principal research topic was passive biological treatment systems for the treatment of mine-influenced water. Much of his research was funded by ARCO, the principal potentially responsible party for the Butte Superfund sites. Dr. Drury and his graduate students performed two laboratory-scale projects that investigated passive biological water treatment systems for ARCO. He was then a principal investigator of a two-and-a-half-year field-scale pilot project that studied the effectiveness of subsurface flow wetlands for treating metal-contaminated surface and ground water. ARCO gave Montana Tech over \$1 million to monitor and evaluate the systems employed in this pilot project. Dr. Drury was also the principal investigator on two other projects, which studied the degradation rate of organic matter in passive biological treatment systems for the Mine Waste Technology Program (MWTP). The ARCO and MWTP projects led to Dr. Drury being an invited speaker at a national conference of the Association for Environmental Health and Sciences. Among his other research projects was a novel investigation into metals removal from contaminated stream water by a beaver pond. He was the primary advisor for more than 15 Graduate students. He has over 14 peer reviewed publications and several technical presentations during his tenure at Montana Tech.

With this recommendation, we thank Dr. Bill Drury for 25 years of outstanding service to Montana Tech and request to confer the title of **“Professor Emeritus of Environmental Engineering.”**

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None.