

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was established by the Environmental Protection and Health Act, Chapter 1, Title 39, of the Idaho Code, to protect human health and the environment. As the state's environmental regulatory agency, DEQ is responsible for implementing and enforcing delegated federal programs under the Clean Air, Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts, as well as many state environmental laws and rules. This regulatory responsibility covers a broad range of activities to ensure Idaho's air, water, and land, and the health of Idaho citizens are protected from the adverse impacts of pollution.

The Environmental Protection and Health Act, Chapter 1, Title 39, of the Idaho Code also established the Board of Environmental Quality. The board is the administrative body that makes decisions on rules proposed by the department that are necessary and feasible to carry out provisions of this act and to enforce the environmental laws of the state. DEQ drafts rules with the assistance of the Office of the Attorney General, following a negotiated rulemaking process that involves interested stakeholders. Rules may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the board. All administrative rules adopted by the Board are subject to legislative review. The board also functions as the agency's administrative appeals board. Decisions of the agency can be appealed to the board, which may choose to hear the case or designate a hearing officer. Final determinations of the board are subject to judicial review.

Overall, DEQ's primary activities to protect human health and the environment involve monitoring, permitting, conducting inspections, performing remediation, and providing a wide range of oversight, technical assistance, and outreach.

- Environmental monitoring is performed to assess conditions and ensure health-based standards are met.
- Permits are issued to facilities that manage wastes or release pollutants in order to limit the amounts to safe levels.
- Inspections of pollution sources and response to complaints are performed to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards. When necessary, enforcement action is taken.
- Oversight can include many different projects such as cleanups, pollution reduction, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Finally, technical support, outreach, and education are provided to facilitate compliance with environmental requirements for air quality, water quality, and waste management.

DEQ works closely and collaboratively with a wide range of public and private partners, including the legislature; the Board of Environmental Quality; federal and state agencies; city, county and tribal governments; businesses; community organizations; and citizens. These partnerships are critical to accomplishing the agency's environmental and human health protection mission.

The agency headquarters in Boise is organized into five divisions that focus on developing and administering programs and policies, providing technical support to the divisions and regions, and providing agency-wide administrative support. The divisions are Air Quality, Water Quality, Waste Management and Remediation, Technical Services and Environmental Management and Information.

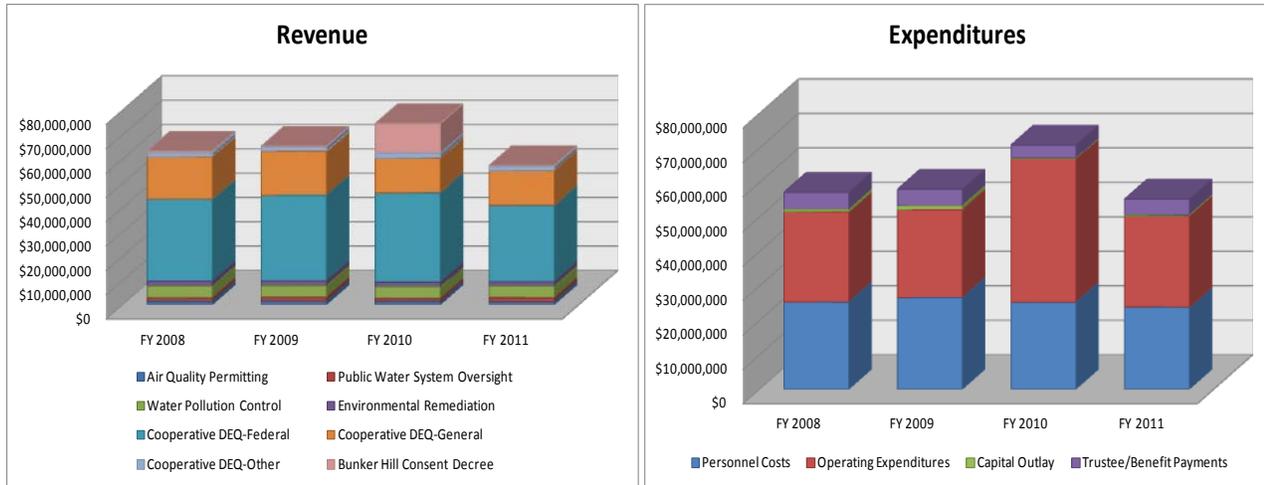
The day-to-day, on-the-ground services of the agency are provided locally by six regional offices located in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls. DEQ also has three smaller satellite offices located in Kellogg, Grangeville, and McCall. The regions and satellite offices are charged with implementing agency programs and policies and providing direct services to citizens, communities, businesses, and industries.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

- **Air Quality:** DEQ assures compliance with federal and state health-based air quality standards by collecting air quality information, monitoring, developing and issuing permits, and coordinating air quality improvement efforts among communities, citizen groups, businesses, industries, other state agencies, tribes, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code, and the Clean Air Act).
- **Water Quality:** DEQ protects the surface and ground waters of the state to support beneficial uses and provide safe drinking water supplies by setting standards, certifying project compliance with standards, monitoring, reporting on quality, developing and implementing improvement plans, issuing wastewater reuse permits, and providing grants and loans for constructing drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities (Title 39, Chapters 1, 36, 64, 66, 76, Idaho Code; title 37, chapter 21, Idaho Code; and the Clean Water Act).
- **Waste Management and Remediation:** DEQ ensures management and disposal of waste generated in or entering Idaho in a manner protective of human health and the environment. DEQ responds to releases of hazardous substances to surface waters, ground waters, or soils and conducts, oversees, and negotiates cleanups of contaminated sites. DEQ works with communities to rehabilitate contaminated sites to return them to safe and developable condition (Title 39, Chapters 1, 44, 58, 65, 71, 74, 81, Idaho Code; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act).
- **INL Oversight:** DEQ oversees activities at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to ensure compliance with legal agreements for waste treatment, remediation and removal and compliance with applicable environmental regulations. DEQ maintains an independent environmental monitoring program designed to verify and supplement monitoring programs carried out by the INL. Working with other state agencies, DEQ assists local governments statewide in planning and responding to emergencies involving radiological materials. DEQ routinely keeps the public informed about INL activities impacting Idaho's environment (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code).

Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Air Quality Permitting	\$1,248,862	\$1,339,572	\$1,267,125	\$1,119,172
Public Water System Oversight	\$1,451,285	\$1,581,431	\$1,221,790	\$1,627,995
Water Pollution Control	\$4,875,022	\$4,845,733	\$4,833,508	\$4,823,076
Environmental Remediation	\$2,036,566	\$1,937,976	\$1,821,208	\$1,801,509
Cooperative DEQ-Federal	\$33,707,871	\$35,123,091	\$36,776,375	\$31,406,828
Cooperative DEQ-General	\$17,402,600	\$18,178,700	\$14,263,800	\$14,278,100
Cooperative DEQ-Other	\$1,635,900	\$1,936,115	\$2,041,727	\$1,889,651
Bunker Hill Consent Decree	\$763,949	\$191,267	\$12,223,468	\$248,155
Total	\$63,122,055	\$65,133,885	\$74,449,001	\$57,194,486
Expenditures	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personnel Costs	\$25,239,700	\$26,495,600	\$25,173,400	\$23,793,600
Operating Expenditures	\$26,217,800	\$25,509,600	\$41,676,300	\$26,420,200
Capital Outlay	\$636,800	\$1,166,300	\$240,800	\$253,900
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$5,001,400	\$4,803,300	\$3,695,000	\$4,621,300
Total	\$57,095,700	\$57,974,800	\$70,785,500	\$55,089,000



Profile of Key DEQ Services Provided

The following table summarizes some of the key services DEQ provides to communities, businesses, industries, and the citizens of Idaho.

Key DEQ Services Provided	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Air Quality Division				
Air Quality Permits to Construct Issued	60	52	69	161
Air Quality Tier I (Title V) Permits Issued	24	23	17	21
Air Quality Tier 2 Permits Issued	17	19	8	6
Air Inspections and Evaluations Conducted	136	143	145	138
Water Quality Division				
Wastewater Grant \$ Awarded	304,775	161,405	106,885	255,201
Drinking Water Grant \$ Awarded	180,451	187,580	96,950	253,393
401/404 Water Quality Certifications Issued	607	311	170	166
Wastewater Reuse Permits Issued	20	30	33	15
Total Wastewater and Drinking Water Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	1931	1191	711	934
Nutrient Pathogen Studies Reviewed	110	22	2	2
Source Water Assessments Completed	53	41	59	52
Drinking Water Sanitary Surveys Completed	366	377	384	369
Active Nonpoint Source Projects Administered (previous calendar year)	67	70	61	68
Nonpoint Source Projects Completed (previous calendar year)	22	20	27	15
Waste and Remediation Division				
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanups Completed	26	23	28	16
Underground Storage Tank Training and Inspections Completed	375	468	385	436
Hazardous Waste Inspections Conducted (regulatory and compliance assistance)	221	282	274	181
Inactive Phosphate Mine Sites Undergoing Investigation/Cleanup with DEQ Involvement	22	24	24	23
Snake River Plain Environmental Samples Analyzed (for INL)	2,613	1,772	2,730	4,909

Performance Highlights

Air Quality Division

Crop Residue Burning (CRB)

DEQ just finished its third complete year of the CRB Program. The principles of the program are to 1) protect human health, especially among sensitive populations, 2) maintain burning as a tool for growers, 3) ensure burning is conducted using good techniques and under optimal atmospheric conditions, and 4) make burning-related information readily available to the public.

The current program is more protective of public health than previous smoke management programs. It prohibits field burning when air quality levels exceed or are expected to exceed 75 percent of any National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

Farmers wishing to burn must register their fields, obtain a permit, pay a registration fee based on the number of acres to be burned, and obtain approval from DEQ to burn on their proposed burn day. Before granting burn approval, DEQ must consider air quality conditions, the number of acres to be burned, crop type, fuel characteristics, meteorological conditions, and proximity of the burn to institutions with sensitive populations, public roads, and airports. Information on burn locations, size, and type of field is accessible to the public on DEQ's website at: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/burning/crop-residue-burning.aspx>.

The third year of the program saw another increase in burning in southern Idaho. An exceptionally low incidence of wildfires minimized the compounding impacts of smoke from crop residue burning resulting in another successful year of the CRB program. A total of 64,165 acres of agricultural crop residue was burned statewide, 36% of which were in North Idaho and 64% in South Idaho.

Legislation establishing the CRB program requires that DEQ compile an annual report. The 2010 Crop Residue Burning Program Annual Report can be accessed on DEQ's website and includes an analysis of program performance for calendar year 2010 and recommendations for improvements.

Improvements to the CRB program are continuously being sought. For example, DEQ initiated a negotiated rulemaking process during 2010 to develop a streamlined process for small crop residue burns. This streamlined process reduces administrative requirements for growers and DEQ for these small burns while retaining control measures necessary to ensure air quality protection. During the negotiated rulemaking, it was determined that a change to the statute authorizing the crop residue burning program was needed. Through the Executive Agency Legislative Process, DEQ drafted legislation to address this issue. Subsequently, House Bill 40 was passed, which amended the existing law relating to the open burning of crop residue to provide an exemption to the fee requirement for propane flaming. DEQ also developed a temporary rule which was adopted by the Board of Environmental Quality on April 25, 2011, and submitted the required State Implementation Plan revision to EPA for approval on July 13, 2011. These new rules will be effective once EPA has approved the State Implementation Plan revision, which is expected to occur by January 2013.

Overall, the third year of the program was again considered a success by both agricultural and environmental interests. Recommendations for improvements in program implementation and DEQ processes have been identified in the report and reviewed with the Crop Residue Advisory Committee. Plans to implement these improvements are in place for the 2011 fall burn season.

Treasure Valley Air Quality

The Treasure Valley continues to face challenges relating to compliance with the federal air quality health-based standard for ground-level ozone. Soon, complying with this standard will become even more challenging, as EPA prepares to release a new, more stringent standard. Additionally, the Treasure Valley is expected to continue to grow for the foreseeable future. With this growth, air quality challenges will continue to mount as development, the number of vehicles, and emissions increase.

Efforts are underway to reduce ozone levels throughout the Valley. For example, the legislature enacted a statute in 2008 requiring the Treasure Valley to either implement vehicle emissions testing or develop an alternative plan that would result in an equal reduction of vehicle emissions. To accompany the already existing program in Ada County, a DEQ-administered vehicle emission testing program was implemented in Canyon County and all incorporated cities within Canyon County on June 1, 2010. Since then, the program has seen a 98% compliance

rate from Ada County motorists, and a 96.5% compliance rate from Canyon County motorists. Emission reduction benefits from the enacted legislation are projected to exceed expectations.

Water Quality Division

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements

The DEQ Drinking Water Planning Grant Program provides assistance to eligible public drinking water systems for facility planning projects designed to ensure safe and adequate supplies of drinking water. In FY 2011, DEQ awarded \$253,393 in drinking water planning grants to communities and water districts. In the last quarter of FY2011, a rule change took effect providing the option for communities to forego the cost of environmental impact assessments in their grant funded facility plans. For those communities without immediate plans to seek federal funding assistance, this rule change will result in significant cost savings. This cost saving measure also applies to the DEQ Wastewater Planning Grant Program.

The DEQ Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund provides below-market-rate interest loans to help repair or build new drinking water facilities. The cumulative total of drinking water loans awarded by DEQ in the history of the program through FY2011 is \$174,797,501.

The DEQ Wastewater Planning Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible entities that are planning to upgrade public wastewater facilities. In FY2011, DEQ awarded \$255,201 in wastewater planning grants. The Water Pollution Control State Revolving Loan Fund provides below-market-rate interest loans to help build new or repair existing wastewater treatment facilities. The cumulative total of wastewater loans awarded by DEQ in the history of the program through FY2011 is \$419,610,296.

DEQ enters into funding assistance agreements with the goal of protecting public health and water quality. The city of Driggs in Teton County is a good example of a typical loan. The funding will be used to construct headworks, an ultraviolet disinfection building, and modules, and to install disc filtration equipment and fine screens. Two existing lagoons will be backfilled and additional transmission lines and manholes will be constructed. Additionally, the project will sponsor restoration work to Teton Creek. The favorable loan terms represent about \$7,757,533 in savings to the community when compared to average costs for municipal general obligation debt issuances.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – Drinking Water & Wastewater

By the end of FY2011, DEQ had expended 82.9% of the \$53.7 million it received in ARRA funding, providing many Idaho communities with infrastructure upgrades that would have otherwise placed a very heavy burden on ratepayers.

For example, smaller communities had depended on individual septic systems for decades and the systems were failing. The cost effective long-term solution was to switch to centralized collection and treatment. Communities such as Potlatch and Bliss were able to implement such costly changes in their sewer treatment due to the terms available through ARRA loans. Other small communities (such as the cities of Tensed and Grace) were able to make comparable changes to their aging drinking water systems. The overall impact of these system improvements was a reduction in health risks to the state and an improvement to the state's water quality profile.

Assistance to Public Water Systems

Auto-dialer outcomes: Similar violation types decreased 47% between 2007 and 2010, which we believe can be attributed to a large extent to the use of automated telephone and e-mail to inform and remind water systems of steps they can take in advance of missing deadlines.

Drinking Water Switchboard: Another step taken by the DEQ Drinking Water Program which contributed to increased compliance and associated public health protection was development and active promotion of operator-focused web-based tools centrally located on the Drinking Water Switchboard. New tools added in the last year include Lab Forms (a tool that automatically populates required system specific information into forms necessary for water systems to receive sampling credit) and instructional videos to help in following correct sample collection techniques and protocols.

Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan (LMP)

In 2009, DEQ and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe finalized the Coeur d'Alene LMP and submitted it to EPA under the signatures of Governor Butch Otter and Chairman Chief J. Allen, consistent with the 2002 EPA Superfund Record of Decision for the Coeur d'Alene Basin. EPA has acknowledged and supported the LMP as an effective alternative to a Superfund remedy for the lake, if effectively implemented.

Implementation of the LMP, in collaboration with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, continued in its second year during FY2011 with funding authorized by the Idaho Legislature. DEQ and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are coordinating LMP implementation activities with the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, adjacent counties (Shoshone, Kootenai and Benewah), and other key partners identified in the plan.

With staffing in place, DEQ was able to deploy the full scale science-driven comprehensive management program as described in the LMP. The science emphasis included 1) increasing the number of routine monitoring sites within the lake to eight sites including the addition of four sites in shallow northern bays, 2) beginning a program to survey rooted aquatic vegetation within the bays with emphasis on early detection of Eurasian water milfoil, 3) initiating a joint sampling program with the Tribe to further define nutrient loading sources within the St. Joe and St. Maries river systems, a program identified in the LMP as a three-year nutrient inventory, and 4) developing complex computer models and statistical software to assist the agency with nutrient loading estimates and trend analysis in the watershed.

Additionally, both DEQ and the Tribe are coordinating with Avista on mitigation activities that Avista is required to complete as part of the FERC license for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Complex. Implementation of the LMP education and outreach programs also continued during the 2011 fiscal year. In all, progress toward effectively implementing the LMP continues to be made.

Waste Management and Remediation Division**Brownfield Response Program**

Since its inception in late-2003, the DEQ Brownfield Response Program has been involved in 173 environmental assessments at 98 properties in Idaho. These environmental assessments have removed the environmental barriers to redevelopment from 58 properties. These 58 properties, which consist of 768 acres collectively, are now ready for or engaged in redevelopment and job creation. To date, the DEQ Brownfield Response Program has helped Idaho grant applicants obtain nearly \$15,000,000 in federally funded brownfield assessment and cleanup grants. Implementation of these grants leads to direct and measurable economic development for Idaho communities and protects human health and the environment.

In FY2011, DEQ completed 23 Brownfield assessments and worked with 17 communities to obtain funding and complete further investigation and cleanup, including assisting counties facing involuntary acquisition of contaminated properties through tax foreclosure. These efforts have resulted in the return of six properties encompassing 439 acres to safe and developable condition in 2011.

Former Priest River Landfill

In 2010, Priest Community Forest Connection, owner of the former Priest River Landfill, entered DEQ's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) and was awarded a subgrant for \$400,000 from the Reuse Idaho Brownfields Coalition. This Coalition is comprised of Idaho's six economic development districts and DEQ, via funding from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. The first step was to complete a VCP Workplan for the cleanup design that would restore the landfill site and lend the area to future improvements.

The project was completed in record time. From the time the first machines pulled into the old landfill to completion of the restoration took only five weeks. During that time, Waldo Construction of Post Falls built silt fence, removed the large debris, re-contoured the slope, stockpiled and sorted in-situ topsoil, and built an entrance to the site and a trail to the lower wetlands area. Stone Creek Landscape Design and Development of Priest River installed rail fence and a temporary sprinkler system, laid erosion matting and wattles on the slope, planted native shrubs, and hydro-seeded the entire site. Overall, 11 employees were on the ground, half of whom were from the immediate area. All of the contractors used local accommodations and purchased supplies from

local companies. This quick-paced project inspired teamwork among all those involved and energized the entire community.

Former Emmanuel Methodist Church Brownfield, Hyde Park, Boise

The former Emmanuel Methodist Church in Boise's historic Hyde Park ceased operating as a church in the late 1970s and was sold to a series of private developers. The building was subdivided into two functioning apartments and partially redeveloped into additional, unfinished apartment spaces. It remained that way until 2006 when it was purchased by the non-profit organization, Treasure Valley Institute for Children's Arts (TrICA). However, prior to the 2006 purchase, the former church, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was contaminated with methamphetamine.

DEQ's Brownfield Response Program, acting on a request from TrICA, conducted a series of assessments detailing the full scope of contamination and potential cost for cleanup. TrICA entered into a Voluntary Remediation Agreement with DEQ's VCP and also obtained a combined loan and sub-grant from the Reuse Idaho Brownfields Coalition to cover the cost of remediating the methamphetamine contamination and stabilizing the structure.

The structural stabilization and methamphetamine remediation are now complete. DEQ and TrICA are negotiating an environmental covenant for the site, which will protect human health and the environment by ensuring that the cleanup remedy is maintained. TrICA anticipates moving its operations into the facility in 2012. Once TrICA occupies the former church, it will employ over 10 full-time instructors and staff with the capacity to provide arts education to children throughout the Treasure Valley.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Remediation Program

During the 2010 construction season that spanned parts of fiscal years 2010 and 2011, the Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP) remediated just over three million square feet of contaminated soil. The BPRP removes surficial lead contaminated soil from residential, commercial, and public properties excluding federal land.

Funding has been provided for the 2011 season resulting in another 2.5 million square feet of remediation. The remaining area estimated to be remediated in the basin is 6.5 million square feet. This means that BPRP will largely be completed in the next two to three years depending on funding levels.

Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

DOE continued to remove buried waste from Idaho during FY2011 in accordance with the terms of the *Agreement to Implement U.S. District Court Order dated May 25, 2006*. As of the end of FY2011, DOE had exhumed waste from 2.67 acres of the 5.69 required and has packaged for shipment out of Idaho 5,119 cubic meters of the 7,485 that must be met.

DOE remains ahead of schedule in the 1995 Settlement Agreement to remove stored transuranic waste from Idaho, having shipped out over 44,200 cubic meters.

In January 2011, DEQ, in conjunction with DOE-ID and U.S. EPA Region 10, pursuant to the tri-party Federal Facilities Agreement and Consent Order, completed review and finalization of the *Five-Year Review of CERCLA Response Actions at the Idaho National Laboratory Site--Fiscal Years 2005-2009*. This review found all completed and on-going remedial actions to be operational and functional and protective of human health and the environment. The next five-year review will cover fiscal years 2010-2014.

Emergency Response

Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster Monitoring

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan, caused by an earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, resulted in the largest uncontrolled release of nuclear material since the Chernobyl event of 1986. The release of radioactive material and migration of the resulting plume across the Pacific Ocean to the United States was a significant cause for concern among public officials and the citizens of Idaho. The plume of radioactive gas was first detected in Idaho on March 17 in radiation monitors operated by DEQ's INL Oversight Monitoring Program.

Radioactivity detected in Idaho from the Fukushima event never approached concentrations that were of any health concerns; however, having regular access to real data became critical for making sure this remained the case.

Throughout the Fukushima event, the DEQ Emergency Response and INL Oversight Monitoring Programs worked together to monitor the concentrations of radionuclides in air, water, and milk resulting from the plume, interpret those monitoring results, and provide information to the public. Through its ongoing monitoring of the Idaho National Laboratory, the INL Oversight Program was uniquely prepared to provide monitoring of the event in eastern Idaho. Throughout the crisis, the INL Oversight Program collected samples of air, precipitation, and milk from the region surrounding the INL site and analyzed those samples for radioactivity. In addition, DEQ Emergency Response worked with EPA to set up a "RADNET" radiation monitoring station near Boise within days of the accident to monitor radiation levels on the western side of the state and to supplement the EPA monitoring stations in Spokane and Idaho Falls. Drinking water samples were also tested from areas throughout the state. This availability of data collected across Idaho was instrumental in our ability to assure the public that the increased radioactivity resulting from Fukushima accident was not a health concern to Idaho's citizens.

Part II – Performance Measures

Since FY2008, DEQ has been using the same eight benchmark performance measures to track and report annual progress in meeting the overall agency goal of protecting human health and the environment. Each performance measure is defined below and includes a description of refinements that have been made to improve consistency and relevance of the measure.

Air Quality Index "Good" or "Moderate" 98% of days. The Air Quality Index is a tool to help citizens understand the severity of air pollution and potential health implications so they can take steps to protect their health and reduce their contribution to air pollution. The index is calculated using actual monitoring data compared to health-based standards. It is reported daily in selected cities on a scale of increasing pollution and health concerns, according to the following six categories: good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy, very unhealthy, and hazardous.

Permits to construct issued, on average, in 99 days. DEQ recognizes the importance of issuing timely permits to construct so facilities that require permits can plan and make strategic business decisions. State statute requires permits to construct to be issued within 120 days. DEQ streamlined its permitting process in 2007 and tracks the amount of time it takes to issue a permit to construct on a two-year, monthly rolling average. DEQ can now issue a permit to construct, on average, in 99 days and reports annually the actual two-year rolling average number of days to issue these permits.

Hazardous waste permits and reviews. Permits and reviews associated with hazardous wastes are completed annually according to established schedules. Timeframes are established from a variety of sources, including federal regulations, project schedules, construction seasons, and company requests.

Brownfields site assessments. A Brownfields site is a vacant or underutilized property where redevelopment or reuse is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination. Site assessments are completed to provide environmental information that is necessary for proceeding with redevelopment or reuse. This information is used to guide site cleanup to minimize public health risks and bolster the community's economic vitality.

Monitoring of Idaho National Laboratory conditions. Continuous air quality monitors and real-time radiation monitors on and around the Idaho National Laboratory track environmental conditions and must be operational 97% or more of the time.

TMDLs. DEQ is required to complete total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), or water quality improvement plans, for water bodies that are not meeting water quality standards or supporting beneficial uses. TMDLs

are completed for streams/rivers based on the number of assessment units they contain and the number of individual pollutants that are impairing water quality. Idaho’s streams and rivers have been categorized into 5,200 assessment units based on Hydrologic Catalog Units (watersheds) and stream order. These units encompass approximately 92,000 miles of streams and rivers. As an example, if a stream is made up of 3 assessment units and 4 pollutants are identified as impairing water quality in each of them, there would be 12 assessment unit/pollutant combination TMDLs to complete for that stream.

Reviews of drinking water and wastewater engineering plans and specifications. In 2005, the legislature established a 42-day timeframe for DEQ to review and act on engineering plans and specifications. This establishes a reasonable window to complete thorough evaluations while at the same time being responsive to business planning needs.

Regulating community water systems to provide safe drinking water. The total population of Idaho is 1,567,582. Idaho has 746 community water systems, serving a total of 1,100,426 people. Rigorous monitoring requirements for community water systems must be met to ensure safe drinking water is provided and public health is protected.

DEQ’s annual performance on these eight benchmark performance measures is shown in the table below. Targets for 2012 are also shown.

Performance Measures	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	Benchmarks 2012
1) Percentage of days that the Air Quality Index is in the “good” or “moderate” category.	A: 99.5% B: 95%	A: 99.7 % B: 98%	A: 99.6% B: 98%	A. 99.4% B: 98%	98%
2) Number of days, on a two-year rolling average, to issue a permit to construct.	A. 88% B: 80%	A: 113 days B. 99 days	A: 133 days B: 99 days	A. 76 days B: 99 days	99 days
3) Percentage of hazardous waste permits and/or reviews completed within established timeframes.	A: 100% B: 100%	A: 100% B: 100%	A: 100% B: 100%	A. 100% B: 100%	100%
4) Number of brownfields site assessments completed.	A: 20 B: 17	A. 18 B. 17	A: 17 B: 10	A. 23 B: 8	12
5) Percentage of time that continuous air monitoring stations and real-time radiation monitoring stations are operational to monitor INL conditions.	A: 98.5% B: 97%	A. 98% B. 97%	A: 100% B: 97%	A. 100% B: 97%	97%
6) Number of TMDLs completed for assessment unit/pollutant combinations.	A: 230 B: 660	A: 119 B: 342	A: 88 B: 283	A. 84 B: 243	230
7) Percentage of drinking water and wastewater plan and specification reviews completed within 42 days of receipt.	A: 88.7% B: 85%	A: 93% B: 100%	A: 95.9% B: 100%	A. 97.7% B: 100%	100%
8) Percentage of person months that people on Community Water Systems were served drinking water that meets health-based standards.	A: 88.2% B: 92%	A: 93.5% B: 90%	A: 95.7% B: 90%	A. 94.5% B: 90%	90%

A = Actual Performance

B = Benchmark Performance (Target)

Performance Analysis

Looking back over the last four years, actual agency performance has met or exceeded established benchmarks for the majority of our measures. Some benchmark measures (targets) have been increased from year-to-year where process improvements and changes in resource allocations have produced efficiencies and increased the agency's capability to commit to a higher level of performance.

Some benchmarks were significantly exceeded. For example, the average amount of time it takes to issue a permit to construct (PTC) decreased dramatically between FY2010 and FY2011. This number is calculated using a two-year, monthly rolling average. The decrease was primarily due to a large number of general PTCs issued for automotive coating facilities. The agency devoted a considerable amount of resources to processing these permits. Similarly, the number of Brownfield site assessments completed in FY2011 significantly exceeded the target benchmark. This occurred because of a threefold increase in assessment requests from communities throughout Idaho, and because DEQ was able to effectively maximize resources and better focus on completing assessments in FY2011.

Areas where performance has not met benchmarks from year-to-year or targets have been lowered are a result of several factors. For example, the benchmark for TMDLs completed only reflects actual TMDLs completed and submitted to EPA and does not reflect the analysis of listed streams that are ultimately found to be meeting the water quality standards and thus do not need a TMDL developed. The technical and political complexity of many remaining TMDLs dictates taking a slower, more measured approach as well as requires more time for Watershed Advisory Group involvement and review. Reduced monitoring data and reduced resources have also caused some delay. Staff resources have also been shifted to work on five-year TMDL reviews and the bi-annual Integrated Report.

The percentage of people receiving safe drinking water increased in 2009 due to a number of factors. The major component of the improvement in this measure was due to correction of a 2008 data error. A smaller component of this increase was a change in the way that some of the data points are calculated. The new calculation method is based on the duration of the exposure to contaminants and more accurately reflects the quality of drinking water served. Though performance decreased slightly between FY2010 and 2011, it is still significantly above the target benchmark.

The above benchmark performance measures will continue to be representative of the agency's progress toward achieving the overall goal of protecting human health and the environment in 2012. Like all state agencies, DEQ has refined its focus for 2012 due to the continued economic challenges of the times. While some programs and functions have been reduced or eliminated, the agency can continue to fulfill its mandates and deliver core services as reflected in these benchmark performance measures.

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