

## What is the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Program?

In 1972, the Clean Water Act required the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program to regulate point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the US.

In 2014, the Idaho Legislature approved legislation directing the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to seek state delegation of the NPDES Program.

Idaho is currently one of only four states for whom EPA still administers the NPDES Program.

DEQ will submit an application for state authorization by September 1, 2016. DEQ expects to phase in full implementation of the IPDES Program by 2022.



## For More Information

### Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

#### State Office

1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0502

#### Regional Offices

##### Boise

1445 N. Orchard  
Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0550  
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

##### Coeur d'Alene

2110 Ironwood Parkway  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 769-1422  
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

##### Idaho Falls

900 N. Skyline, Suite B  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 528-2650  
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

##### Lewiston

1118 F Street  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 799-4370  
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

##### Pocatello

444 Hospital Way #300  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
(208) 236-6160  
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

##### Twin Falls

650 Addison Ave. W,  
Suite 110  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
(208) 736-2190  
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

## Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Program



Idaho Department of  
Environmental Quality  
[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)



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## IPDES Program Development

DEQ's goal for this new state-run program is to be a positive development both for the environment and regulated entities. Implementing this significant program will bring exciting challenges to the agency.

DEQ began staffing and developing the IPDES Program in fiscal year 2015. The projected level of staffing and funding for the full IPDES Program is expected to require 29 full-time personnel and \$3.03 million annually.

Year	IPDES Program Phase
2015	Rules and Guidance Development
2016	Idaho Legislature Reviews Rules and Considers Additional Legislation Guidance Development Continued Submit Application to EPA
2017	Hiring and Program Capacity Building
2018	IPDES Program Approval Phase 1—Municipal Permits
2019	Phase 2—Industrial Permits
2020	Phase 3—General Permits and Notices of Intent
2021	Phase 4—Stormwater, Federal Facilities, Sewage Sludge Permits

DEQ currently proposes that 30% of the program cost be funded by user fees, with the remainder coming from state general fund and federal dollars.

The fees will be distributed over municipal, industrial, individual, and stormwater general permits. All other general permits (aquaculture, recreational dredging, pesticide application, and others) would not have a fee burden.

## What does this mean for Idaho?

DEQ will be issuing permits for point source discharges into rivers, streams, and lakes.

State administration of the NPDES program will benefit the regulated community in the following ways:

- Local agency, staff, and knowledge base
- Easier access to staff via state and regional offices
- Typically shorter timelines for permits, reviews, and other services
- Compliance and technical assistance
- Local enforcement with greater flexibility
- Fees and penalties stay in Idaho
- Better integration with other DEQ programs and state agencies

In many ways, it will be business as usual, but with local agency contacts, support, and expertise.

## What does this mean for community?

One change the regulated community can expect to see is local and regular contact by DEQ regional staff. You may also see a shorter permit review timeline for new or reissued permits. We don't anticipate any major changes to the permitting process.

DEQ expects to have an online permit application process available for new applicants and existing permittees.

The online application means permittees will need to provide electronic submittals of permit applications, reports, discharge monitoring reports, and other related information.

## IPDES Fee Schedule

Permit Type	Application	Annual
<b>Industrial</b>		
<i>Major</i>	\$0	\$13,000
<i>Minor</i>	\$0	\$4,000
<b>Stormwater</b>		
<i>Construction General Permit (CGP)</i>		
1–10 acres	\$200	\$0
10–50 acres	\$400	\$75
50–100 acres	\$750	\$100
100–500 acres	\$1,000	\$400
>500 acres	\$1,250	\$400
Low Erosivity Waiver	\$125	\$0
<i>Industrial (Multi-Sector General Permit [MSGP])</i>	\$1,500	\$1,000
<i>Certificate of No Exposure (MSGP)</i>	\$250	\$100
<b>Other General Permits</b>	\$0	\$0

Publicly owned treatment works will be assessed an annual fee of \$1.74 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU).