



State of Idaho



2007-2011 Strategic Plan



Department of Environmental Quality

State of Idaho

Department of Environmental Quality

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Environmental Quality (Department) was established in Chapter 1, Title 39, of Idaho Code to protect public health and the environment in Idaho. The Department manages a broad range of activities, including regulating facilities that generate air, water, and hazardous waste pollution; monitoring air and water quality; cleaning up contaminated sites; and providing education and technical assistance to businesses, local and state government agencies, and Idaho citizens.

The Department implements programs and projects to protect the health of the citizens of Idaho and the environment through collaboration and cooperation with the Departments of Agriculture, Lands, Fish and Game, Water Resources, and other tribal, state and federal agencies. In addition, city and county governments and the health districts assist in implementing programs and projects at the local level.

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 Idaho's citizens wherein the quality of life is enhanced by the quality of their environment. We will assess, sustain, preserve, and enhance environmental qualities in partnership with communities and businesses, and in concert with the economic vitality of the state.

GOAL: *Protect Human Health and the Environment by Preventing, Preparing for and Responding to Public Health and Environmental Emergencies.*

Objective: *Provide Training and Technical Expertise For Emergency Planning and Preparedness.*

Strategies:

- Work with state and federal agencies to update plans and procedures for emergency response to hazardous and radiological emergencies and terrorist acts.
- Provide training and technical assistance to cities, counties, and other agencies to respond to emergency spills of hazardous and radiological materials.
- Improve air quality predictive capabilities to prevent emergencies.
- Prepare state assessments on radiological materials and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) hazards.
- Provide security training to public water systems.

Objective: *Respond to Public Health and Environmental Emergencies.*

Strategies:

- Provide technical advice and coordination to the on-scene commanders of chemical and radiological emergencies.
- Provide immediate response to public drinking water contamination incidents that pose an acute public health threat.
- Take a lead role in responding to air, ground water, and surface water emergencies.
- Aid in providing or finding resources for emergency response actions.
- Provide pertinent emergency information to the public.

GOAL: *Maintain and Improve Air Quality in Idaho's Airsheds.*

Objective: Implement Airshed Management.

Strategies:

- Draft and implement airshed management plans for Sandpoint, Pinehurst, and the Portneuf Valley (Pocatello area) to return these areas to compliance with air quality standards.
- Have the Portneuf Valley reclassified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a maintenance area, meeting air quality standards.
- Work with the Treasure Valley Air Quality Council and other air quality councils, established by Idaho Code, to develop and implement proactive plans to prevent violations of air quality standards.
- Develop and implement strategies with cities and counties in the Treasure Valley to address ozone and particulate problems caused by growth and vehicle emissions.
- Improve and develop comprehensive inventories of pollution sources and mathematical models to accurately predict future air quality conditions in airsheds.
- Develop the regional haze plan for Idaho in response to the federal regional Haze Program. Participate in regional haze planning with other western states.
- In cooperation with other western states, implement the federal regional haze program.
- Monitor air quality at the Idaho/Utah border to determine whether a violation for particulate matter exists in Idaho and, if needed, develop a plan with the citizens of Idaho and Utah to address the situation.
- Coordinate with EPA and Tribes on the implementation of the Federal Air Rules on reservations.

Objective: Issue and Modify Pollution Control Permits to Ensure Air Quality Standards are Met in Airsheds.

Strategies:

- Permit stationary sources in a timely manner to control air pollutant discharges.
- Streamline the permitting processes to meet the needs of facilities, industries, and citizens.
- In cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, develop best management practices for the control of air pollutants from dairies.
- Develop and implement, in cooperation with industry and the public, the needed regulations to prevent and control discharges of toxic and hazardous air pollutants and incorporate requirements into air quality permits.

Objective: Inspect Air Pollution Sources and Take Enforcement Actions to Ensure Compliance with Permits.

Strategies:

- Provide technical assistance to facilities to aid in meeting permit requirements.
- Inspect sources of air pollution, including facility records and reports.
- Provide timely feedback of results of inspections to aid facilities in achieving compliance with permit requirements and limits.

Objective: Control and Manage Open Burning.

Strategies:

- Reduce exposure to smoke from agricultural activities and prescribed burning by providing technical assistance to the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Lands and the U.S. Forest Service on the implementation of smoke management programs.
- Provide assistance to the Idaho Department of Agriculture and Idaho tribes on the control of agricultural burning in Idaho.

Objective: Conduct Air Monitoring, Maintain Pollution Source Inventories, and Develop and Improve Mathematical Models.

Strategies:

- Maintain a statewide monitoring network and identify areas having toxic and hazardous air pollution problems.
- Identify problems and hot spots within airsheds and evaluate progress of control efforts.
- Maintain comprehensive inventories of pollution sources and develop mathematical models to accurately predict air quality conditions in airsheds.
- Identify monitoring needs and develop strategies and implementation plans to improve the statewide monitoring network.

Objective: Provide Education and Outreach to Aid the Public in Understanding Air Quality Issues and How the Public Can Help Meet Clean Air Goals.

Strategies:

- Continue and expand education and outreach efforts, such as *Clean Air Zone Idaho*.
- In cooperation with the Idaho Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations, pursue funding for an agricultural diesel engine replacement program targeted at replacing older, higher-polluting diesel engines with cleaner burning engines.
- Provide current air quality information to the public using the Air Quality Index.

Performance Measures:

- **Number of days ambient monitoring demonstrates compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).**
FY07 TARGET: 365
- **Number of days, as measured by the Air Quality Index, that air is in the healthy category.**
FY07 TARGET: 347
- **Percentage of Permits to Construct issued within required timelines, after completeness is determined.**
FY07 TARGET: 80%
- **Percentage of inspection reports returned to a facility within 30 days.**
FY07 TARGET: 90%
- **Percentage of schools implementing the *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program.**
FY07 TARGET: 40%

GOAL: *Maintain and Improve Surface and Ground Water Quality in Idaho.*

Objective: Implement Water Quality Protection Using a Watershed Approach.

Strategies:

- Implement watershed management and projects through coordination, collaboration, and sharing of expertise with other agencies, local governments, and public and private entities.
- Work with our partners to update the Non-Point Source Management Plan and memoranda of agreement to clarify roles and responsibilities for water quality implementation.

Objective: Monitor and Determine the Quality of Surface and Ground Water.

Strategies:

- Assess surface water bodies to support completion of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), according to the court-ordered schedule.
- Conduct monitoring in cooperation with other entities, including the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey, to determine current conditions, identify potential problem areas, detect trends in surface and ground water quality, and write and implement water quality protection plans.
- Develop a comprehensive program for ground water monitoring in nitrate degraded areas to confirm the nature and extent of contamination and to set a baseline for determining implementation effectiveness.

Objective: Assist and Support Public Water Systems in the Delivery of Safe and Reliable Drinking Water.

Strategies:

- Implement and enforce compliance with safe drinking water regulations to protect public health and maintain state delegation.
- Assist communities in protecting drinking water sources by identifying the potential sources of contamination and developing protection plans that outline management tools.
- Conduct sanitary survey inspections at public water systems.
- Review plans and specifications for public drinking water systems within 42 days, per Idaho Code, to ensure systems are properly located, designed, constructed, and operated.
- Protect public health and local economies by assisting public water systems in the prevention of waterborne disease outbreaks.

Objective: Protect and Improve Ground Water Quality.***Strategies:***

- Coordinate with other agencies to write and implement 10 ground water management plans for nitrate priority areas by 2009.
- Oversee cleanup of contaminated sites.
- In cooperation with the Department of Water Resources, finalize guidance for managed recharge by land application to the Snake River Plain Aquifer.
- Review nutrient-pathogen evaluations to assess potential impacts of on-site subsurface sewage disposal on surface and ground water.
- Promote implementation of best management practices for ground water protection and prepare a field guide for evaluating practice effectiveness.

Objective: Reduce Pollutants in Surface Water to Meet Water Quality Standards and Beneficial Uses.***Strategies:***

- Write and implement TMDLs for impaired water bodies.
- Work with watershed advisory groups, basin advisory groups, tribes, and other states in the development, implementation, and review of TMDLs. Seek input on the appropriateness, attainability, and status of existing designated beneficial uses and water quality criteria, and implement additional provisions of the Idaho Code.
- Issue water quality certifications, as delegated to the states by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, for surface water permits or licenses required by a federal agency.
- Review water quality standards to ensure uses are accurate and attainable.
- Develop a draft use attainability analysis policy and procedure, and a draft beneficial use designation guidance.
- Draft a nutrient criteria strategy.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for antidegradation implementation.

Objective: Prevent or Control Pollution From Land-Applied Wastewater.***Strategies:***

- Promote reclaimed wastewater reuse to offset drought and growth effects on available water supplies.
- Issue, modify, renew, and enforce wastewater land application (reuse) permits to ensure protection of public health and water quality.
- Inspect permitted facilities, including their records and reports, to ensure compliance with permit conditions and all applicable requirements.

Objective: Prevent and Control Pollution From Wastewater Discharges.

Strategies:

- Review plans and specifications for wastewater facilities within 42 days, per Idaho Code.
- Inspect wastewater facilities, including facility records and reports.

Objective: Finance Watershed Improvement Projects and Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems to Meet Regulatory Standards.

Strategies:

- Develop effective grant processes for our customers, including Web-based grant application software and timing grants to better fit the needs of applicants.
- Provide financial assistance grants to plan, design, and construct cost-effective drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.
- Provide funding for nonpoint source watershed projects.
- Provide below-market-rate loans through the state revolving funds to plan, design, and construct drinking water and wastewater facilities.

Performance Measures

- **Percentage of people on Community Water Systems served drinking water that meets health-based standards.**
FY07 TARGET: 92%
- **Percentage of sanitary survey inspection reports returned to a facility within 30 days.**
FY07 TARGET: 85%
- **Percentage of drinking water and wastewater plan and specification reviews completed within 42 days of receipt.**
FY07 TARGET: 80%
- **Percentage of available grant and loan funds obligated.**
FY07 GRANT TARGET: 100% FY07 LOAN TARGET: 100 %
- **Complete all TMDLs for 269 impaired waterbodies.**
FY07 TARGET: 269

GOAL: *Protect Human Health and the Environment Through Proper Waste Management and Remediation of Contaminated Areas.*

Objective: *Ensure Proper Management of Hazardous and Solid Waste to Minimize the Threat of Releases.*

Strategies:

- Issue and enforce permits for hazardous waste facilities.
- Oversee the development and operation of municipal and non-municipal solid waste disposal sites by certifying and reviewing plans for site design, operations, and closure.
- Issue inspection reports and consent orders between the Department and regulated facilities in a consistent and timely manner.
- Ensure that solid waste management facilities meet financial assurance requirements.
- Conduct inspections of facilities that manage solid or hazardous waste to ensure compliance.

Objective: *Aid Facilities and Local Governments in Reducing Waste and Complying With Rules and Regulations Through Outreach and Assistance.*

Strategies:

- Reduce waste by providing pollution prevention and recycling information to the public, local governments, and targeted business sectors.
- Provide compliance assistance inspections to help facilities comply with regulations.
- Maintain a registry of information on regulated underground storage tanks.

Objective: *Ensure Past and Present Mining Activities Meet Water Quality Standards, Comply with Ground Water Quality Rules, and Meet Regulations.*

Strategies:

- Work with local, state, and federal land management agencies to identify, assess, and prioritize potentially contaminated mine sites and, if necessary, ensure remediation.
- Work with industry and state and federal agencies to conduct area-wide and site-specific assessments of selenium contamination in eastern Idaho.
- Issue permits to cyanidation mining facilities and perform inspections to ensure compliance.
- Support the Basin Environmental Improvement Commission with its task of addressing heavy metal contamination in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.
- Remediate contaminated residential yards, rights-of-way, and commercial properties in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Objective: Ensure Cleanup of Contaminated Sites.

Strategies:

- Evaluate and prioritize assessment of contaminated sites based on the threat to human health and the environment.
- Use risk-based targets to establish site cleanup goals.
- Implement institutional controls, when necessary, for risk-based remediation sites.
- Conduct or fund environmental assessments of Brownfield sites where a lack of environmental information has complicated site redevelopment or reuse.
- Assist local governments and the public by maintaining and providing access to the Brownfield inventory.
- Assist decision makers in cleaning up properties for redevelopment.

Performance Measures

- **Number of Brownfield sites made ready for reuse.**
FY07 TARGET: 15
- **Number of contaminated sites rendered safe for reuse each year.**
FY07 TARGET: 135
- **Percentage of inspection reports returned to a facility within 30 days.**
FY07 TARGET: 100%
- **Number of known hazardous waste handlers inspected.**
FY07 TARGET: 199
- **Percentage of time-critical or scheduled hazardous waste permits. and/or reviews completed within established timeframes.**
FY07 TARGET: 100%
- **Percentage of solid waste management facilities sited and reviewed within required timeframes.**
FY07 TARGET: 100%
- **Number of targeted, abandoned mine sites requiring no further action.**
FY07 TARGET: 20

GOAL: *Protect Human Health and the Environment in and Around the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).*

Objective: *Monitor Environmental Conditions to Ensure the INL and Surrounding Area Meet Air, Radiation and Water Quality Standards.*

Strategies:

- Operate 10 *continuous* air monitoring stations and 11 *real-time* radiation monitoring stations.
- Collect ground water samples and analyze the monitoring data from 97 sampling locations.
- Analyze ground water data obtained from wells drilled by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of Energy.
- Analyze sample results from 11 wastewater sites.
- Analyze other monitoring information to evaluate the long-term deposition and migration of contaminants in the environment.
- Review ongoing and proposed actions to determine whether monitoring efforts need to be refined.

Objective: *Evaluate and Assess Compliance with State Agreements, Permits, and State Standards.*

Strategies:

- Review engineering documents and risk assessments to determine how facilities are being operated and to understand their potential environmental impacts.
- Track compliance with state agreements and court orders, including the 1995 Settlement Agreement.
- Oversee INL activities to protect the Snake River Plain Aquifer.
- Issue and enforce state permits for air and water quality, hazardous waste management, and conduct inspections to ensure compliance.
- Review and approve plans and decisions for contaminated site investigation, risk assessment, and remedial action (cleanup).

Objective: *Ensure the Public, Communities, and Agencies are Informed of Existing and Potential Impacts at INL.*

Strategies:

- Provide accurate, understandable, and timely information to the public.
- Seek public input into decisions that affect the environment, including radioactive waste management.
- Track inventories and documents of various types of waste and how they are managed.

Performance Measures:

- **Percentage of time that *continuous* air monitoring stations and *real-time* radiation monitoring stations are operational.**
FY07 TARGET: 90%
- **Number of local and state emergency responders provided with radiation training.**
FY07 TARGET: 200

GOAL: *Ensure Infrastructure and Support are Adequate to Fulfill the Mission of the Department.*

Objective: *Develop an Integrated Data Management System that Provides Access to Quality Data and Analytical Tools to the Department and Public.*

Strategies:

- Provide an integrated environmental information management system capable of accessing air, waste, and water data to aid the Department in better managing environmental conditions.
- Develop electronic information exchange capabilities with other agencies.
- Implement five new initiatives to aid the Department in increasing its efficiencies.
- Maintain and improve the Internet site to provide forms, reporting tools, information, and access to Department customers and the public.
- Provide the public the opportunity to comment on Department actions through the Web site.

Objective: *Provide the Public with Information on Environmental Health Risks and Conditions and Methods of Pollution Reduction.*

Strategies:

- Develop and disseminate accurate and understandable information to businesses and the public.
- Work with identified business sectors to implement pollution prevention.
- Develop and distribute news releases.
- Evaluate the success of public outreach and pollution prevention activities.

Objective: *Ensure Proper Management, Accurate Accounting, and Efficient Utilization of Financial Resources.*

Strategies:

- Develop and track an annual budget and expenditures to ensure public funds are efficiently utilized.
- Provide contract development, tracking, and payment to ensure contracts are clear on services to be provided and contractors are paid on time.

Performance Measures:

- **Percentage of contracts completed on time and within budget.**
FY07 TARGET: 85%
- **Average number of days an agency position is vacant.**
FY07 TARGET: 45-60
- **Turnover for the agency**
FY07 TARGET: Less than 6%
- **Percentage of days without network service interruption.**
FY07 TARGET: 100%
- **Percent completion of five projects, implemented by the information management office, to aid the Department in increasing its efficiencies and capabilities.**
FY07 TARGET: 50% on all five projects.
- **Recruit facilities to implement the new community *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program.**
FY07 TARGET: 50
- **Number of stakeholders reached through outreach activities.**
FY07 TARGET: 7,000
- **Number of subscriptions to DEQ's GovDelivery service.**
FY07 TARGET: 500

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