



State of **Idaho**



Department of **Environmental Quality**



***Strategic Plan***

*For*

***Fiscal Years 2008-2012***



Valley Creek – Idaho Falls



Monitoring



Before:  
Eroding stream  
bank.

Thomas Creek  
Central Idaho



After:  
Best management  
practices  
implemented.

Geologists examining  
geological formations.



Lifts at the Idaho National  
Laboratory (INL)



## Introduction

The Department of Environmental Quality (Hereinafter referred to as DEQ) was established in Chapter 1, Title 39, of the Idaho Code to protect public health and the environment in Idaho. DEQ 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. DEQ 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 state, tribal, 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 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.

Portneuf Valley –  
Southeastern Idaho



## **GOAL: Prevent, Prepare, and Respond to Public Health and Environmental Emergencies.**

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

#### **Strategies for emergency training:**

- Work with state and federal agencies to update plans and procedures for emergency responses 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.

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

#### **Strategies for emergency response:**

- Provide technical advice to 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.
- Collaborate with the Division of Health in providing appropriate public health information.

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

### **Objective: Conduct Air Monitoring, Maintain Pollution Source Inventories, and Support Predictive Model Development.**

**Air Quality Index (AQI).** The AQI is a tool for reporting daily air quality to the general public. It indicates how healthy or polluted the air is in a particular area and identifies potential health impacts. The AQI, which is based on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), focuses on health effects that can happen within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. Recent changes to the fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standard and expected changes to the ozone standard make these standards even more protective of human health.

**Performance Measure: Work with local governments and the public to maintain the 2006 AQI level of 95% of days in the "healthy" category.**

**External Factors:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has changed the air quality standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and will likely change the standard for ozone. It is not known precisely what effect this will have on AQI levels; however, it is possible that the more stringent standards will increase the number of days that Idaho's air quality is in the "unhealthy" category.

If federal funds are reduced, air quality monitoring could be reduced, which would limit DEQ's ability to identify problem areas.

The number and severity of wildfires and prescribed burns can increase AQI levels.

#### **Strategies for modeling and monitoring:**

- Maintain the statewide air monitoring network to determine compliance with EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards, to assess the progress of pollution control efforts, and to reconcile the accuracy of mathematical air quality models.
- Develop and implement monitoring strategies that identify pollutants (and their sources) that contribute to the secondary formation of fine particulate matter and ozone, and identify areas with a high risk of toxic and hazardous air pollutants.
- Maintain a statewide network of meteorological monitoring stations and provide access to "real-time" meteorological data to support air quality forecasting and other air quality management functions.
- Make air monitoring and meteorological data available to the public and stakeholders for permit applications and other uses.
- Compile comprehensive inventories of pollutant sources and their emissions to use with regulatory mathematical air quality models and to support airshed management activities.
- Continue developing the Air Information Management System to provide increased access to air quality data internally and externally.
- Report air quality information to the public on a daily basis and inform the public what actions can and should be taken to reduce air pollution and protect public health.

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

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

**Permit Streamlining and Inspections.** The agency is undertaking an initiative to streamline the processing of permits, with the goal of reducing the amount of time and steps involved in the permit application process. Inspections of industrial sources of pollution are conducted periodically to ensure that environmental regulatory protection requirements and, if applicable, permit operating conditions are being met.

**Performance Measure: In Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, reduce the amount of time to process air permits to construct from an average of 295 days to 99 days (process 80% of all permits within 99 days).**

### Strategies for streamlining permits, inspections, and enforcement:

- Implement permit to construct process improvements to reduce permit issuance timeframes.
- Develop and implement permit by rule and general permits for selected industrial sources.
- Inspect sources of air pollution to verify compliance with regulations and permit requirements.
- Streamline the enforcement process to provide timely and appropriate enforcement response to air violations.

## Objective: Implement Airshed Management.

**Airshed Management.** Airshed management is a proactive approach to managing air quality to avoid or minimize future air quality problems. DEQ is working toward managing air quality by collecting accurate data and developing a scientific understanding of the air pollution dynamics in each airshed. DEQ involves the community, residents, and businesses in an airshed in establishing an air quality vision and goals for their area.

**Treasure Valley Air Quality Council.** A coalition of businesses, local officials, and state agencies has recognized the importance of collectively addressing air pollution in the Treasure Valley. Good air quality is not only important to the health of our citizens, but plays an important role in promoting strong economic growth. During the past year, the Governor-appointed council worked to develop the *Treasure Valley Air Quality Plan* with recommendations that should be undertaken to be proactive in addressing air quality issues in the Treasure Valley in an effort to prevent exceeding federal standards. DEQ will be conducting negotiated rulemaking to install stage 1 vapor recovery at gas stations throughout the Treasure Valley and to conduct intensive outreach and education to encourage citizens to help prevent air pollution.

**Performance Measures: Begin stage 1 vapor recovery negotiated rulemaking in FY2008 and request additional monies for outreach and education.**

**In FY2009, complete rulemaking, implement stage 1 vapor recovery throughout the Treasure Valley, and conduct a widespread outreach campaign to educate Treasure Valley citizens on air quality issues.**

**Strategies for airshed management:**

- Identify areas at risk for non-attainment and work with those communities to identify and implement voluntary airshed management strategies to protect public health and meet air quality standards.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to prepare DEQ for the new PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard through airshed planning, rule changes, and permitting policies.
- Assist school districts to obtain funding for installation of air pollution control technologies on school buses.
- Develop partnerships with public and private transportation fleets to install diesel retrofit technologies to reduce air pollution and improve fuel efficiency.
- Develop and implement appropriate air quality improvement and maintenance plans to address federally mandated planning requirements in Sandpoint, Pinehurst, and Franklin County.
- Develop and implement strategies with cities, counties, and metropolitan planning agencies in the Treasure Valley to address ozone and particulate problems caused by growth and increased vehicle emissions.
- Assist the Treasure Valley Air Quality Council in implementing recommendations in the *Treasure Valley Air Quality Plan*, which includes stage 1 vapor recovery, standardizing local ordinances for woodstoves, dust control, open burning controls, and restructuring the vehicle inspection and maintenance program.
- Evaluate air quality protection processes and resource allocation to ensure consistency with airshed management and State Implementation Plan (SIP) objectives.
- In cooperation with other western states, develop program elements to ensure reasonable progress goals of the Regional Haze SIP are met.
- Integrate Regional Haze Plan into routine air quality protection processes, permitting, and implementation plans, and where necessary, develop rules to ensure appropriate control of sources.

**Objective: Provide Education and Outreach to Help the Public Understand Air Quality Issues Including How the Public Can Help Meet Clean Air Goals.**

**Clean Air Zone Idaho.** Initiated in 2005, *Clean Air Zone Idaho* is a voluntary program aimed at reducing school children's exposure to vehicle emissions. The program discourages idling of school buses and other vehicles, encourages the use of alternative fuels, and helps schools get funding to retrofit buses with advanced emission control technologies.

In addition to helping alleviate air pollution by reducing idling, the program helps school districts save on fuel costs. Studies show that if a school bus fleet has 50 buses and each bus reduced idling time by 30 minutes a day, at \$2 per gallon of diesel, the fleet would save \$4,500 per school year.

Diesel exhaust aggravates asthma and bronchitis and exacerbates allergies. Idling buses and lined-up vehicles can increase the concentration of particulate matter inside school buses and nearby buildings.

**Education and Outreach.** To successfully meet clean air goals in Idaho it will require the public to be informed and engaged in what they can do to protect their air quality. DEQ will provide the necessary information to the public, local governments, and organizations on what they can do to aid in this effort. Information will be provided in a way that is understandable and will aid the public in developing the “green” ethic.

**Performance Measures: In FY2008, have 50% of all schools participating in the *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program.  
In FY2010, have 70% of all schools participating in the *Clean Air Zone Idaho* program.**

**Strategies for outreach:**

- Partner with the Idaho Division of Health to provide the public with information on toxic air pollution and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in key airsheds.
  - Treasure Valley Community Scale Toxic Air Pollutant Monitoring Project
  - Pocatello Metals Exposure Project
  - Health effects of particulate matter and diesel exhaust.
- Continue to expand education and outreach programs, such as *Clean Air Zone Idaho*, to schools, communities, and businesses.
- Provide current air quality information to the public using the AQI in conjunction with the agency’s email subscription service, GovDelivery.

**Objective: Develop a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan for State Agencies.**

**Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.** Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases are rising and are projected to continue to increase. Although no state or region can unilaterally address emissions, DEQ is tasked by Executive Order with developing recommendations on statewide emission reduction opportunities and to reduce greenhouse gases generated by state agencies.

**Performance Measures: In FY2008, develop and begin the implementation of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan for state agencies.  
In FY2009, complete a greenhouse gas inventory with statewide emission reduction recommendations.**

**Strategies for reduction of greenhouse gases:**

- Implement the Executive Order for the reduction of greenhouse gases.
- Work with other state agencies to implement a greenhouse gas reduction plan.
- Inventory the sources and quantities of greenhouse gases in Idaho.



**Sunset – Eastern Idaho**

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

### **Objective: Implement Surface and Ground Water Quality Protection Using a Watershed Approach.**

**Watershed Management.** The term watershed refers to the total land area that contributes water to a river, stream, lake, or other water body. In an effort to achieve sustainable use and management of water resources, DEQ will continue with the integration of all water quality programs at the watershed level as the way to meet or achieve water quality goals. The basis for this approach is that watersheds are the basic unit used to define and gauge water quality and it is at that level that water programs can be most effective.

***Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan (Plan).*** Coeur d'Alene Lake is a beautiful and popular recreation area. Water quality management of the lake is a shared function between Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Overall, lake water quality is good, but certain areas do not meet federal, state and tribal water quality criteria. To address this concern, the Plan was completed in 1995 and adopted in 1996 to more effectively manage impacts to the lake. Since the Plan was adopted, new information has become available, legal and regulatory decisions have been made, basin-wide remedial actions have been taken, and some implementation has occurred, requiring that the Plan be updated. The state of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are currently working to revise the Plan. The plan needs to be finalized, agreement reached by the primary parties, and support obtained from area counties and other local governments, and stakeholders. The Plan also needs to meet the requirements of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Record of Decision.

**Performance Measure:** *In FY2008, complete a joint draft of the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan.*

**Non-Point Source Management Plan.** Non-point sources of pollution have been identified as primary causes of surface and ground water contamination. Across Idaho, non-point source pollution resulting from diffuse practices can be consistently and uniformly managed under a plan developed with input from other resource management agencies and the public. The plan describes how DEQ will implement a program to meet key elements and requirements of the Clean Water Act.

#### **Strategies for watershed implementation:**

- Implement watershed management through coordination, collaboration, and sharing of expertise with other agencies, local governments, and public and private entities.
- Work with our partners to implement the *Nonpoint Source Management Plan* and Memoranda of Agreement to clarify roles and responsibilities for water quality protection and watershed management.
- In FY2008, complete a joint draft of the state of Idaho and Coeur d'Alene Tribe *Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan*.

## **Objective: Determine the Quality of Surface and Ground Water through Monitoring and Assessment of Water Bodies and Aquifers.**

Protecting Idaho's surface water and ground water is a continual process. Steps in this process involve monitoring or assessing the quality of surface water bodies and aquifers to determine current conditions, identify potential problem areas, and detect trends in surface and ground water quality. The results of the monitoring and assessment are used to report on the quality of Idaho's waters, write water quality plans (total maximum daily loads), or write and implement implementation plans. The success of those plans is demonstrated through improved water quality.

**Sampling Water Bodies for Mercury.** A growing concern of Idaho citizens has been recent sampling results that have shown concentrations of mercury above water quality standards in several fish species in certain locations. DEQ is developing an aggressive plan to complete representative sampling for mercury levels in water bodies throughout the state. These sampling results will help inform citizens of potential risks and advise them on the appropriate amount of fish that may be safe to consume from sampled water bodies.

**Performance Measure: By FY2011, sample and characterize major water bodies for mercury levels.**

### **Strategies for monitoring and assessment:**

- Assess surface water bodies and conduct monitoring in cooperation with other entities, including the Idaho Departments of Water Resources and Fish and Game, 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.
- By FY2008, develop a statewide statistical estimate of mercury, arsenic, and selenium fish tissue concentrations for lakes and reservoirs with surface areas greater than 50 acres.
- By FY2011, develop a statewide estimate of mercury levels in fish tissue for all lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams.
- Coordinate ground water monitoring in degraded areas to confirm the nature and extent of contamination and to set a baseline for determining implementation effectiveness.
- Develop and maintain a ground water quality database and provide access to the information via the Internet.

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

**Drinking Water.** DEQ protects public health by working closely with managers and licensed operators of public water systems to help them ensure drinking water from public water systems in Idaho is safe. DEQ is authorized to administer Idaho's Drinking Water Program through the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Idaho's Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems. Approximately 95% of the state's public drinking water comes from ground water. Surface water, such as streams, rivers, reservoirs, and springs, supplies the remaining 5%.

In Idaho, there are approximately 2,000 regulated public drinking water systems serving 1,218,000 people. Public water systems, which may be publicly or privately owned, serve at least 25 people or 15 service connections for at least 60 days per year. Many other Idaho citizens get their drinking water from private wells. These wells are not regulated under the Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems; well owners are responsible for ensuring their own water is safe.

**Performance Measures: In FY2008, ensure at least 92% of people served by community water systems are delivered drinking water that meets all health-based standards.**  
**By FY2011, ensure at least 95% of people served by community water systems are delivered water that meets all health-based standards.**

**External factors.** Promulgation by the EPA of new or more stringent maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water in the future could negatively impact the percentage of people served safe water under today's standards.

During this strategic plan cycle, diminished funding levels are expected for both the federal grants and the state drinking water fees under the current program delivery. Fees have remained constant since 1992. It is expected that by 2012 additional funding support will be necessary to maintain core functions.

**Performance Measures: In FY2008, complete 85% of all drinking water plan and specification review submittals within 42 days.**  
**By FY2011, complete 90% of drinking water plan and specification reviews within 42 days.**

### **Strategies for safe drinking water:**

- Protect public health by requiring compliance with safe drinking water regulations.
- Maintain state delegation of the Drinking Water Program by requiring compliance with the Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems and the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.
- Assist communities in protecting drinking water sources by identifying the potential sources of contamination, developing protection plans that outline management tools, and follow up with assistance in implementation.

- Conduct comprehensive sanitary survey inspections at public water systems to ensure those systems are properly maintained and operated.
- Review plans and specifications for public drinking water systems within 42 days, per state law, to ensure systems are properly located, designed, and constructed.
- Protect public health and local economies by assisting public water systems in the prevention of waterborne disease outbreaks by requiring compliance with health based standards.

## Objective: Protect and Improve Ground Water Quality.

**Ground Water Policy.** Idaho’s ground water policy is to maintain and protect the existing high quality of ground water and restore degraded ground water where feasible to support ground water beneficial uses. DEQ is responsible for implementing this policy and protecting the quality of ground water in Idaho.

**Ground Water Quality Management Plans.** In many locations throughout the state, nitrates in ground water exceed the standard for ground water in Idaho. In these areas, ground water quality management plans are being developed in conjunction with area residents, other agencies and interested parties. These plans identify steps and best management practices that can be employed to help reduce nitrates in ground water.

**Performance Measure: By FY2010, develop ground water quality management plans for 10 nitrate priority areas.**

### Strategies for ground water protection:

- Coordinate with other agencies and communities to develop and assist with the implementation of 10 ground water quality management plans for nitrate priority areas by FY2010.
- Oversee cleanup of contaminated sites.
- 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 work with other agencies to prepare a field guide for evaluating the effectiveness of ground water best management practices (BMPs).
- Participate with the Idaho State Departments of Agriculture and Water Resources on site evaluations for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).
- Work with other agencies to ensure ground water recharge activities are protective of ground water quality.
- Assess public drinking water sources and provide technical and financial assistance to communities implementing source water protection plans to protect aquifers that supply public drinking water systems.

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

**Water Quality Improvement Plans.** Many surface waters in Idaho have been found to not meet their designated beneficial uses. When these uses are not supported, a water quality improvement plan, or “total maximum daily load” (TMDL) is developed. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive from human-caused sources and still meet water quality standards. Basically, a TMDL is a pollutant budget. While currently further along in the process than most states, Idaho is falling behind in the completion of a court-ordered schedule for TMDLs. While working on completing the TMDL schedule, DEQ will also begin conducting five year TMDL reviews in 2008. The following year, DEQ will produce an annual report of these reviews for the legislature.

**Performance Measures: In FY2008, complete TMDLs for 660 assessment unit/pollutant combinations.  
By FY2010, complete all TMDLs required by the TMDL settlement agreement.**

**External factors.** As the science, technology, procedures, and methodology for developing TMDLs changes, DEQ sees an increase in workload. Changes in temperature methodology have increased DEQ’s role of educating interested parties. Changes in total phosphorous science and technology have created disagreement about what is needed to comply with the nutrient narrative standards to achieve beneficial uses. Both of these factors have and will continue to slow and complicate the TMDL process.

DEQ continues to experience high turnover of TMDL writers. Efforts are under way to retain these employees, but the continued turnover, learning curve, and required training have impacted our ability to complete TMDLs.

### **Strategies for surface water protection:**

- Work with watershed advisory groups (WAGs), basin advisory groups (BAGs), 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.
- Issue water quality certifications, as delegated to the states by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, for federal permits/licenses of activities that have a potential to result in a discharge to waters of the US, to ensure there is a reasonable assurance that those activities will comply with state water quality standards.
- Review water quality standards to determine if beneficial uses are appropriate.
- Develop a draft use attainability analysis (UAA) policy and procedure to provide for consistency in any future UAAs.
- Develop a mixing zone analysis document to provide for consistency and clarity in mixing zone requirements.
- Provide support to local stakeholders in reducing nonpoint source pollutants by providing funding and technical assistance and by overseeing the implementation of nonpoint source pollutant reduction projects.

## Objective: Encourage Environmentally Protective Reuse of Wastewater.

**Promote Reclaimed Wastewater Reuse.** DEQ promotes the practice of reuse of both municipal and industrial reclaimed wastewater. As more reclaimed wastewater is reused, the quality of Idaho's rivers, streams, and ground water will improve. Additionally, the reuse of reclaimed wastewater frees up water resources to be used for other beneficial uses. Through the continued creation and implementation of rules and guidance, DEQ will provide permittees various opportunities for new forms of reuse. Rules and guidance will also be developed to simplify the application process, permitting, and required compliance activities of permittees. DEQ has participated in the coordination of the Wastewater Reuse Conference held each spring for the last two years and commits to continued preparation of a "state-of-the-art" conference for the next four years.

**Performance Measure: By FY2011, host four Wastewater Reuse Conferences and Permit four New Class A or Class B Wastewater Reuse Facilities.**

### Strategies for wastewater reuse:

- Promote reclaimed wastewater reuse to offset drought and growth effects on available water supplies.
- By FY2011, host four wastewater reuse conferences.
- By FY2011 permit four projects that will reclaim wastewater to class A or B standards and reuse the water. Class A and B facilities are both municipal reuse facilities, the letter designation describes applicable land application requirements based on levels of pathogen reduction, such as buffer zones, access restrictions, disinfection requirements, uses, and other requirements that must be met.
- Issue, modify, renew, and enforce wastewater reuse permits to ensure protection of public health and water quality.
- By FY2011, streamline the wastewater reuse permitting process with the goal of reducing the amount of time involved in processing permit applications by at least 20%.
- Inspect permitted facilities, including their records and reports, to ensure compliance with permit conditions and all applicable requirements.



Bull Elk – Eastern Idaho

## **Objective: Prevent and Control Pollution from Wastewater Discharges.**

**Performance Measures: In FY2008, complete 85% of wastewater plan and specification reviews within 42 days.  
By FY2010, complete 90% of wastewater plan and specification reviews within 42 days.**

### **Strategies for wastewater discharge:**

- Review plans and specifications for wastewater facilities within 42 days, per state law, to ensure systems are properly located, designed, and constructed.
- Inspect National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted wastewater facilities, in conjunction with the EPA, to ensure compliance with permit conditions and all applicable requirements.

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

**Planning Grants and Construction Loans.** DEQ administers federal and state funds used to provide grants and low-interest loans to eligible entities to conduct specific activities designed to improve the quality of Idaho's water resources. Grants and loans each have their own application requirements and time schedules. DEQ often receives notice of funding opportunities for water quality improvement projects from other agencies and organizations and passes relevant information on to stakeholders. These are not DEQ-administered funds or programs, but DEQ provides the information as a public service.

**Performance Measure: In FY2008, obligate 100% of available grant and loan funds.**

### **Strategies for grants and loans:**

- Develop more effective and timely planning grant and construction loan processes for our customers, including Web-based grant application software.
- Provide financial assistance through grants and below-market-rate loans to plan, design, and construct cost-effective drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.
- Provide funding for nonpoint source watershed projects.

# **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.**

**Hazardous Waste.** DEQ issues permits, inspects facilities that generate hazardous waste, provides technical assistance and takes corrective action, as needed, so that hazardous wastes are safely managed and properly disposed.

**Solid Waste.** In conjunction with counties and public health districts, DEQ oversees the development and operation of municipal and non-municipal solid waste disposal sites in Idaho. Because more than 95% of water used by households in Idaho is ground water, it is very important that landfills in the state are carefully managed and regulated to protect groundwater, and to assure protection of public health and the environment.

**Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program.** As studies turn up evidence of pharmaceuticals in the environment, there is increased concern about proper disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals. For example, a nationwide study released in 2002 by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) showed trace levels of chemicals found in prescription drugs in 80% of the streams across the country (including three monitoring sites in the Boise River).

There is also increased risk of accidental poisoning from unwanted or expired medications sitting in medicine cabinets. Putting medicines in the garbage may lead to accidental contact by children and animals and, if landfilled, contamination of soil and ground water.

The goal of a pharmaceutical take-back program is for a coalition of government and non-profit groups throughout the state to develop a means to collect unwanted household pharmaceuticals and dispose of them safely.

**Performance Measure: In FY2008, complete research on potential take-back program options.  
By FY2011, implement pilot take-back programs in four Idaho communities.**

### **Strategies for proper management of waste:**

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

- Inspect facilities that manage solid or hazardous waste to ensure compliance.
- Provide compliance-assistance inspections to help regulated facilities comply with regulations.
- Research, develop, and implement pilot pharmaceutical take-back programs in four Idaho communities.

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

**Waste Reduction.** DEQ partners with schools, businesses, community organizations, and other government entities to conduct public outreach on pollution prevention. DEQ also provides both technical and compliance assistance to these groups to optimize their efforts in complying with rules, regulations, and policies. This approach represents a department-wide emphasis and should be viewed as an integral component to employees accomplishing their job duties rather than an "add-on" to current operations.

**Performance Measure: By FY2010, develop an Environmental Guide for Local Governments to help communities manage their environmental concerns in a proactive and affordable way.**

### **Strategies for waste reduction:**

- Reduce waste generation by providing information about pollution prevention and recycling to the public, local governments, and targeted business sectors.
- Partner with manufacturers to improve productivity and eliminate waste by integrating pollution prevention into business strategies.
- Develop an *Environmental Guide for Local Governments* that outlines common environmental concerns, pollution prevention best practices, available resources, environmental laws and regulations, and case studies about communities implementing successful pollution prevention practices.

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

**Mining.** DEQ works with EPA to clean up and remediate areas where mining activities have contaminated soil and surface waters. Priorities include cleaning up the Bunker Hill Superfund site, remediating the Coeur d'Alene Basin in northern Idaho, and investigating the impact of selenium contamination from historic mines in southeast Idaho.

**Performance Measure: In FY2008, determine 20 targeted, abandoned mine sites requiring no further action.**

**Coeur d’Alene Yard Remediation.** EPA listed the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex and Coeur d’Alene Basin in northern Idaho as a Superfund site on the National Priorities List. The basis of this listing was high levels of metals (including lead, arsenic, cadmium, and zinc) in the local environment and elevated blood lead levels in children. Much of the focus on the cleanup has been replacing homeowners’ metal-contaminated yards with clean soil. By providing clean soil, individuals, particularly children, have reduced exposure to heavy metals. DEQ receives federal funds and is responsible for the majority of the yard remediation program.

**Performance Measures: In FY2008, remediate 350 properties for a total of 1,698 properties.  
By the end of FY2010, remediate a total of 2,748 metal-contaminated yards.**

**Strategies for mining:**

- Work with state, and federal land management agencies to identify, assess, and prioritize potentially contaminated mine sites and work with property owners to determine remedial options.
- Work with industry, state, federal, and tribal agencies to conduct area-wide and site-specific assessments of selenium contamination in eastern Idaho.
- Review and issue permits to cyanidation mining facilities and perform inspections to determine 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.**

**Remediation.** DEQ oversees remediation of sites contaminated by metals, petroleum leaking from underground storage tanks, and solvents entering soils and groundwater. DEQ also maintains a database inventory of contaminated sites in Idaho and assists eligible entities in applying for federal grants to clean up contaminated sites known as Brownfields.

**Performance Measure: In FY2008, render 20 leaking underground storage tank sites safe for reuse.**

**Brownfield Revitalization Program.** The Brownfield Revitalization Program provides an avenue for returning contaminated property to productive use. A Brownfield assessment is conducted when a lack of environmental information about an actual or perceived contaminated property complicates the opportunity for redevelopment or reuse. This site assessment program provides the data necessary to evaluate the potential risk and cost of site remediation.

**Performance Measure: In FY2008, complete 15 Brownfield site assessments.**

**In FY2008 and FY2009, award and begin implementation of 5 Brownfield pilot projects each year.**

**Strategies for Prevention and Cleanup of Contaminated Sites:**

- Assess contaminated sites based on the threat to human health and the environment using risk-based targets to establish site cleanup goals.
- Implement institutional controls, under the direction of the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act when necessary, for risk-based remediation sites.
- Conduct environmental assessments of Brownfield sites where a lack of environmental information has complicated site redevelopment or reuse.
- Aid in preventing and tracking leaks by maintaining a registry of information about regulated underground storage.
- Assist local governments and the public by maintaining and providing access to the Brownfield inventory.
- Assist decision makers in cleaning up properties for redevelopment.



**Glory Hole –  
Central Idaho**

## **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.**

**Idaho National Laboratory.** DEQ works with the Department of Energy (DOE) and other agencies to ensure the INL is operated in a manner that protects public health and the environment, while supporting and making full use of the INL's technical expertise and resources to address the nation's engineering and environmental challenges. The agencies are working together to address problems created by past activities, as well as ensuring the INL is complying with legal agreements for waste treatment and removal, and all applicable regulations.

DEQ maintains an independent environmental surveillance program designed to verify and supplement INL monitoring programs. Over the past 11 years, DEQ has developed a database that allows us to better understand background radiation, track emissions from site facilities, and follow the behavior of contamination in the aquifer.

**Performance Measure: In FY2008, ensure continuous air monitoring stations and real-time radiation monitoring stations are operational 97% of the time.**

#### **Strategies for INL:**

- 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 USGS and the DOE.
- 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.

## **GOAL: Ensure Infrastructure is Adequate to Fulfill the Mission of DEQ.**

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

**Automated Permit Application Process.** Closely aligned with the air permit streamlining initiative is a plan to fully automate the process of applying for pollution control permits. Among the permits DEQ issues are air quality permits to limit emissions from regulated facilities and wastewater reuse permits to protect surface and ground water from potential contamination associated with land application for irrigation and other purposes.

Currently, applicants must fill out and submit hard copies of permit application forms to DEQ, along with checks for fees, if applicable. This process is lengthy and cumbersome. Providing applicants with the tools to submit permit applications and fees electronically via the Web will improve customer service by making the application process easier and quicker to complete.

**Performance Measure: By FY2010, complete automation of the application process for all permits issued by DEQ.**

#### **Strategies for data management:**

- Implement an integrated environmental information management system capable of accessing air, waste, and water data to aid in better managing environmental conditions.
- Develop electronic information exchange capabilities with other agencies.
- Fully automate the application process for all permits issued to reduce paperwork and improve customer service.
- Expand the ability of the public to access timely environmental information via DEQ's Web site.
- In FY2008, implement a document management system.
- Provide the public the opportunity to comment on DEQ actions through the Web site.

## GOAL: Inform and Educate the Public on Environmental Issues.

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

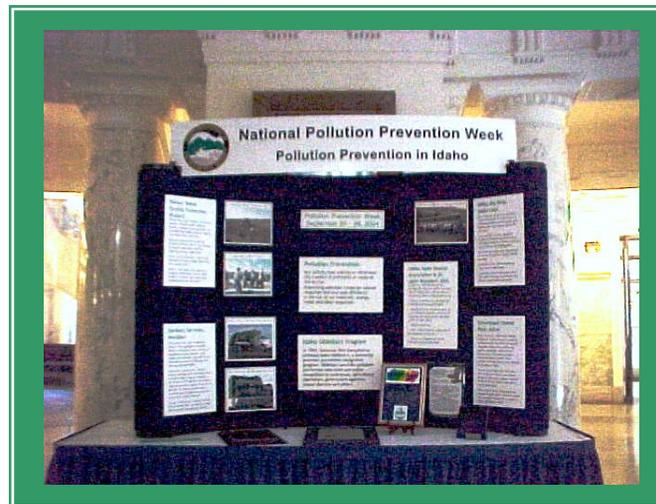
**Inform and Educate.** An informed and educated public business sector will make environmentally sound decisions if they are aware of the health and environmental impacts associated with their actions and activities. In addition, businesses will implement methods to reduce pollution if they are aware of methods that are economically feasible and environmentally sound. DEQ is providing information that will aid the public in making informed decisions and is providing businesses with available information on process improvement to aid them in protecting the environment through waste reduction.

**Performance Measure: In FY2008, reach 6,000 stakeholders through outreach activities.**

#### Strategies for public information:

- Develop and disseminate high-quality, 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.
- Expand efforts to incorporate pollution prevention and DEQ related educational messages into the classroom.
- Participate in outreach events that provide opportunities to share environmental information with the public.
- Promote sustainable behavior in schools by identifying barriers and benefits for participation in environmental activities.

National Pollution  
Prevention Week  
Statehouse -- Boise



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

**Fiscal Management.** Management of state resources requires accurate accounting and tracking of allocated resources. Responsible fiscal management must be based on accurate and timely financial information.

### **Strategies for fiscal management:**

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

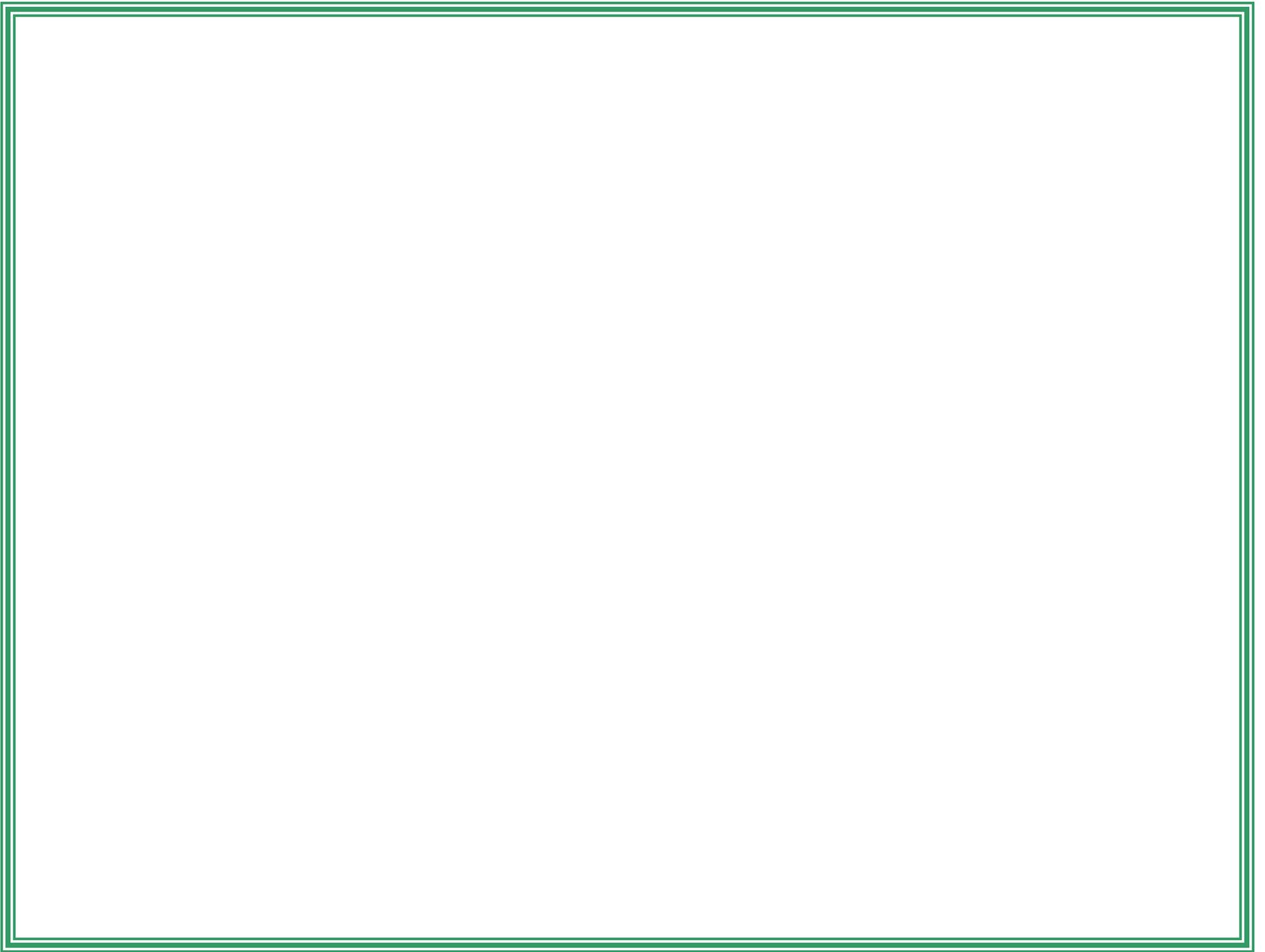
## **Objective: Retain Critical Skills and Knowledge within DEQ.**

**Succession Plan.** Twenty percent of DEQ's workforce is eligible for retirement within the next five years. To ensure critical skills and knowledge are retained, it is key that DEQ develop and implement a succession plan to maintain a trained and qualified workforce to replace exiting employees, ensure all critical skills and jobs are covered, and retain key employees and top personnel.

**Performance Measures: By FY2008, develop a succession plan for DEQ.  
By the end of FY2010, implement the succession plan in DEQ.**

### **Strategies for succession planning:**

- Develop a succession plan that conforms to state personnel policies.
- Implement the succession plan by 2010.
- Keep staff informed of the process and progress during development and implementation of the succession plan.



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