

## Part I – Agency Profile

### Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Board of Environmental Quality were 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 citizens are protected from the adverse impacts of pollution.

The board is charged with making decisions on rules proposed by the department. DEQ drafts rules with assistance from the Office of the Attorney General following a negotiated rulemaking process involving 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 Rules may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the board.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. Agency decisions 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 and assessing conditions to ensure health-based standards are met.
- Issuing permits to facilities that manage wastes or release pollutants.
- Inspecting pollution sources to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards and, when necessary, taking enforcement action.
- Conducting remediation to remove or neutralize contaminants in soil, groundwater, and surface waters. Compliance with remedial activities is typically voluntary, but when necessary, enforcement action is taken.
- Overseeing a variety of projects, including environmental cleanups, pollution reduction efforts, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Providing technical support, outreach, and education to facilitate compliance with environmental requirements for air quality, water quality, and waste management and remediation.

DEQ works with a 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 is organized into five divisions, including Air Quality, Surface Water and Wastewater, Drinking Water Protection and Finance, Waste Management and Remediation, and Technical Services. DEQ's six regional offices in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Pocatello, and Twin Falls implement agency programs and policies and provide direct services to citizens, communities, businesses, and industries.

### Core Functions/Idaho Code

DEQ's core functions and regulatory authorities include:

- **Air Quality:** Ensures compliance with health-based air quality standards by collecting air quality information, monitoring and issuing permits, inspecting facilities, responding to complaints, and coordinating air quality improvement efforts with 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:** Ensures Idaho's surface and groundwaters support beneficial uses and provide safe drinking water supplies by setting water quality standards, certifying project compliance, monitoring water bodies, reporting on water quality, developing and implementing improvement plans, issuing wastewater reuse and direct discharge permits, and providing grants and loans for drinking water and wastewater facilities (Title 39,

Chapters 1, 36, 66, 76, 79, 85, Idaho Code; Title 37, Chapter 21, Idaho Code; Title 50 Chapter 13 Idaho Code; Clean Water Act).

- **Waste Management and Remediation:** Ensures the safe management and disposal of waste generated in or entering Idaho. Responds to releases of hazardous substances to surface waters, groundwaters, or soils and conducts or oversees cleanup of contaminated sites. Works with communities to rehabilitate contaminated sites to return them to a safe and developable condition (Title 39, Chapters 1, 30, 44, 58, 65, 71, 72, 74, 81, 88, Idaho Code; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act).
- **INL Oversight:** Oversees activities at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to ensure compliance with legal agreements and environmental regulations for waste treatment, remediation, and removal. Maintains an independent environmental monitoring program designed to verify and supplement monitoring programs carried out by the INL and informs the public about INL activities impacting Idaho’s environment. Working with other state agencies, DEQ assists local governments statewide in planning and responding to emergencies involving radiological materials (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code).

**Revenues and Expenditures**

Revenue	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Air Quality Permitting	\$1,214,168	\$623,131	\$ 1,015,940	\$1,196,772
Public Water System Oversight	\$1,570,492	\$1,703,772	\$ 1,968,377	\$1,904,568
Water Pollution Control	\$4,804,852	\$4,811,893	\$1,071,609	\$10,300,714
Environmental Remediation	\$365,641	\$305,231	\$788,915	\$2,767,390
Cooperative DEQ-Federal	\$18,618,610	\$18,457,231	\$20,078,344	\$15,352,219
Cooperative DEQ-General	\$20,963,476	\$22,388,500	\$27,760,400	\$26,092,299
Cooperative DEQ-Other	\$2,602,490	\$3,986,090	\$3,541,742	\$5,755,870
Bunker Hill Consent Decree	\$2,124,981	\$2,163,701	\$3,562,809	\$4,486,481
Underground Storage Tank Fees	\$199,816	\$187,445	\$160,101	\$324,408
Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	\$1,170,992	\$1,248,714	\$1,550,232	\$1,671,859
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$53,635,518</b>	<b>\$54,171,936<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>\$61,498,469</b>	<b>\$69,852,580</b>
Expenditures	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personnel Costs	\$30,027,626	\$32,097,049	\$33,965,595	\$35,276,453
Operating Expenditures	\$12,494,236	\$12,885,481	\$16,883,987	\$20,063,559
Capital Outlay	\$404,646	\$2,577,825	\$4,312,290	\$4,642,499
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$5,773,975	\$4,534,373	\$24,222,892	\$91,461,003
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48,700,483</b>	<b>\$52,094,728<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>\$79,384,764</b>	<b>\$151,443,514</b>

a. FY 2023 is the first year DEQ expended American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, which are tracked as revenue with the State Treasurer’s Office.

### Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

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

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
<b>Air Quality Division</b>				
Air Quality Permits to Construct Issued	68	84	73	59
Air Quality Tier I (Title V) Permits Issued	14	17	14	10
Air Quality Tier II Permits Issued	1	2	0	0
Air Quality Permits by Rule Issued	31	38	25	37
Inspections of Stationary and Portable Air Pollution Sources	214	228	211	215
Number of Crop Residue Acres Approved and Burned	54,347	27,652	39,328	28,885
<b>Water Quality Divisions</b>				
Wastewater Grants Awarded	\$303,460	\$720,343	\$2,9426,32	\$1,166,710
Wastewater Loans Awarded	\$38,577,250	\$31,007,000	\$202,594,358	\$132,243,084
Drinking Water Grants Awarded	\$347,500	\$891,452	\$2,536,134	\$465,136
Drinking Water Loans Awarded	\$19,285,914	\$11,522,820	\$135,419,593	\$96,391,744
401/404 Water Quality Certifications Issued	47	20	44	35
Wastewater Reuse Permits Issued	5	7	14	9
IPDES Direct Discharge Permits Issued	7	10	4	4
IPDES Inspections Completed	38	205	166	178
Total Wastewater Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	402	436	726	991
Total Drinking Water Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	492	508	446	453
Drinking Water Sanitary Surveys Completed	390	369	395	369
Source Water Assessments Completed	83	49	48	36
Active Nonpoint Source Projects Administered (Previous Calendar Year)	47	35	73	101
Nonpoint Source Projects Completed (Previous Calendar Year)	19	13	19	39
Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) Sites Surveyed	0 <sup>a</sup>	265	307	240
<b>Waste Management and Remediation Division</b>				
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanups Completed	11	18	17	16
Underground Storage Tank Training and Inspections Completed	487	371	298	415
Hazardous Waste Inspections Conducted	93	117	140	123
Three-to-five-year inspections of municipal solid waste landfills completed (three are required)	6	6	3	1
Snake River Plain Environmental Samples Analyzed (for INL)	6,159	5,644	7,009	6,605
Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance Efforts	96	90	92	41

a. All BURP monitoring occurs in summer. This number reflects sites surveyed in summer 2023.

b. FY23 is the first year reporting this number.

**Part II – Performance Measures**

Goals and Performance Measures						
Performance Measure		FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Goal 1</b>						
<i>Make recognizable and measurable environmental improvements</i>						
1. Reduce the number of unhealthy days based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) throughout the state	actual	16 days	17 days	21 days	7 days <sup>a</sup>	
	target	0 days	0 days	0 Days	0 Days	0 days
2. Increase the percentage of assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses	actual	35%	35%	31% <sup>b</sup>	31% <sup>b</sup>	
	target	35%	35%	35%	38%	38%
3. Reduce the number of known contaminated sites	actual	227 sites	261 sites	263 sites	247 sites <sup>c</sup>	
	target	211 sites	204 sites	235 sites	237 sites	222 sites
<b>Goal 2</b>						
<i>Provide first-class customer service as a trusted source for environmental leadership</i>						
4. Increase the percentage of complete permit applications on initial submittal	actual	66%	67%	79%	81% <sup>d</sup>	
	target	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%
5. Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities	actual	74%	73%	76%	78% <sup>e</sup>	
	target	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%
<b>Goal 3</b>						
<i>Foster a culture of continuous improvement</i>						
6. Increase the percentage of permits issued before deadline	actual	61%	62%	57%	73% <sup>f</sup>	
	target	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%
7. Conduct 50 Lean improvement projects per year	actual	42%	26%	88%	48% <sup>g</sup>	
	target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
8. Reduce the percentage of elective, non-retirement turnover in the agency.	actual	n/a	13% <sup>h</sup>	9.3% <sup>h</sup>	9.5% <sup>h</sup>	
	target	n/a	6.9% <sup>h</sup>	11.7% <sup>h</sup>	8.4% <sup>h</sup>	8.0%

- a. The number of unhealthy air quality days are subject to wildfires and weather events.
- b. Represents the total percentage of stream miles assessed as Category 1 or 2 in Idaho’s 2022 Integrated Report (IR) (May 25, 2022). DEQ continues to work with EPA on updating the Integrated Report, but has been unable to complete the 2024 Integrated Report as of this date. DEQ is reporting the most recent results until new assessments are completed and the IR is approved.
- c. In FY24 73 sites closed and 83 new sites identified netting 10 sites overall. These sites are due to unpredictable petroleum and chemical releases, including legacy sites that are newly identified or previously not counted.
- d. Revised for FY2023 to remove the facility plan and specification submittals and only show permit applications.
- e. FY24 strategies included providing hazardous waste labels to the regulated community, air compliance training for industrial and automotive painters, and multiprogram site inspections.
- f. DEQ inherited a backlog of permits from EPA when it gained full primacy of the IPDES Program while Idaho’s growing population has increased, and the department has experienced significant staff turnover
- g. Completed 24 continuous improvement projects.
- h. Performance measure revised for clarity in FY24; target and actual numbers reported reflect revised measure.

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