

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality



A Report to Our Citizens Fiscal Year 2015

Who We Are

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was established to protect human health and the environment. In doing so, DEQ provides a wide range of services, summarized by the following strategic goals:

- Managing air quality to ensure compliance with federal health-based standards
- Preventing and protecting soil and water from hazardous, petroleum, and mining waste contamination
- Managing, mitigating, and remediating waste-contaminated areas
- Protecting public health and the environment at and around the Idaho National Laboratory (INL)
- Maintaining and improving surface and ground water quality
- Ensuring delivery of safe and reliable drinking water from public water systems
- Preventing, preparing for, and responding to public health and environmental emergencies
- Encouraging and empowering Idaho citizens, businesses, and communities to engage in environmentally responsible behaviors

DEQ's core functions are related to air quality, water quality, waste management and remediation, and oversight at the INL.



DEQ's Air Quality Division protects air quality by ensuring compliance with federal and state health-based air quality standards.



DEQ's Water Quality Division ensures that the state's surface, ground, and drinking water resources meet state water quality standards.



The Waste Management and Remediation Division monitors and controls the generation, treatment, storage, and disposal of wastes in Idaho and responds to releases of hazardous substances.



The INL Oversight Program evaluates the actual or potential environmental and public health impacts of US Department of Energy activities at the INL.

Mission

To protect human health and preserve the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water for use and enjoyment today and in the future.

Vision

DEQ envisions a future for the citizens of Idaho where the quality of life is enhanced by the quality of the environment. In partnership with communities and businesses, we will assess, sustain, preserve, and enhance the quality of the environment while recognizing the need for maintaining the economic vitality of the state.

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Performance Measures

DEQ's benchmark performance measures are used to track and report progress in meeting the overall agency goal of protecting public health and the environment. These benchmarks were chosen because each tracks measurable agency actions and reflects an actual environmental or public health outcome or result. Each performance measure is revisited annually.

Performance Measure	FY2014 Results	FY2015 Results
Issue an air quality permit to construct in 99 days, on average.	97 days ✓	103 days
Correctly forecast the Air Quality Index (AQI) category 100% of days.	92%	89%
Complete scheduled hazardous waste permits or reviews within established time frames 100% of the time.	100% ✓	100% ✓
Complete 10 brownfields site assessments.	12 ✓	12 ✓
Ensure air and radiation monitoring stations are operational to monitor INL conditions at least 97% of the time.	97% ✓	96%
Complete total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for established number of assessment unit/pollutant combinations.	119 (Target of 270)	60 (Target of 234)
Complete 100% of wastewater plan and specification reviews within 42 days of receipt.	96%	97%
Complete 100% of drinking water plan and specification reviews within 42 days of receipt.	99%	99%
Ensure community drinking water systems provide drinking water that meets health-based standards for 95% of "person months."	98% ✓	98% ✓

Over the past two fiscal years, DEQ has met or exceeded most of its performance measurement benchmarks. Staffing issues have continued to make some benchmarks challenging to reach. In addition, although DEQ strives to correctly forecast the AQI every day, this is unlikely to occur given the unpredictable nature of weather and fire activity. The TMDL goal has been overly optimistic over the past 3 years given the current level of public involvement and complex nature of water quality issues. The target has been revised downward for fiscal year 2016.

Meet the Director

John H. Tippetts was appointed as director of DEQ by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter in July 2015 during his third term in the Idaho Senate. His career has also included serving six terms in the Idaho House of Representatives and working for Agrium as a public affairs manager. He received his master's degree in human resources management from Utah State University.

Director Tippetts has embraced his new role at DEQ with enthusiasm and energy. He is diving into the issues while also focusing on internal priorities such as safety, training, customer service, and process improvement.



Performance Highlight



Robinson Creek Wetlands Restoration

The Robinson Creek wetlands restoration project in Shoshone County is a cooperative effort between DEQ, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). IDFG has also worked with the Restoration Partnership (a collaborative team made up of the Natural Resource Trustees) and private stakeholders. The 65-acre wetlands will be vegetated with native plants including the water potato, a culturally significant plant for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The restored wetlands will provide a robust habitat for tundra swans and other waterfowl and wildlife. Water flow control structures will improve segments of Canary and Robinson Creeks and include a fish ladder. Restoration work is being funded by DEQ. IDFG will maintain the completed site as part of its Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area.

Performance Highlight



E3 Program

In FY2015, DEQ's Pollution Prevention program expanded its Economy, Energy, and Environment (E3) program to pair interns, private industry mentors, and other resources with companies seeking to improve manufacturing processes, calling the pilot program E3 Excellence. DEQ worked with Payette, Sockeye, and Sawtooth Breweries to identify potential areas to improve production processes and reduce waste and energy use.

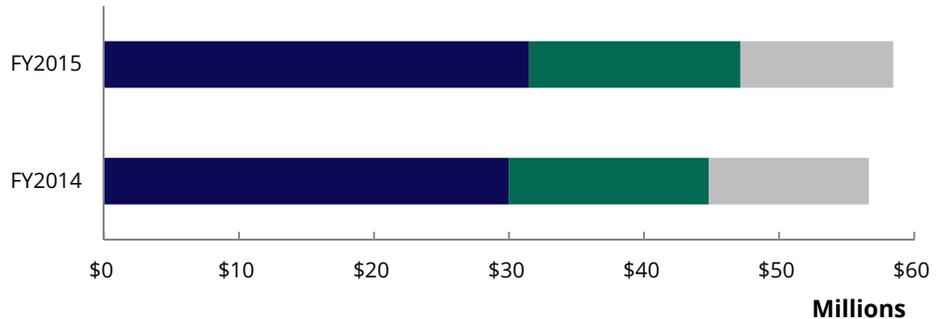
With support from the University of Idaho's Integrated Design Lab, the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center, Best Bath, Bigelow Tea, Idaho Power, the Northwest Craft Brew Alliance, the Small Business Development Center, and interns from Boise State University, DEQ worked with each brewery to identify specific opportunities for operational and energy use improvement in their production processes.

Finances and Staffing

Revenue by Source

DEQ's total revenue has remained relatively constant over the past two fiscal years and totalled \$58,443,705 in fiscal year 2015. Over half of DEQ's total budget comes from federal funds.

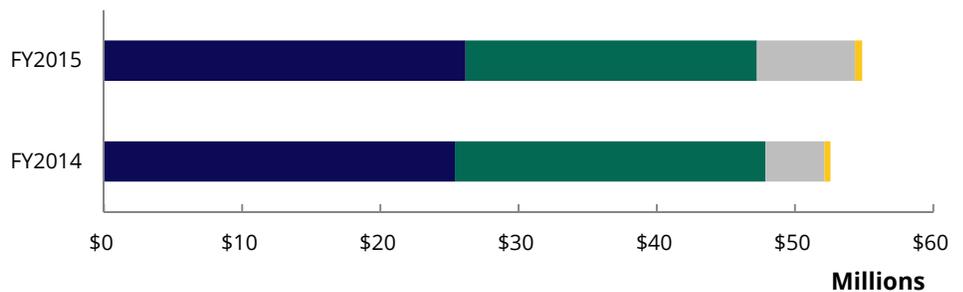
DEQ's revenue comes from **federal funds**, **state general funds**, and **other** sources: water pollution control funds, air quality permitting, public water system oversight, environmental remediation, the Bunker Hill consent decree, and other cooperative funds.



Expenditures by Type

DEQ's total expenditures have also remained relatively constant over the past two fiscal years and totalled \$54,856,400 in fiscal year 2015.

DEQ's expenditures are largely **personnel costs** and **operating costs**, with smaller amounts going toward **trustee/benefit payments** and **capital outlay**.



DEQ's staff are spread throughout six regional offices and a state office in Boise. The regional offices are located in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls. Two satellite offices are located in Kellogg and Grangeville. DEQ's full-time positions peaked in 2010 at 382 employees. That number has decreased as a result of the recession and reached its lowest total in fiscal year 2015 at 358, even with the addition of new positions to support the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Program. The 2015 Idaho Legislature approved the addition of 10 full-time positions for fiscal year 2016: 3 to support the IPDES Program and 7 that were a result of converting temporary positions to full-time positions. DEQ is currently authorized for 368 full-time positions, which does not include seasonal staff such as those supporting summertime water quality monitoring and crop residue burning.

Looking Forward

Underground Storage Tank Fee Legislation

DEQ is proposing legislation during the 2016 session that would allow the agency to collect annual fees from facilities with underground storage tanks (USTs). Since DEQ received program primacy from EPA, federal funds for the program have dropped dramatically. Furthermore, EPA recently released new UST rules that increase requirements and costs for the agency. Charging fees will allow the state to keep running the program to benefit Idaho's regulated facilities and the environment. If approved, the UST fee program will be developed through negotiated rulemaking and brought to the legislature for approval.



Clean Power Plan

On June 2, 2014, EPA issued a proposed rule known as the Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing natural gas or coal power plants. The rule was finalized on August 3, 2015. Idaho will develop a state plan that implements the carbon pollution reduction requirements outlined in EPA's Clean Power Plan rule. Idaho's process has just begun but will involve other state agencies, interested stakeholders, and the public.

Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

DEQ is currently seeking state primacy of the EPA-administered National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program. Idaho's program will be called the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES). Negotiated rulemaking to develop the program took place in 2015, and the rule will go before the legislature in 2016.

Also in 2016, DEQ will be working with stakeholders to write the guidance documents that will implement the program.

When fully implemented, the program will require approximately 29 positions located in DEQ's state and regional offices and an annual budget of \$3 million.



Key Services

Select key services performed by DEQ are highlighted below.

Select Key Services	FY2014	FY2015
Air Quality Division		
Air quality permits issued	74	68
Inspections of air pollution sources	126	146
Water Quality Division		
Wastewater grants and loans awarded	\$16.3 million	\$29.2 million
Drinking water grants and loans awarded	\$15.5 million	\$11.6 million
Wastewater reuse permits issued	22	20
Total wastewater and drinking water engineering plan and specification reviews	466	568
Source water assessments completed	133	139
Drinking water sanitary surveys	439	456
Nonpoint source projects completed	15	15
Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program sites surveyed	282	231
Waste Management and Remediation Division		
Leaking underground storage tank cleanups	19	12
Underground storage tank training and inspections	399	392
Hazardous waste inspections	110	117
Pollution prevention technical assistance efforts	116	96

Performance Highlight



Remediation of Barber Lagoons

DEQ's Brownfields Program helped the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands obtain a \$178,000 EPA brownfields grant. With the grant funds, DEQ assessed the environmental condition of two dried up sewage lagoons on a 12-acre property adjacent to the Idaho Shakespeare Festival and Riverstone International School in Boise. DEQ also conducted tests on ground water at the site. DEQ created a decommissioning plan for the lagoons and facilitated sludge removal in September 2015. The foundation plans to convert the property to open space for public use.