

## ***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, 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, 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 charged with making 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 assistance from 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 Rules may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the Board.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.

To protect human health and the environment, DEQ's primary activities include 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 to restrict discharges to safe levels.
- Inspections of pollution sources are conducted and complaints are investigated to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards. When necessary, enforcement action is taken.
- Remediation is conducted to remove or neutralize contaminants in soil and surface waters. Compliance with remedial activities may be voluntary or, if necessary, enforcement action is taken.
- Oversight is maintained for a variety of projects including environmental cleanups, pollution reduction efforts, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Technical support, outreach, and education are offered 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 mission.

DEQ's headquarters in Boise is organized into five divisions focused on developing and administering programs and policies, providing technical support to the divisions and regions, and providing agency-wide administrative support. These 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 more locally by six regional offices located in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls. DEQ also maintains smaller satellite offices in Kellogg and Grangeville. 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	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Air Quality Permitting	\$1,267,125	\$1,119,172	\$1,098,133	\$792,672
Public Water System Oversight	\$1,221,790	\$1,627,995	\$1,631,539	\$1,578,148
Water Pollution Control	\$4,833,508	\$4,823,076	\$4,819,577	\$4,805,124
Environmental Remediation	\$1,821,208	\$1,801,509	\$1,783,296	\$1,696,245
Cooperative DEQ-Federal	\$36,776,375	\$31,406,828	\$33,179,790	\$34,601,836
Cooperative DEQ-General	\$14,263,800	\$14,278,100	\$13,799,400	\$14,276,200
Cooperative DEQ-Other	\$2,041,727	\$1,889,651	\$1,181,092	\$1,497,662
Bunker Hill Consent Decree	\$12,223,468	\$248,155	\$17,381,077	\$143,441
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74,449,001</b>	<b>\$57,194,486</b>	<b>\$74,873,904</b>	<b>\$59,391,328</b>
Expenditures	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Personnel Costs	\$25,173,400	\$23,793,600	\$24,055,400	\$25,159,800
Operating Expenditures	\$41,676,300	\$26,420,200	\$25,412,400	\$25,448,000
Capital Outlay	\$240,800	\$253,900	\$748,100	\$361,100
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$3,695,000	\$4,621,300	\$4,427,600	\$3,559,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,785,500</b>	<b>\$55,089,000</b>	<b>\$54,643,500</b>	<b>\$54,528,200</b>

## 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	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
<b>Air Quality Division</b>				
Air Quality Permits to Construct Issued	69	161	66	49
Air Quality Tier I (Title V) Permits Issued	17	21	16	12
Air Quality Tier II Permits Issued	8	6	3	2
Air Inspections and Evaluations Conducted	145	138	161	136
<b>Water Quality Division</b>				
Wastewater Grant Money Awarded	106,885	255,201	590,461	249,269
Drinking Water Grant Money Awarded	96,950	253,393	413,398	245,727
401/404 Water Quality Certifications Issued	170	166	81	69
Wastewater Reuse Permits Issued	33	15	21	17
Total Wastewater and Drinking Water Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	711	934	369	489
Nutrient Pathogen Studies Reviewed	2	2	7	0
Source Water Assessments Completed	59	52	55	92
Drinking Water Sanitary Surveys Completed	384	369	381	356
Active Nonpoint Source Projects Administered (previous calendar year)	61	68	66	75
Nonpoint Source Projects Completed (previous calendar year)	27	15	12	18
<b>Waste and Remediation Division</b>				
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanups Completed	28	16	20	15
Underground Storage Tank Training and Inspections Completed	385	436	402	344
Hazardous Waste Inspections Conducted (regulatory and compliance assistance)	274	181	145	119
Inactive Phosphate Mine Sites Undergoing Investigation/Cleanup with DEQ Involvement	24	23	15	27
Snake River Plain Environmental Samples Analyzed (for INL)	2,730	4,909	4,570	4,290

## Performance Highlights

### Air Quality Division

#### **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 1,752 emission reduction technologies (closed crankcase ventilation [CCV] systems, diesel oxidation catalysts [DOC], and anti-idling heaters) have been installed and verified by DERP. Additionally, DERP provided financial assistance to local school districts to replace 34 legacy buses across Idaho.

In FY2013, DERP closed out a four-phase DERA State Clean Diesel Program grant which funded a total of 414 emission reduction technologies (115 CCVs, 122 DOCs, and 177 anti-idling heaters). DERP also completed installation of emission reduction technologies on 10 buses (each bus received a CCV, DOC, and an anti-idling heater) with funding from the DERA National Clean Diesel Campaign awarded in FY2012. Work on this grant was completed during FY2013 and will be closed out in the coming months. DERP has received additional funding from DERA's State Clean Diesel Program and National Clean Diesel Campaign to complete more installations in FY2014 but upon completion of these activities, DERP will discontinue efforts as federal funding has diminished.

The lifetime emission reductions for DERP in Idaho are estimated at 436.7 tons of nitrogen oxides; 40.7 tons of particulate matter; 92.7 tons of hydrocarbons; 388.4 tons of carbon monoxide; and 11,844.2 tons of carbon dioxide.

### **Smoke Management Program**

The smoke management program includes all types of open burning from weed control to prescribed burning in forests to responding to smoke from wildfires. The principles of the smoke management program are to (1) protect human health, especially among sensitive populations; (2) maintain burning as a tool; (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 primary focus of the smoke management program during FY2013 was response to smoke impacts resulting from wildfires during a particularly severe fire season. All areas of the state were impacted by smoke from fires in Idaho as well as fires in California, Oregon, and Washington. DEQ led daily conference calls to assist in agency coordination and deployed 5 emergency monitors throughout the state to better forecast and report air quality conditions to the public.

During the 2012 wildfire season, the City of Salmon was one of the worst hit areas in the state. DEQ was assigned by the Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) to assist the Salmon School District with indoor air quality issues. Though outside routine activities, DEQ purchased 43 HEPA filters for the district which helped improve air quality inside the schools for students and staff.

### **Airshed Management**

DEQ manages air quality by controlling air pollution in various airsheds throughout Idaho to ensure health-based standards known as National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are met. An airshed is typically confined to a specific and definable geographic area.

In geographic areas designated "non-attainment areas" by EPA, DEQ is responsible for developing State Implementation Plans (SIP) for controlling pollution to meet NAAQS. In 2012, DEQ developed and submitted a final PM10 (particulate of 10 microns or smaller) Maintenance Plan for Northern Ada County and was successful in getting the Sandpoint area re-designated as an "attainment area."

In 2011, the Cache Valley airshed which includes parts of Utah and Southeastern Idaho was designated "non-attainment" for PM2.5 (particulate of 2.5 microns or smaller). During FY2013, DEQ worked in conjunction with Utah DEQ and EPA Regions 8 and 10 in the development and submission of the first non-attainment SIP for the area. This plan is awaiting EPA approval.

Recently, EPA lowered the PM2.5 annual standard to 12 micrograms per cubic meter from 15 micrograms per cubic meter. DEQ's monitoring data suggests that under this new standard, areas with valley type topography such as Pinehurst and Salmon will struggle during times of air quality stagnations. Therefore, DEQ will be initiating an airshed type approach and working with communities to identify and develop control measures capable of keeping the area in attainment. If effective, SIP planning and processes may be avoided in the future.

## Water Quality Division

### **Assistance to Public Water Systems**

During FY2013, DEQ received very positive feedback and results from the Drinking Water Switchboard and new automated monitoring reminders. The Drinking Water Switchboard has served to benefit the regulated community as a compliance assistance tool with comprehensive monitoring and operator training calendars, news updates, and other resources. Automated email and voicemail monitoring reminders implemented as compliance assistance tools have also been well received by public water system owners. These proactive reminders, which are completed with minimal agency resources, assist water systems with protecting customers' health and in maintaining compliance with regulatory standards.

### **Hamilton Oil Field Ground Water Monitoring**

During FY2013, DEQ completed 442 ground water sampling events across the state which will be documented in the "2012 Ground Water Quality Monitoring Projects Summary Report." Public concern surrounding potential ground water quality degradation due to natural gas extraction prompted DEQ to collect and analyze ground water samples from private wells surrounding six natural gas wells near New Plymouth in November 2012. Additional ground water sampling is proposed for fall 2013 and spring 2014 to establish baseline ground water quality prior to natural gas production. DEQ is also considering participation in a United States Geological Survey led proposal to investigate the ground water quality and geochemistry of aquifers overlying natural gas fields in southwestern Idaho.

### **State Revolving Fund Refinancing**

DEQ received \$79 million in State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan repayments from refinanced loan dollars in December of 2012. The refinancings were conducted by the Idaho Municipal Bond Bank allowing SRF borrowers (typically Idaho cities) to take advantage of historically low interest rates. Borrowers were then able to pay-off DEQ loans carrying 3% to 4% interest rates with monies received from the Bond Bank carrying interest rates of less than 2%. This joint effort between the two state entities saved SRF borrowers significant amounts of money by reducing their annual debt repayments and interest accrual. Additionally, loan repayments allowed DEQ to reallocate funds through new SRF loans across Idaho.

## Waste Management and Remediation Division

### **Facility Mapper**

In 2012, DEQ's Response Program contracted with Terradex, Inc. to assist in developing an interactive web-based map to illustrate the locations of and provide information on facilities throughout the state which have had some involvement with one or more programs within the Waste Management and Remediation Division. These programs include Underground Storage Tank (UST), Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST), RCRA, Solid Waste, Brownfields, Voluntary Cleanup, Superfund, Mining, Formerly Used Defense Sites, Installation Restoration, and General Remediation Sites. The primary goal of the Mapper is to provide the public a simple, clean, and easy to view and navigate interface for exploring waste facilities around the state. The information provided on the map is obtained from data and documents contained in DEQ's electronic document management system and updated at quarterly intervals. The Mapper currently plots around 8,400 facilities statewide and is searchable by location or keywords. It is available on DEQ's website at <http://wastesites.deq.idaho.gov/>. The Waste Management and Remediation Division has plans for further improvements to the Mapper as well including greater search capabilities, the ability to print lists of sites, and links to additional, more detailed UST/LUST databases and information for facilities with environmental covenants or properties with limits on allowable uses or activities.

### **Bayhorse Historical Park, Skylark-Ramshorn, Challis**

In early 2013, DEQ's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) provided a Certificate of Completion and Covenant Not to Sue to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). This certificate acknowledges completion of cleanup activities at the Skylark-Ramshorn mine areas of the Bayhorse Historical Park near Challis. IDPR purchased the Bayhorse property in 2008 intending to cleanup selected areas of significance associated with historical mining activities and develop a park as part the Land of the Yankee Fork recreation area. The DEQ Brownfields Program had previously assisted IDPR in assessing the degree of contamination, performing risk

evaluations and evaluating the need for cleanup at various portions of the Bayhorse property. The program also assisted IDPR in developing two cleanup grant applications seeking EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant money. The applications were successful and as a provision of the grant money awarded, EPA required IDPR to enter into DEQ's VCP which would provide robust oversight for cleanup processes.

Under the VCP, DEQ first worked with IDPR to cleanup and remediate the Bayhorse Townsite-Beardsley-Pacific. The Skylark-Ramshorn area cleanup occurred next during the summer of 2012. Portions of walking and ATV trails leading to significant site features such as the high elevation Skylark bunkhouse and tram were remediated by capping to seal-off soils contaminated with metals from mining activities. In addition, IDPR and DEQ coordinated with EPA and USFS to conduct a removal action on a tailings pile in the Ramshorn area which was spilling over onto IDPR property. The tailings pile contained high levels of metals and intruded onto a main USFS road used to access recreation areas further up Bayhorse Creek as well as the Skylark portion of the IDPR park. Metals were also leaching into Bayhorse Creek itself but the removal action re-contoured and capped the tailings to prevent exposure and minimize the potential for further leaching.

Associated with the cleanup of both Bayhorse areas is an environmental covenant attached to the property deed. The covenant imposes several restrictions on uses within the remediated areas commensurate with the level of cleanup obtained and imposes affirmative obligations through monitoring and operations and maintenance plans. This step will aid in maintaining the protectiveness of the remedy over the long-term for both park users and staff.

### **Coeur d'Alene Basin Remediation Program**

*Paved Roads:* In FY2013, DEQ and EPA issued the Roadway Surface Remediation Strategy (Strategy) for the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. The objective of this Strategy is to provide assistance to local communities and road jurisdictions in repairing and maintaining paved roads that serve as barriers to underlying contaminated soil. It is recognized that truck traffic from remedial work has contributed to the deterioration of existing roads. The Strategy helps to offset these damages by providing funding based on roadway inventory and remaining service life identified in the Silver Valley Transportation Plan and the Eastside Highway District planning documents. EPA and DEQ will be implementing the Strategy but local jurisdictions are responsible for program and project planning, project construction and documentation of completed work. The cost to fully implement the Strategy is estimated at \$54M with each road jurisdiction allocated a specific amount to be used for eligible roads. This year, projects were approved and approximately \$5M in planning sub-grants were issued in seven of the eight jurisdictions for construction during the 2013 season.

*Remedy Protection Projects:* EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment in 2012 calling for implementation of stormwater and snowmelt runoff control projects to protect completed cleanup work using upgraded drainage structures and channels. These projects, referred to as Remedy Protection Projects, involve culvert and bridge replacements, channel improvements, small diversion structure upgrades and construction of stabilized ditches. The ROD Amendment identified Remedy Protection Projects as necessary in the eight primary Upper Coeur d'Alene Basin communities. Once implemented, these projects will protect installed barriers from being damaged by intensive stormwater runoff and side drainage flood events that deposit contaminated material on the clean barrier or scour away the barrier entirely. The first Remedy Protection Project was recently completed in the town of Wardner in July of this year. Five more projects are slated for construction during the 2013 calendar year as well. The total cost of Remedy Protection Projects in both urban areas and side drainages is estimated at \$33.8M in the ROD Amendment.

Paved Road and Remedy Protection Projects have the dual benefit of protecting against contamination and recontamination in the areas addressed and also to assist communities with the operations, deferred maintenance and upgrading of their local infrastructure.

### **Southeast Idaho Phosphate Mine Remediation**

In FY2013, significant progress was made in negotiating and completing mine remediation agreements between DEQ, USFS and various mining companies to prevent continued selenium releases in southeast Idaho. Five agreements were completed with USFS as the lead agency and DEQ as a support agency, including Mountain Fuel Mine, Champ Mine, North Maybe Mine East Mill Operable Units, South Maybe Cross Valley Fill and South Maybe Canyon Mine RI/FS. Additionally, DEQ negotiated two state lead agreements for the South & Central Rasmussen Ridge Mine Area with Nu-West and the South Rasmussen Mine with P4/Monsanto. These seven

agreements outline the process for conducting initial assessments that will guide eventual cleanup of the sites. DEQ also anticipates completing two state lead orders for the FMC Dry Valley Mine and the Georgetown Canyon Mine in FY2014 and will support USFS in completing an additional order for the Wooley Valley Mine. These actions will satisfy all necessary remediation agreements for major phosphate mining sites in southeast Idaho.

A significant state lead milestone occurred at the Conda Mine during FY2013 as well. Negotiations brought resolutions allowing the Pedro Creek Overburden Pile Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) to commence in May of this year with an anticipated completion date of late 2014. The objective of the NTCRA is to stabilize the pile, reduce the release and migration of selenium and other chemicals to ground water and the Pedro Creek drainage and reduce risks to wildlife. The reshape of the pile will require the mine operator (Simplot) to excavate approximately 1.6 million cubic yards of overburden material during the 2013 field season. Approximately 1.04 million cubic yards of the excavated material will be push-dozed to reshape the pile in preparation for an earthen cover. Significant rerouting of stormwater through engineered channels has already been completed and will prevent water infiltration into the pile. Currently, remedial tasks for the NTCRA are ahead of schedule.

### **Education and Outreach**

#### **E3 Idaho**

In 2013, DEQ partnered with Tech Help, Idaho's Manufacturing Extension Partnership, on an Energy, Economy and the Environment (E3) project at High Country Fusion, a high-density polyethylene pipe fabrication company in Fairfield. The purpose of the project was to improve manufacturing efficiency at the company by identifying opportunities to reduce waste and pollution, improve energy efficiency and make the manufacturing process more financially sustainable. The assessment and subsequent follow-up events identified numerous areas in which the company could improve performance, including cutting energy use by optimizing compressed air use, installing programmable thermostats and closing loading bay doors to reduce heat loss, and reducing scrap generation by reducing defects resulting from improper order information. DEQ is continuing to partner with Tech Help to identify new E3 clients and expects to conduct additional projects targeting energy efficiency and environmental stewardship at Idaho manufacturers in the future.

## ***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 agency's primary 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 that permits to construct 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 may take steps to protect their health and reduce their contribution to air pollution. The index is calculated by comparing actual monitoring data to health-based standards. It is reported daily in select cities on a scale of both increasing pollution and concern for human health 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 predetermined schedules. These timeframes are established with consideration for 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 the environmental information necessary to proceed 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 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 estimated at 1,595,728. Idaho has 738 community water systems serving a total of 1,243,777 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 FY2014 are also provided.

Performance Measures	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Benchmarks 2014
1) Number of days, on a 2-year rolling average, to issue a permit to construct.	A: 133 days B: 99 days	A: 76 days B: 99 days	A: 65 days B: 99 days	A: 97 days B: 99 days	99 days
2) Percentage of days that the Air Quality Index is in the “good” or “moderate” category.	A: 99.6% B: 98%	A: 99.4% B: 98%	A: 99.5% B: 98%	A: 97% 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: 17 B: 10	A: 23 B: 8	A: 26 B: 12	A: 12 B: 10	10

5) Percentage of time that continuous air monitoring stations and real-time radiation monitoring stations are operational to monitor INL conditions.	A: 100% B: 97%	A: 100% B: 97%	A: 99% B: 97%	A: 100% B: 97%	97%
6) Number of TMDLs completed for assessment unit/pollutant combinations.	A: 88 B: 283	A: 84 B: 243	A: 264 B: 230	A: 136 B: 290	270
7) Percentage of drinking water and wastewater plan and specification reviews completed within 42 days of receipt.	A: 95.9% B: 100%	A: 97.7% B: 100%	A: 98.2% B: 100%	A: 96.3% B: 100%	100%
8) Percentage of people on community water systems served by drinking water that meets health-based standards.	A: 95.7% B: 90%	A: 94.5% B: 90%	A: 95% B: 90%	A: 94% B: 90%	95%

Note: A = Actual Performance  
B = Benchmark Performance (Target)

### Performance Analysis

Over the past four fiscal years, DEQ has met or exceeded a majority of its 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 under present budget constraints. These shifts are distinctly reflected in the actual performance reported for FY2013.

The average amount of time needed to issue a permit to construct (PTC) decreased dramatically from FY2010 to FY2011 and again in FY2012 but neared the benchmark of 99 days in FY2013. Calculated using a 2-year, monthly rolling average, decreases were due in part to a large number of general PTCs issued for automotive coating facilities. The agency devoted considerable resources to processing large numbers of these rather simple permits. Once all automotive coating facility PTCs were issued in FY2011 and FY2012, the agency returned to normal permitting practices yielding the more typical 97 day processing time.

Several benchmarks are often impacted by factors beyond the control of the agency. For instance, the percentage of days DEQ determines the air quality index to be in the “good” or “moderate” category was influenced by heavy wildfire and smoke activity during the 2012 fire season. Smoke impacts slightly lowered the overall percentage of days with healthy air quality ratings. Similarly, the number of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) completed for assessment unit/pollutant combinations is fewer for FY2013. However, the agency has actually improved processes and efficiencies and completed more TMDLs than is represented. Several TMDLs containing numerous assessment unit/pollutant combinations have been compiled by DEQ and submitted to EPA but have yet to be approved. TMDLs completed by DEQ but still awaiting EPA approval are not reported as part of DEQ’s actual performance.

DEQ had seen steady improvement in the percentage of drinking water and wastewater plan and specification reviews completed within the goal timeframe of 42 days. This trend was primarily due to the decreased number of projects being submitted as economic lulls curbed community expansion and development. During FY2013, the number of projects submitted for review remained constant but activity increased substantially with State Revolving Fund (SRF) grant and loan plan and specifications reviews. The increase in SRF reviews created additional workloads for drinking water and wastewater engineering staff. Though the review percentage reported for FY2013 dipped slightly, the agency actually accomplished multiple objectives while maintaining quick turnaround times.

The percentage of people on community water systems served by drinking water that meets health-based standards has remained steady over the last four fiscal years as well. This number is slightly misleading, however, as many smaller systems have consolidated with larger systems to gain efficiencies through economy of scale. As result, the number of community water systems is decreasing but the overall population served is increasing. Between FY2012 and FY2013, the percentage of people served by community water systems with drinking water meeting health-based standards dropped from 95% to 94% but an additional 49,425 people are actually being served. Although percentages appear relatively consistent, DEQ is seeing significant increases in this area.

The FY2014 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. Like all state agencies, DEQ has refined its focus for FY2014 due to continued economic challenges and lower funding levels, particularly from the federal level. 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 FY2014.

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