

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2022-2025

STRATEGIC PLAN



VISION FOR THE FUTURE

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) strategic plan for fiscal years 2022–2025. This plan details our core functions and services, our significant accomplishments this year, and our focus for the next 4 years. It also outlines how we intend to use our financial resources to ensure that the services we provide meet the needs of the state and the citizens we serve.

Core Services

Our core services underpin every element of our strategic plan and drive how we respond to fiscal, regulatory, and environmental realities. These services span our air, water, and waste management programs and our compliance assistance and outreach efforts:

- Manage air quality to ensure compliance with federal health-based standards.
- Protect soil and water from hazardous, solid, and mining wastes and petroleum contamination.
- Manage, mitigate, and remediate contaminated areas.
- Protect public health and the environment at and around the Idaho National Laboratory.
- Maintain and improve surface and ground water quality.
- Ensure delivery of safe and reliable drinking water from public water systems.
- Prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies.
- Encourage and empower Idaho citizens, businesses, and communities to be environmentally responsible.

Accomplishments

One of DEQ's strategic goals is to “foster a culture of continuous improvement,” and we believe employee engagement is central to that effort. DEQ recently partnered with Gallup, a globally recognized analytics firm, to conduct a baseline engagement assessment and provide supervisors, managers, and teams with the tools they need to continue to effectively support staff. In the first survey, 94% of our agency participated, and 42% of employees consider themselves fully engaged, which puts us in the 60th percentile when compared to other government organizations. This is a good start, but we will continue to target ways to improve employee engagement such as building mutual trust throughout the agency and providing more opportunities for staff to leverage their strengths.

MISSION

**TO PROTECT HUMAN
HEALTH AND THE
QUALITY OF IDAHO'S
AIR, LAND, AND WATER.**

VISION

**AN IDAHO WHERE THE
QUALITY OF OUR
ENVIRONMENT
ENHANCES HEALTHY
LIVING AND SUPPORTS
THRIVING COMMUNITIES**

Continuing our trend of improved safety, in 2020 DEQ had only four recordable injuries—resulting in one lost work day—and two non-recordable near-miss incidents. Our reduced recordable accidents will result in a 15% credit discount in our workers compensation insurance; a savings of approximately \$30,000. DEQ’s safety program is used as an example by the State Insurance Fund to help other agencies improve safety policies and establish a more safety-minded culture.

The Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Program continues to phase in permitting sectors as the state takes over authority for regulating surface water point source discharges. In July 2021, we took on the final phase and began issuing permits for federal facilities and storm water permits for construction, industrial, and municipal activities and began implementing the municipal biosolids program. DEQ provided virtual trainings in June 2021 for entities using our web applications to submit notices of intent and compliance reports. IPDES compliance and enforcement staff continue to work with facilities to ensure ongoing compliance with permits.

After years of successful air quality improvement efforts in southeastern Idaho’s Cache Valley, the area now meets the Clean Air Act health-based standards for fine particle pollution, or PM_{2.5}. This is a major achievement for DEQ’s Air Quality Division and Pocatello Regional Office and reflects years of hard work and cooperation to reduce emissions. We commend our state and local partners on this achievement and look forward to continued progress in protecting clean air for Idaho’s communities.



Jess Byrne, Director

Looking Forward

In anticipation of potential economic impacts from the pandemic, state agencies were asked to reduce their general fund budgets for fiscal year 2021 by 5%. For DEQ, this was a reduction of \$1.2 million. We are grateful that Idaho’s economy has weathered the pandemic much better than expected and that those reductions have been

restored for fiscal year 2022 by the legislature at the recommendation of the governor. Restoration of this funding will allow us to resume a number of critical water quality monitoring and protection activities throughout the state that were temporarily suspended.

Another focus for the coming year is to expand compliance assistance services. To accomplish this task, we will continue helping the regulated community understand and comply with regulations. Compliance assistance is embedded in each of our three strategic plan goals and deserves that level of prominence. Though enforcement is a necessary tool, we are more than “ticket writers,” and we believe working with citizens and businesses to help them understand what they need to do and why they need to do it will result in beneficial long-term environmental outcomes.

In 2022, we will continue to carry out core functions for the citizens of Idaho while expanding compliance assistance efforts to the regulated community. Each element of our strategic plan—our goals, objectives, and performance measures—will help guide our work over the next 4 years to ensure we continue to protect public health and the quality of Idaho’s air, land, and water.

YOUR DEQ

PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), established by the Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act (Idaho Code § 39-101 et seq.), protects human health and the environment.

DEQ implements and enforces delegated federal programs under the Clean Air, Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts, and state environmental laws and rules. This regulatory responsibility covers activities that ensure Idaho's air, land, water, and citizens are protected from the adverse impacts of pollution.

- Environmental monitoring assesses conditions and ensures health-based standards are met.
- Permits are issued to facilities that manage wastes or release pollutants to limit the amounts to safe levels.
- Inspections of pollution sources and responses to complaints ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards.
- Remediation removes or neutralizes contaminants in soil, ground water, and surface waters. Compliance is voluntary or enforcement action may be taken.
- Oversight includes cleanup, pollution reduction, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Outreach and education facilitates compliance with environmental requirements.

“Protecting our natural resources and the wellbeing of our citizens will always be our top priority.”

Jess Byrne, Director



AGENCY PERFORMANCE—ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMITMENT

Our strategic plan establishes performance commitments and assesses progress toward achieving agency goals as required by Idaho Code § 67-1903.

- Our goals describe the broad environmental human health conditions the agency tries to achieve and how we want to serve Idaho’s citizens.
- Our objectives are the incremental steps taken to achieve each goal.
- Our performance measures tell us how we know we are making progress.

This plan provides Idaho’s legislature with planning and performance commitments and accounts for the statutory authority granted to the agency and its appropriated annual budget.

Using specific goals, objectives, and performance measures, we successfully completed several objectives this year. Air Quality formed an advisory group to voluntarily address air pollution in St. Maries. Drinking Water identified common health-based violations of community water systems and developed quality assurance and quality control tools to address the violations. Waste Management and Remediation implemented outreach efforts to increase use of DEQ’s cleanup and remediation programs. In the coming year, DEQ will continue to make action-based progress with updated objectives and performance measures.

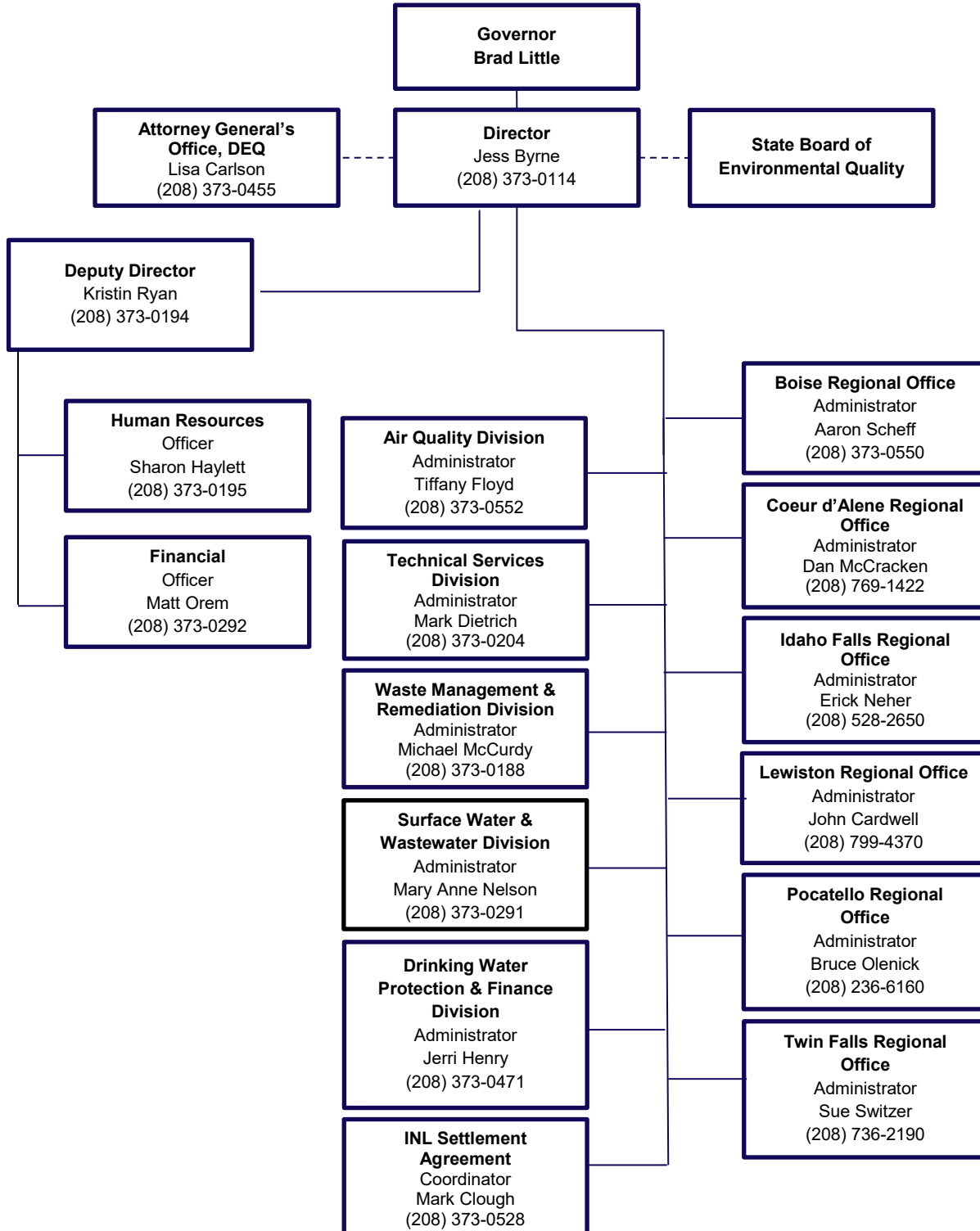


DEQ’s fiscal year 2022 performance commitments

Benchmark Performance Measure	FY 2022 Target
Reduce number of unhealthy days based on the Air Quality Index throughout the state.	0 days
Increase the percentage of assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses.	35%
Reduce the number of known contaminated sites.	211 sites (10% reduction from 234 current sites)
Increase the percentage of complete permit applications and engineering submittal packages on initial submittal.	82%
Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities.	82%
Increase the percentage of permits issued before deadline.	81%
Conduct 50 lean improvement projects per year.	100%
Reduce the amount of elective, non-retirement turnover.	13.5%

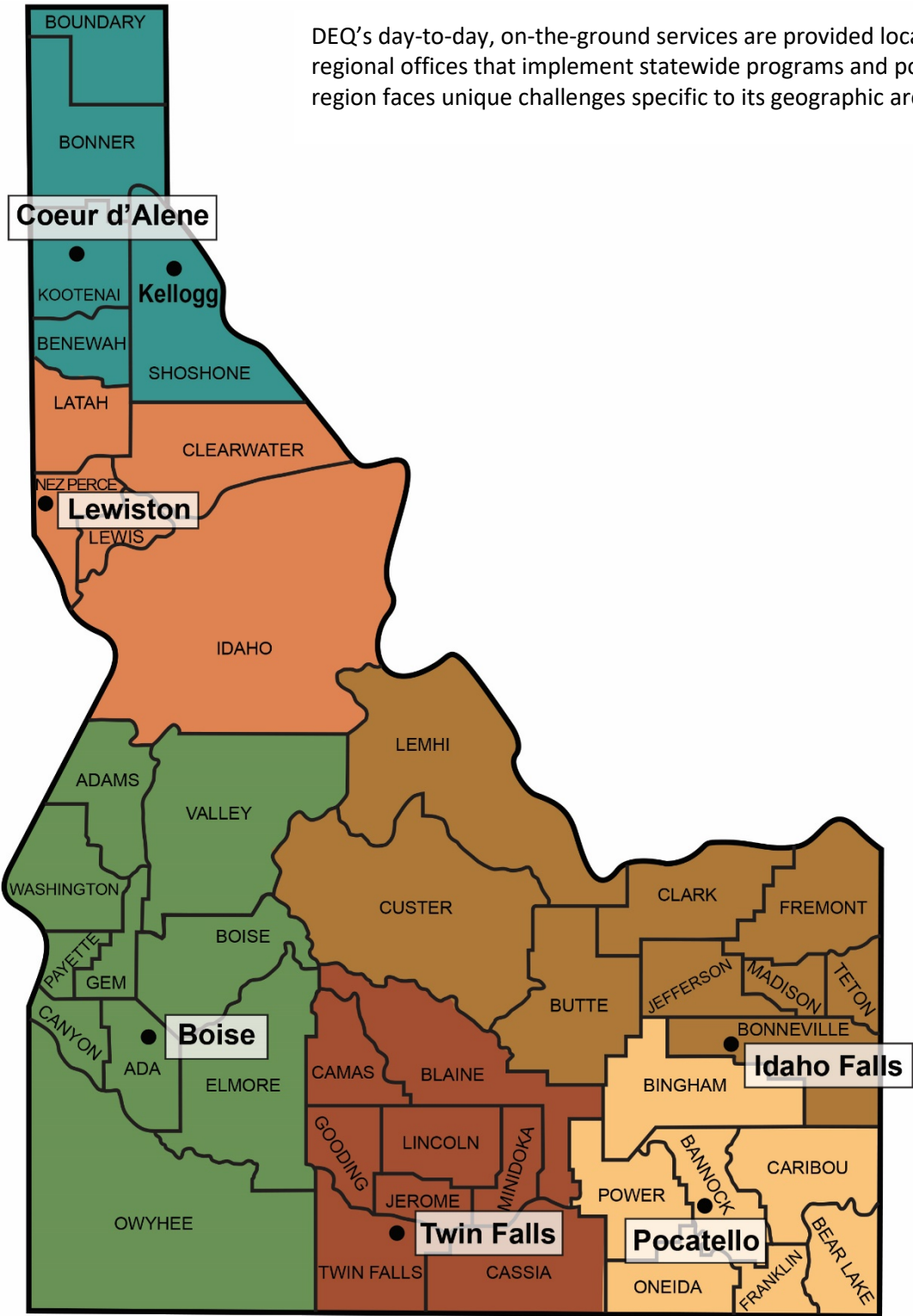
AGENCY SUPPORT—STATEWIDE

DEQ is headquartered in Boise and has five divisions and six regional offices focused on developing and administering programs and policies.



REGIONAL OFFICES

DEQ's day-to-day, on-the-ground services are provided locally by six regional offices that implement statewide programs and policies. Each region faces unique challenges specific to its geographic area.



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1—Make Recognizable and Measurable Environmental Improvements

Objectives—Air quality

- 1.1** By June 2021, submit voluntary Advance Program Path Forward for St. Maries to EPA.
- 1.2** By December 2022, implement updated strategies outlined in the voluntary Advance Program Path Forward for Salmon.
- 1.3** By December 2023, implement a statewide targeted outreach campaign to identify and address barriers to operating and properly maintaining woodstoves.
- 1.4** By September 2025, implement a statewide smoke management program, consisting of prescribed burning, wildfire, and crop residue burning.

Performance Measure

Reduce number of unhealthy days based on the Air Quality Index throughout the state.

Benchmark—0 days

This performance measure is determined by any single air monitor reaching unhealthy (red) air quality levels statewide at any time during the year. If multiple air monitors reach unhealthy air quality levels on the same day, it is still counted as 1 day.



Air Quality—Like all outdoor burning, prescribed fires produce smoke, which can pose a health risk if not managed properly. As part of implementing a statewide smoke management plan, DEQ will use targeted outreach efforts to educate stakeholders about prescribed burning.

Objectives—Water quality

- 1.5 By June 2022, regionally prioritize impaired waters to focus state and federal resources based on cost per pound pollutant removed or the greatest decrease in pollutants impacting the impairment.
- 1.6 By June 2022, update and implement water quality trading guidance.
- 1.7 By April 2022, submit the Integrated Report including success stories.

Performance Measure

Increase the percentage of assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses.

Benchmark—35%

Derived from DEQ's 2018–2020 Integrated Report, this performance measure includes river miles from assessed rivers and streams that support beneficial uses.



Water Quality—In 2020, DEQ and Kootenai County contracted the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment on current water quality in the Coeur d'Alene Lake, lower rivers, and lateral lakes to observe trends in nutrient loading and metals concentrations. The study was endorsed by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Our Gem Collaborative and should be completed by summer 2022.

Objectives—Waste management and remediation

- 1.8 By July 2021, increase site owners' and operators' use of DEQ's assessment, cleanup, and remediation programs by implementing informational outreach efforts.

Performance Measure

Reduce the number of known contaminated sites.

Benchmark—211 sites (July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020) achieved 10% reduction; LUST 21 closures/10 new sites; general remediation 105 closures, 113 new sites; 234 known open sites, 2,893 contaminated, 126 sites closed (>10% reduction); 3 more closures than new sites for the year.

This performance measure includes leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) and general remediation sites. Contaminated site closure is complete when contaminant concentrations meet acceptable risk-based or other approved criteria through assessment or remediation activities. This performance measure excludes sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund), including mega sites, such as the Idaho National Laboratory and Bunker Hill; Department of Defense cleanup sites; hazardous waste sites; and solid waste facilities.



Goal 2—Provide First-Class Customer Service as a Trusted Source for Environmental Leadership

Objectives—Permit applications and plans and specifications complete

- 2.1** By December 2022, provide assistance to the regulated community on how to submit an approvable engineering study and plans and specification documents to DEQ.
- 2.2** By December 2031, modernize the permit application processes.

Performance Measure

Increase the percentage of complete permit applications and facility plan and specification submittal packages on initial submittal.

Benchmark—82%

This performance measure is based on wastewater reuse applications, IPDES applications, drinking water and wastewater plan and specification submittals, air quality permit applications, and hazardous waste permit applications.

Objectives—Compliance of inspected facilities

- 2.3** Increase compliance rates by conducting permit handoff meetings.

- 2.4 Implement one technical assistance workshop in each of the six regions in 2022 to deliver informational material on application submittals, rules, and regulations.
- 2.5 By March 2022, explore how the agency can use predictive analytics to inform our work.
- 2.6 By October 2022, increase the number of community water systems that are in compliance by 25%.

Performance Measure

Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities.

Benchmark—82%

This performance measure is based on 5-year averages across programs. Each program measures compliance differently. Annual updates will be made to the benchmark.



Public Water Systems—DEQ’s Drinking Water Bureau works closely with the state’s public drinking water systems to protect drinking water sources, monitor for contaminants, inspect water systems, and review system engineering.

Goal 3—Foster a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Objectives—Permits issued before deadline

- 3.1 Reduce the IPDES permit backlog by 15% over the next 10 years.
- 3.2 Improve reuse and land application permitting efficiency.
- 3.3 By June 2022, increase the percentage of permits to construct issued within 150 days as measured from the regulatory start date to the final date of issuance, which includes public comment.
- 3.4 By December 2022, hold one workshop for air quality consultants to explain DEQ’s permit-to-construct process.

Performance Measure

Increase the percentage of permits issued before deadline.

Benchmark—81%

This performance measure includes air quality permits to construct, water quality reuse and IPDES permits, and hazardous waste permits. The IPDES Program inherited a permit backlog that will require 1-to-2 permit cycles (5–10 years) to meet the national goal of 90% current permits.

Objectives—Lean improvement projects

- 3.5 Create agencywide awareness about continuous improvement projects.
- 3.6 By December 2021, using Lean practices, streamline data and performance measure tracking efforts to optimize resources.
- 3.7 By March 2022, identify a pilot program for a visual management tool that links data and people.
- 3.8 By March 2022, train 80% of DEQ staff to the Lean practitioner level (as of April 2021 56% trained).
- 3.9 Document continuous improvement projects each quarter for each fiscal year.

Performance Measure

Conduct 50 Lean improvement projects per year.

Benchmark—100%

Continuous improvement is a long-term approach to systematically target and incrementally change processes to improve efficiency and quality within the agency. Using the kaizen philosophy and a lean process focus, DEQ will continue to examine our processes in detail and determine output improvements. All staff are encouraged to suggest and implement changes that create continuous improvement within the regions and across the agency.

Objectives—Employee engagement

- 3.10 By June 2022, reduce agency elective turnover by 10%.
- 3.11 By April 2022, increase employee engagement by 10%.
- 3.12 On an annual basis, implement a participation process that increases staff awareness, engagement, and leadership in developing and implementing DEQ's strategic plan at a rate of 20% per year.

Performance Measure

Reduce the amount of elective, non-retirement turnover in the agency by 20%.

Benchmark—13.5%

This effort will measure employee engagement and retention over time. As an organization, DEQ wants to ensure employees feel connected to the agency, our mission, and the strategic plan. If employees are engaged, they are happier and more productive, which results in less turnover, an expensive issue for DEQ. Assessing engagement and turnover will help us determine if we are achieving this goal.

WORK FOR US!

WATER QUALITY SCIENTIST

- Write recycled water reuse permits and conduct permit-related work.
- Track applications to ensure that permits are completed and issued within specified timeframes.
- Conduct inspections at assigned sites, prepare inspection report, and issue report to permittee.
- Conduct compliance activity reviews, complete annual report reviews, and prepare enforcement referrals.
- Oversee permitting activities performed by DEQ's Technical Services Division for assigned permitted sites.
- Maintain databases and spreadsheets to track workload and report to management.

For more information, visit <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/working-at-deq>

EMERGING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

On a 4-year horizon, issues may arise that are short-term or may lead to a shift in the agency’s focus and priorities. By anticipating future challenges, DEQ will be better positioned to adjust if needed, while continuing to support our core functions and services. Emerging issues and opportunities are identified below.

Volkswagen and diesel funding

Idaho developed a Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, as required by a 2016 federal lawsuit settlement with Volkswagen, summarizing how the state allocation of mitigation trust funds will be distributed among eligible mitigation projects to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions. Idaho continues to implement the plan through the Vehicle Replacement Program (VRP) and Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) program. The VRP provides rebates toward the purchase of new diesel, propane, CNG, or all electric heavy-duty vehicles when replacing older heavy-duty diesel vehicles. The EVSE program provides cost-share funds as a rebate toward the purchase and installation of direct current fast-charging equipment for light-duty electric vehicles.

The VRP has had two rounds of funding and will replace 207 heavy-duty vehicles, providing \$12.7 million in rebates through a combination of VW and Diesel Emission Reduction Act grant funds. DEQ anticipates announcing a third round of funding in September 2021. Approximately \$4.2 million remains available for this program.

The EVSE program prioritizes stations located along highways and interstates to create a network of electric vehicle fast-charging services for the public. Idaho provided \$500,000 in assistance to install four stations. EVSE applications are accepted year-round and are evaluated based on prioritized criteria. Applications will be accepted until all available funds are exhausted or a site near the proposed location has been selected. Approximately \$2.1 million remains available for this program.



Left: VW-funded EVSE project and electric vehicle charging station locations across the state.

Top: Blaine County participated in the EVSE program to purchase and install a publicly accessible electric vehicle fast-charging station at the County Annex building on First Avenue South in Hailey, Idaho.



J&M Sanitation from Kuna, Idaho, participated in the 2019 Vehicle Replacement Program and replaced an older diesel vehicle with Idaho’s first all-electric trash truck.

Smoke from wildfires and prescribed fires

One thing seems certain—we will see more wildfires and prescribed fires in Idaho over decades to come. This increase in fires will bring an increase in smoke. More smoke in the air means more chances for public health to be affected, and the enjoyment of the outdoors will be negatively impacted unless the smoke is managed.

Obviously, once a wildfire starts the smoke is uncontrollable, which is why prescribed fire is seen as a critical tool to lessen wildfire smoke impacts. Although prescribed fire is an effective tool, if not managed properly the smoke from prescribed burning can also endanger human health just like a wildfire.

Another common use of prescribed fire in Idaho is disposing of the woody debris, or slash, which is created during logging operations or other forest management activities. To protect against wildfire risk, Idaho has rules governing how much “slash” can be left in the forestland after logging or management activity. To meet these requirements, land managers and loggers use prescribed fire to dispose of their slash.

DEQ is working with Idaho Department of Lands to develop an effective smoke management program for Idaho that allows land managers to continue to use prescribed fire as a

management tool while also ensuring public health is protected.

The protection of environmental values, including clean air, remains a vital interest for the state. Finding solutions to effectively manage the increase in smoke that will come with the expansion of prescribed fire use will be critical for DEQ to continue to meet the agency’s mission to protect human health and the environment.



Woodhead Fire—In 2020, this fire started northwest of Cambridge, Idaho, near Brownlee Reservoir and burned 100-thousand acres.

Low-cost air quality sensors

Low-cost air quality monitoring sensors, ranging from hundreds to several thousand dollars, are hitting the market for public consumption. Many people are taking this opportunity nationwide to use these sensors to assess air quality in their specific locations. In doing so, they are asking why government agencies have not established broader scale monitoring networks to include these sensors. Reasons are many, but accuracy and dependability are the primary considerations. The high-quality government monitors that comprise the statewide networks are upwards of \$20,000 dollars per monitor. These monitors come at a high cost because they are dependable and accurate. The low-cost sensors are not nearly as accurate and must undergo



Example of a purple sensor that can be used in specific locations.

rigorous testing by agencies alongside their own monitors to ensure greater accuracy as well as many unknowns about life expectancy and dependability. These unknowns can lend some doubt into fully relying on the instrument readings, especially over an extended period of time.

As more people purchase these sensors, government agencies like DEQ will receive questions. DEQ will communicate to the public the expectations of low-cost

sensors versus regulatory agency monitors and continue to find opportunities to use these sensors to supplement applicable monitoring objectives and research.

Bunker Hill Superfund Site— Central Treatment Plant

In October 2021, DEQ will assume responsibility for operating the newly upgraded Central Treatment Plant at the Bunker Hill Superfund Site in Kellogg, Idaho. The plant will remove metals in mine water discharge from the Bunker Hill Mine and contaminated ground water from beneath the historic Bunker Hill central tailings impoundment. The new system will treat up to 5,000 gallons per minute of contaminated water. The completed treatment plant and ground water collection system are expected to capture nearly 30% of the total dissolved zinc load in the upper basin and provide significant water quality improvement in the South Fork Coeur d’Alene River.

DEQ worked with EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers and their contractors during construction of the project, which was completed in October 2020. The federal contractors are operating the system for 1 year after construction to demonstrate successful operations and provide training and transition to DEQ staff and contractors. Funding for future plant operations was provided via EPA

settlement dollars with Hecla. The Bunker Hill Water Treatment Endowment was established in 2014 with a deposit of \$52.3 million. These settlement funds are managed by the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board. Annual operations are expected to cost up to \$2 million per year. During 2022–2025, DEQ will operate the new system with contractor support, maintain staff expertise to oversee the plant, and work to optimize the operations of the new system. The operations data from the first years of running the new system will be used to evaluate future contracting alternatives to make the most efficient use of resources to ensure sustainability of the operations funding.



Bunker Hill Central Treatment Plant—Construction at the treatment plant in Kellogg was completed in 2020. The facility will treat mine water and ground water to remove metals such as lead, zinc, and cadmium, providing significant improvement to water quality in the South Fork Coeur d’Alene River.

Bunker Hill Superfund Site— recreational use along the South Fork Coeur d’Alene River

Over 80 years of mine waste and sewer discharge into the South Fork Coeur d’Alene River made it hard for people to imagine that someday this area would provide recreational opportunities. As Bunker Hill Superfund cleanup progresses, environmental and ecological improvements are leading to significant increases in recreational uses. In coordination with EPA, the Panhandle Health District, and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, new health and safety

signs have been installed to educate people about the area’s mining history and the continued presence of lead and other heavy metals in the soil, sediment, and water. The signs help recreationists understand how to [Play Clean](#) and reduce their exposures to contamination.



Bunker Hill Cleanup Efforts—Remediation of the Theater Bridge and Airport Riverwalk access/parking area. About 2,300 cubic yards of contaminated material was removed from the site. (Before, top photo and after, bottom photo).

Hazardous waste

Hazardous waste pharmaceutical rule—In 2019, EPA published a new rule establishing streamlined standards for managing hazardous waste pharmaceuticals at healthcare facilities and reverse distributors. Additionally, over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapies (i.e., nicotine patches, gums, and lozenges) are no longer considered hazardous waste under the rule. The rule provided regulatory clarity on the reverse distribution process for prescription pharmaceuticals and the reverse logistics process for nonprescription pharmaceuticals and other unsold retail items. A prohibition on sewer disposal of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals was included in the rule,

effective nationwide on August 21, 2019. Idaho incorporated the rule by reference in April 2021. To educate the regulated community about the new rule, DEQ hosted a virtual webinar in March 2021 and added a number of resources on [pharmaceutical waste management](#) to its website.

Updates to regulations for identifying ignitable hazardous waste—In 2020, EPA published a new rule that modernized the test methods used to determine if wastes are ignitable hazardous wastes. The rule allows the use of nonmercury thermometers and finalized existing guidance to define “aqueous” as a liquid that is 50% water by weight. The rule allows the use of modern equipment and techniques to reduce potential mercury exposures to humans and the environment by reducing the overall use of mercury-containing products. This rule will be included in DEQ’s 2022 proposed rulemaking as part of the annual incorporation by reference of federal regulations.

Solid waste management

Nonhazardous solid waste impoundments—A nonhazardous solid waste impoundment (NSWI) facility receives pumpable waste where (1) the waste does not pass the paint filter test before placement in an impoundment, and (2) operations are not otherwise regulated under a discharge or land application permit. NSWIs may stand-alone, or be co-located at an approved landfill or other solid waste facility. Facilities engaged in food processing or other manufacturing or industrial activities that manage their liquid waste streams on site are not managing pumpable wastes as that term is defined, and are generally not regulated as NSWIs. These facilities are often regulated under a discharge permit or wastewater reuse permit (e.g., land application permit) and are excluded from regulation by DEQ’s Solid Waste Program.

Infectious substances—The need for disposal of untreated materials contaminated with infectious or potentially infectious substances is on the rise. Instances of potential or actual mad cow disease, avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, and COVID-19 have all occurred in recent years. DEQ works with landfills and other government agencies to ensure facilities have waste acceptance plans using the latest available information, facility employees are properly trained, and worker safety and the environment are protected.

Underground storage tank program

In 2019, legislation proposed by the Idaho Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association that delayed certain testing and inspection deadlines for UST owners and operators to October 13, 2021, was passed. The UST program completed outreach with owners, operators, and service providers to inform them of the new compliance date.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 4,000 manmade chemicals found in cookware, carpets, food packaging, cosmetics, electronics, and products treated with repellants. PFAS are detected in all types of media (e.g., air, soil, water, plants, and wildlife) throughout the world from sources such as manufacturing and processing facilities, wastewater, unlined landfills, and firefighting foam. PFAS chemicals are persistent in the environment and can travel long distances through soil and ground water.

PFAS are also persistent in the human body, accumulating over time. Certain types of PFAS are found in the blood of the US general population. Public health implications are not fully understood, but some PFAS constituents may increase the risk of cancer, impact the immune system, alter hormone function,

decrease fertility, and affect infant and child development.

DEQ convened a multiagency work group to determine how PFAS impact Idaho and how to address the environmental and human health impacts of these chemicals, and to develop risk communication methods and outreach materials. DEQ's Drinking Water Bureau is participating in a work group with the City of Boise, Suez Water, and Idaho Department of Water Resources to coordinate PFAS-related efforts in the Treasure Valley.

In EPA's updated PFAS action plan, a final determination was reissued to regulate two PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), in public drinking water systems; however, the timeline for regulation is several years away.

In federal fiscal years 2020 and 2021, EPA provided DEQ with an additional \$87,000 and \$126,000 in Public Water System Supervision grant funding, respectively. This additional funding will be used for activities that deal with emerging contaminants such as PFAS.

The Drinking Water Bureau developed a drinking water source sampling project to evaluate the presence and sources of PFAS in Idaho's public drinking water. This monitoring will complement the monitoring done under EPA's Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, where 33 of Idaho's systems participated between 2013 and 2015 (none of these samples were over the method detection limit). Sampling will begin in spring 2021 and continue through 2022 or until funding is exhausted.

EPA intends to conduct further PFAS monitoring through the state's public drinking water systems under their Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Monitoring under this effort will occur between 2023 and 2025.

More information on [PFAS](#) is found on DEQ’s website.

Zero-based regulation

Per [Executive Order \(EO\) 2020-01](#), Idaho agencies are required to review each of their rule chapters and engage in negotiated rulemaking on a 5-year cycle. The goal is to perform a critical and comprehensive review of rule chapters to reduce overall regulatory burden, streamline various provisions, and increase clarity and ease of use. The DEQ rule

chapters going through this process in 2021 include the “Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste” (IDAPA 58.01.05), “Rules Regulating Swine Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.09), “Land Remediation Rules” (IDAPA 58.01.18), and “Contested Case Rules” (IDAPA 58.01.23). The revised rule chapters are part of DEQ’s 2021 proposed rulemaking package. The review schedule for DEQ rule chapters is provided below:

Zero-based regulation rule review schedule for DEQ rule chapters.

IDAPA	Chapter Title	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
58.01.01	Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho		X			
58.01.02	Water Quality Standards		X			
58.01.03	Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules				X	
58.01.05	Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste	X				
58.01.06	Solid Waste Management Rules					X
58.01.07	Rules Regulating Underground Storage Tank Systems			X		
58.01.08	Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems			X		
58.01.09	Rules Regulating Swine Facilities	X				
58.01.10	Rules Regulating the Disposal of Radioactive Materials Not Regulated Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, As Amended				X	
58.01.11	Ground Water Quality Rule				X	
58.01.12	Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans					X
58.01.13	Rules for Ore Processing by Cyanidation					X
58.01.14	Rules Governing Fees for Environmental Operating Permits, Licenses, and Inspection Services		X			
58.01.16	Wastewater Rules					X
58.01.17	Recycled Water Rules		X			
58.01.18	Idaho Land Remediation Rules	X				
58.01.19	Rules for the Design and Construction of Phosphogypsum Stacks	This rule chapter was vacated on 5/3/2021				
58.01.21	Rules Governing the Protection and Disclosure of Records in the Possession of the Department of Environmental Quality		X			
58.01.22	Rules for Administrative of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities					X
58.01.23	Contested Case Rules	X				
58.01.24	Standards and Procedures for Application of Risk Based Corrective Action at Petroleum Release Sites			X		
58.01.25	Rules Regulating the Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System Program			X		

CONCLUSION

DEQ reports performance accountability to the state legislature through benchmark performance measures. This year staff worked across state and regional offices to successfully reach many of our new objectives, further develop existing objectives, and create new objectives that bring us closer to achieving meaningful performance measures. Our commitment to protecting public health and Idaho's environment is reaffirmed through the work we do, our partnerships, and the communities we work with. Our agencywide benchmark performance measures reflect tangible, achievable public health and environmental outcomes for Idaho and drive us to continue to improve and serve as a trusted resource for Idahoans.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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Your DEQ—PROTECT, ENHANCE, SUPPORT

While the core of DEQ's work is defined by our air quality, water quality, and waste and remediation management divisions, that work is sustained by support staff in the following areas:

- **INL Oversight**—Independently evaluates the effectiveness of the Idaho National Laboratory's public health protection programs.
- **Technical Services**—Provides peer-reviewed scientific and engineering support to DEQ's air, water, and waste divisions and six regional offices.
- **Pollution Prevention**—Empowers businesses and citizens to engage in behaviors that protect public health and preserve Idaho's environment.
- **Communications and Outreach**—Raises awareness and understanding of health and environmental issues through social media and clear, concise documentation.
- **Financial**—Manages DEQ's budget and expenditures and facilitates grant applications and funds.
- **Human Resources**—Plans, develops, and implements a comprehensive human resource program for DEQ including recruitment, compensation, benefits, training, performance management, and employee relations.
- **Facilities**—Oversees buildings and communications systems and maintains vehicle fleet.