

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 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 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 Rules may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the Board.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 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.
- Remediation entails removing or neutralizing contaminants in soil and surface waters. Compliance may be voluntary or, if necessary, enforcement action may be 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.

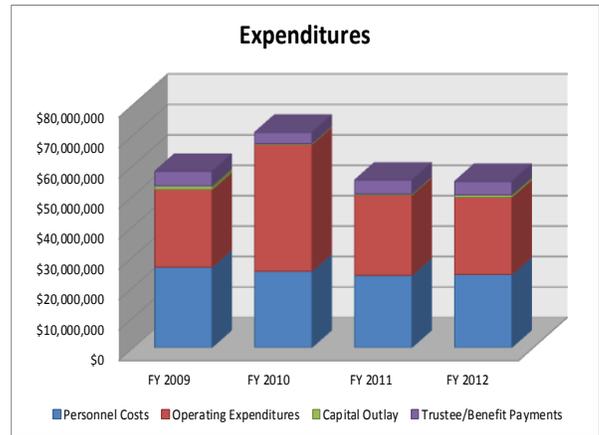
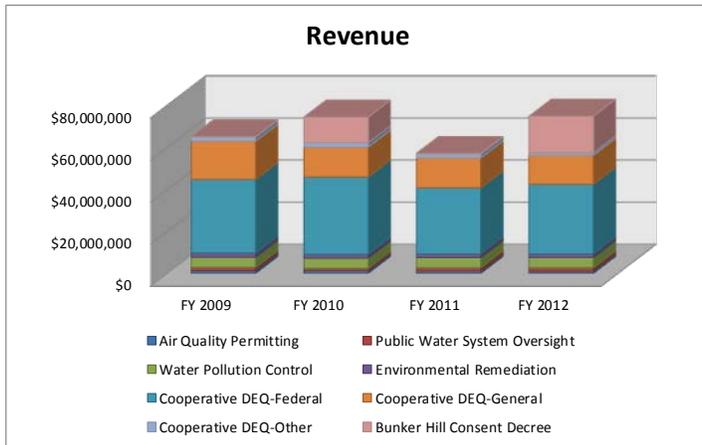
Core Functions/Idaho Code

DEQ's core functions and regulatory authorities are summarized below, followed by a table detailing the department's revenues and expenditures for the past four fiscal years (FY).

- **Air Quality:** DEQ ensures 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 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code; 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 water quality standards, certifying project compliance with standards, monitoring, reporting on water 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; 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 a safe and developable condition (Title 39, Chapters 1, 44, 58, 65, 71, 74, 81, Idaho Code; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; 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 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Air Quality Permitting	\$1,339,572	\$1,267,125	\$1,119,172	\$1,098,133
Public Water System Oversight	\$1,581,431	\$1,221,790	\$1,627,995	\$1,631,539
Water Pollution Control	\$4,845,733	\$4,833,508	\$4,823,076	\$4,819,577
Environmental Remediation	\$1,937,976	\$1,821,208	\$1,801,509	\$1,783,296
Cooperative DEQ-Federal	\$35,123,091	\$36,776,375	\$31,406,828	\$33,179,790
Cooperative DEQ-General	\$18,178,700	\$14,263,800	\$14,278,100	\$13,799,400
Cooperative DEQ-Other	\$1,936,115	\$2,041,727	\$1,889,651	\$1,181,092
Bunker Hill Consent Decree	\$191,267	\$12,223,468	\$248,155	\$17,381,077
Total	\$65,133,885	\$74,449,001	\$57,194,486	\$74,873,904
Expenditures	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personnel Costs	\$26,495,600	\$25,173,400	\$23,793,600	\$24,055,400
Operating Expenditures	\$25,509,600	\$41,676,300	\$26,420,200	\$25,412,400
Capital Outlay	\$1,166,300	\$240,800	\$253,900	\$748,100
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$4,803,300	\$3,695,000	\$4,621,300	\$4,427,600
Total	\$57,974,800	\$70,785,500	\$55,089,000	\$54,643,500



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 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Air Quality Division				
Air Quality Permits to Construct Issued	52	69	161	66
Air Quality Tier I (Title V) Permits Issued	23	17	21	16
Air Quality Tier II Permits Issued	19	8	6	3
Air Inspections and Evaluations Conducted	143	145	138	161
Water Quality Division				
Wastewater Grant Money Awarded	161,405	106,885	255,201	590,461
Drinking Water Grant Money Awarded	187,580	96,950	253,393	413,398
401/404 Water Quality Certifications Issued	311	170	166	81
Wastewater Reuse Permits Issued	30	33	15	21
Total Wastewater and Drinking Water Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	1191	711	934	369
Nutrient Pathogen Studies Reviewed	22	2	2	7
Source Water Assessments Completed	41	59	52	55
Drinking Water Sanitary Surveys Completed	377	384	369	381
Active Nonpoint Source Projects Administered (previous calendar year)	70	61	68	66
Nonpoint Source Projects Completed (previous calendar year)	20	27	15	12
Waste and Remediation Division				
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanups Completed	23	28	16	20
Underground Storage Tank Training and Inspections Completed	468	385	436	402
Hazardous Waste Inspections Conducted (regulatory and compliance assistance)	282	274	181	145
Inactive Phosphate Mine Sites Undergoing Investigation/Cleanup with DEQ Involvement	24	24	23	15
Snake River Plain Environmental Samples Analyzed (for INL)	1,772	2,730	4,909	4,570

Performance Highlights

Air Quality Division

Crop Residue Burning (CRB)

DEQ just finished its fourth 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 diligently and successfully adhering to all of these principles.

Growers looking 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 fourth year of the CRB program saw further increases in burning in southern Idaho. A low incidence of wildfires in 2011 minimized the compounding impacts of smoke from crop residue burning, which resulted in another successful year. Similar to 2010, a total of 65,362 acres of agricultural crop residue was burned statewide in 2011, 38% of which was in northern Idaho and 62% in southern Idaho. In 2011, most areas of the state saw similar burn numbers to those of the previous year but with substantial increases in the Magic Valley area. Overall, the fourth year of the CRB program was again deemed a success for both agricultural and environmental interests.

Treasure Valley Air Quality

The Treasure Valley continues to face compliance challenges with the federal air quality health-based standard for ground-level ozone. Soon, meeting acceptable levels will become even more challenging as EPA prepares to release a new, more stringent standard. Additionally, the Treasure Valley is a growing metropolis and expansion is expected to continue. With this growth, air quality challenges will continue to mount with increased development, vehicle numbers, and emissions.

Efforts are underway to reduce ozone levels throughout the valley. For example, the legislature enacted a statute in 2008 requiring the Treasure Valley, primarily consisting of Ada and Canyon Counties, 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 the City of Kuna 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. Additionally, estimated emission reduction benefits from the enacted legislation have exceeded expectations thus far.

Diesel Program

The Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERP) has been operating for several years under various federal grants. The goal of Idaho's DERP is to improve air quality in problem airsheds with an emphasis on safeguarding children's health by reducing diesel emissions from school buses.

DERP utilized Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding to cleanup school district and private bus fleet emissions across Idaho. DERP also targeted privately owned refuse haulers in the Treasure Valley. To date, a total of 1,568 emission reduction technologies (closed crankcase ventilation [CCV] systems, diesel oxidation catalysts [DOC], and anti-idling heaters) have been installed and verified by the DERP.

In 2011, DERP closed out three federally funded DERA grants that funded the installation of a total 1,073 emission reduction technologies (327 CCV units, 389 DOC devices, and 357 anti-idling heaters). In addition to funding these installations, DERP provided financial assistance to local school districts in replacing 34 legacy

buses across Idaho. Under the DERA State Clean Diesel Program, the DERP has a four-phase grant that will provide funding through September 2012. A total of 260 emission reduction technologies (79 CCV, 93 DOC, and 88 anti-idling heaters) have been installed thus far and an additional 125 technologies are slated for installation by the close of the grant. The DERP also closed out two CMAQ grants, which funded installation of 235 emission reduction technologies (82 CCV units and 153 DOC devices) in 2011.

The lifetime emission reductions for the DERP are estimated at 408.88 tons of nitrogen oxides; 34.12 tons of particulate matter; 70.70 tons of hydrocarbons; 295.55 tons of carbon monoxide; and 11,016.24 tons of carbon dioxide.

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 fiscal year (FY) 2012, DEQ awarded \$413,398 in drinking water planning grants to communities and water districts. Additional funds were made available to the planning grant programs (both drinking water and wastewater), resulting in higher-than-normal total awards.

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 amount of drinking water loans awarded by DEQ in the history of the program through FY2012 is \$185.8 million.

The DEQ Wastewater Planning Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible entities planning to upgrade public wastewater facilities. In FY2012, DEQ awarded \$590,461 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 amount of wastewater loans awarded by DEQ in the history of the program through FY2012 is \$441.3 million.

DEQ enters into funding assistance agreements with the goal of protecting public health and water quality. The City of Salmon in Lemhi County is a good example of a typical loan. The project involves construction of a new headworks and treatment facility as well as repairs to the collection system. The favorable loan terms represent about \$2.1 million in savings to the community when compared to average costs for municipal general obligation debt issuances.

Assistance to Public Water Systems

Two new tools were added to the Public Water System Switchboard this year: (1) a comprehensive training calendar for drinking water operators, wastewater operators, and backflow testers; and (2) a drinking water blog to replace the function of the drinking water newsletter. Additionally, DEQ began offering free training as "continuing education units" for small system drinking water operators who actively participated in sanitary survey inspections.

Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program Monitoring

DEQ is responsible for protecting Idaho's surface water quality and does so by monitoring and assessing the quality of the state's rivers, streams, and lakes. This information is used to complete the biennial integrated report submitted to EPA as required by section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. The information is then used to make decisions regarding water quality management. DEQ's Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) uses seasonal three-person crews stationed at the State Office and at each of the six regional offices throughout the state to collect biological samples, temperature data, and habitat data. Following a 2-year hiatus due to budget cuts, the governor requested—and JFAC agreed—to reinstate the program in the current year with ongoing funding from the Water Pollution Control Fund.

Waste Management and Remediation Division

Brownfields Response Program

Since its inception in late-2003, the DEQ Brownfields Response Program has been involved in 201 environmental assessments at 117 properties in Idaho. These environmental assessments have removed environmental barriers to redevelopment from 65 properties, consisting of 802 collective acres, that are now engaged in or awaiting redevelopment. To date, the DEQ Brownfields Response Program has helped Idaho grant applicants obtain nearly \$16 million 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 FY2012, DEQ completed 26 brownfield assessments and worked with 18 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 eight properties encompassing 37 acres to safe and developable condition in 2012.

Former Goodman Oil Bulk Distribution Facility, Boise

In 2011, DEQ's Brownfields Response Program conducted a series of assessments at the former Goodman Oil bulk fuel distribution facility at Fletcher and Fairview Streets in Boise, adjacent to the Boise River and greenbelt. This property was originally used for open dumping of municipal wastes from the 1850s until the 1920s before it was developed as a bulk petroleum and fleet maintenance facility in 1927. Bulk petroleum distribution operations were shut down by Goodman Oil in 2000. Storage tanks with a combined capacity of around 100,000 gallons were removed from the property leaving one 100,000-gallon capacity above ground storage tank and a series of buildings including a shop, warehouse, office, and the original 1927 homestead.

The Brownfields Response Program contracted with two private consultants to conduct a series of environmental assessments at the former Goodman Oil property. These assessments focused on assessing the environmental condition of site soils and ground water as the potential for intrusion of soil vapor into current or future structures. After receiving the laboratory results from the assessments, a risk evaluation was conducted to determine whether or not contaminants present at the site would be a risk to human health and the environment. It was determined that lead concentrations in soil from the deterioration of paint on structures, as well as contaminants from portions of the site formerly used as a dump, constituted an unacceptable risk to human health.

Relying on the DEQ-funded environmental assessments, a new owner purchased the property and applied to DEQ's Voluntary Cleanup Program in order to conduct cleanup activities and remove environmental barriers to redevelopment. The new owner is currently removing the blighted structures from the property and is developing a voluntary remediation workplan, which will likely be implemented in fall 2012. After cleanup is complete, this key piece of property adjacent to the Boise River, I-84 Connector, and the intersection of 30th and Fairview Streets will be ready for redevelopment.

Proposed Drinking Water Well at Former Lumber Mill, Fairfield

The City of Fairfield is attempting to develop additional drinking water and fire suppression capacity for its residents. The city was recently gifted a parcel of property that operated as a lumber mill from approximately 1969 until 1982. At the request of the City of Fairfield and in coordination with DEQ's Drinking Water Program, the Brownfields Response Program conducted an environmental assessment of the former mill site that focused on soil and ground water quality. The results of the assessment indicated that the property could be acceptable for the development of a drinking water well and water storage facility.

Drinking water staff in DEQ's Twin Falls Regional Office have conditionally approved development of a drinking water well on the former mill site. The City of Fairfield is now working with the Region IV Development Association to obtain funding for the well and storage facility construction through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Economic Development Administration. Once the project complies with several additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and obtains the CDBG grant, well construction can begin. Assuming the water extracted by the well meets drinking water standards, the well and storage area should receive approval to be incorporated into Fairfield's existing public drinking water system, which is currently in need of this additional capacity and storage both for drinking water and fire suppression.

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

On February 28, 2012, DEQ's UST Program was granted state program approval (SPA) by EPA. SPA allows the state to operate the UST Program in lieu of EPA. The UST Program regulates about 1,200 UST systems through inspections and enforcements and provides operator training and public outreach.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Remediation Program

During the 2011 construction season that spanned parts of FY2011 and 2012, the Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP) remediated 2.8 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 2012 season with the expectation of remediating another 3 million square feet. The remaining area in need of remediation under the BPRP is estimated at 5–7 million square feet, depending upon sampling results. Many of these properties have owners DEQ has been unable to contact or who have refused to participate in the remediation program. The 2013 season will likely see a reduction in total area remediated and each subsequent year is anticipated to see tapering numbers as property owners are finally contacted or ultimately decide not to allow remediation of their property.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program

During summer 2011 and after years of negotiations, a consent decree was finalized with Hecla Mining Company to resolve claims stemming from releases of wastes from its mining operations. Settlement funds were specified for remediation activities and for restoration of natural resources that were damaged by the release of hazardous substances at the Bunker Hill Superfund site. Following the consent decree, the State of Idaho, represented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Idaho DEQ, became involved with the Trustee Council for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) program, which already included the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the US Department of the Interior, and the US Department of Agriculture. The Trustee Council has the responsibility of developing a comprehensive restoration plan to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of damaged natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The comprehensive plan will provide the framework for using settlement funds from Hecla and other settlement agreements for all restoration purposes.

To assist the Trustee Council with developing the comprehensive plan, the responsible agencies developed a team of experienced technical staff contributing unique skills and abilities. DEQ and IDFG each assigned half of the hours of a full-time employee (FTE) to the team from their Coeur d'Alene regional offices. By June 2012, the technical team became fully functional and will continue to work on developing the comprehensive plan to include an outreach component and a public involvement process. It is estimated that development of the complex plan will take up to 3 years to finalize. The technical team is also coordinating with EPA on its remediation efforts in the upper Coeur d'Alene Basin to ensure remediation and restoration activities are harmonized. An interim restoration plan was approved in 2007 allowing limited, preliminary restoration work to occur while the final plan is completed.

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 the relevance of the measure.

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 2-year, monthly rolling average. DEQ can now issue a permit to construct, on average, in 99 days and reports annually the actual 2-year rolling average number of days to issue these permits.

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.

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

Brownfield site assessments. A brownfield 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 INL conditions. Continuous air quality monitors and real-time radiation monitors on and around the INL track environmental conditions and must be operational at least 97% 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 water bodies based on the number of assessment units they contain and the number of individual pollutants that are impairing water quality. Idaho water bodies have been categorized into 5,746 assessment units based on hydrologic catalog units (subbasins) and stream order. These units encompass approximately 96,400 miles of streams and rivers and 475,457 acres of lakes and reservoirs. 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 time frame 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 1,584,985. Idaho has 741 community water systems serving a total of 1,194,352 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 2013 are also shown.

Performance Measures	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Benchmarks 2013
1) Number of days, on a 2-year rolling average, to issue a permit to construct.	A: 113 days B: 99 days	A: 133 days B: 99 days	A: 76 days B: 99 days	A: 65 days B: 99 days	99 days
2) Percentage of days that the Air Quality Index is in the "good" or "moderate" category.	A: 99.7% B: 98%	A: 99.6% B: 98%	A: 99.4% B: 98%	A: 99.5% B: 98%	98%
3) Percentage of hazardous waste permits and/or reviews completed within established time frames.	A: 100% B: 100%	A: 100% B: 100%	A: 100% B: 100%	A: 100% B: 100%	100%
4) Number of Brownfield site assessments completed.	A: 18 B: 17	A: 17 B: 10	A: 23 B: 8	A: 26 B: 12	10
5) Percentage of time that continuous air monitoring stations and real-time radiation monitoring stations are operational to monitor INL conditions.	A: 98% B: 97%	A: 100% B: 97%	A: 100% B: 97%	A: 99% B: 97%	97%
6) Number of TMDLs completed for assessment unit/pollutant combinations.	A: 119 B: 342	A: 88 B: 283	A: 84 B: 243	A: 264 B: 230	290
7) Percentage of drinking water and wastewater plan and specification reviews completed within 42 days of receipt.	A: 93% B: 100%	A: 95.9% B: 100%	A: 97.7% B: 100%	A: 98% B: 100%	100%
8) Percentage of people on community water systems served by drinking water that meets health-based standards.	A: 93.5% B: 90%	A: 95.7% B: 90%	A: 94.5% B: 90%	A: 95% B: 90%	90%

Note: A = Actual Performance

B = Benchmark Performance (Target)

Performance Analysis

Over the past four fiscal years, DEQ has met or exceeded a majority of the established performance measure benchmarks. Recent focus has been to improve processes and alter resource allocations allowing the agency greater efficiencies and an increased ability to deliver services. These shifts are distinctly reflected in the actual performance reported for FY2012.

The drinking water and wastewater plan and specification review performance measure was the only performance measure not meeting or exceeding its set benchmark for FY2012. In this instance, DEQ sets a target of 100% of reviews completed in the 42-day timeline every year. And, although the agency has yet to complete 100% of reviews on time, the number is edging closer. This trend is primarily due to the decreased number of projects being submitted as economic lulls have curbed community expansion and development. In turn, DEQ has focused more resources on projects received and cut down on the time required to process plan and specification reviews. When the economy recovers and the number of projects increases, DEQ still intends to aim for 100% of review completions within 42 days of receipt.

Notably, several performance measure benchmarks were surpassed significantly in FY2012. For example, the average amount of time needed to issue a permit to construct (PTC) decreased dramatically from FY2010 to FY2011, and again in FY2012. This number is calculated using a 2-year, monthly rolling average. The decrease was primarily due to a large number of general PTCs issued for automotive coating facilities. The agency devoted considerable resources to processing these permits. Similarly, the number of brownfield site assessments completed in FY2012 significantly exceeded the target benchmark. This occurred as a result 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 and FY2012.

DEQ's TMDL program illustrates another measure far exceeding its FY2012 benchmark. An intensive process restructuring effort was implemented to improve the program's efficiency and decrease the time and expense associated with developing, writing, and submitting TMDLs. The effort identified and corrected areas of redundancy within the agency and improved communication and process flow. The restructuring more than tripled the number of TMDLs processed from FY2011 to FY2012 and is predicted to allow for further increases in 2013.

The FY2013 performance measure benchmarks listed above will continue to be representative of DEQ's progress toward achieving the overall goal of protecting human health and the environment. That being said, as a result of DEQ's zero-base budgeting initiative, it is our intention to reevaluate all of the agency's performance measures over the next year to make certain they accurately reflect our performance. Like all state agencies, DEQ has refined its focus for FY2013 due to continued economic challenges and lower funding levels. 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 the performance measure targets scheduled for FY2013.

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