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trying to make it as easy as I can for DEQ, but also not trying to complicate things for the operators. So essentially, it's a voluntary reporting, but the NDEQ would have some authority if there wasn't the voluntary reporting on an annual basis of updating these plans. Could we make NDEQ do it? It may be more reliable. I think they're trying to reduce their staffing time. They're trying to prioritize things.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, as I understand it right now, they keep all the nutrient management plans currently in the department, right?

SENATOR PREISTER: Currently, they have them. Currently, they're on file, although in the future, when we make these changes, I don't know that that would have to be the case.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, and I'm not arguing with your idea that they be required to continue to have those at the department. All I'm saying is, as long as they have these at the department and operators, frankly, have a reputation for being a little bit unreliable on recordkeeping aspects of things, I'm not sure we can count on operators to send to the department...or why would we want them to send to the department an agreement that was ultimately signed off on, i.e., the change to the nutrient management plan? Instead of the department signing off on it and sending it to the operator, and the operator sending back some kind of a letter saying file it with the nutrient management plan, why can't the department just cut that short and file a copy of it with the nutrient management plan? Did...was I unclear on...

SENATOR PREISTER: As clear as this issue is, Senator Beutler, you were clear, and that's part of the challenge in understanding all of it, and I don't make claim to completely understand every aspect of it. The department would have...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...the information available in the nutrient management plan, but they're trying to conform this with the federal, and they're trying to not have to do as much work,