



## DEQ POLICY STATEMENT PS15-09

### PEER REVIEW

#### PURPOSE

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes peer review to be an important part of scientific and technical work products that are intended to support agency decisions.

#### STATEMENT OF POLICY

Major scientific and technical work products related to agency decisions should be peer reviewed internally. Agency managers within programs and regions determine and are accountable for the decision whether to employ internal peer review and, if so, its character, scope, and timing. These decisions are made in conformance with Idaho statute, program goals and priorities, resource constraints, and statutory or court-ordered deadlines. Peer review is not restricted to the final version of work products—rather, peer review at planning, sampling, data analysis, and engineering/scientific calculation stages is often extremely beneficial. This policy supersedes PM04-3.

#### SCOPE

This policy applies to major work products that are primarily scientific and technical in nature and may contribute to the basis for policy or regulatory decisions. This policy does not apply to the bases for past decisions, unless and until the relevant scientific and technical issues are considered anew in the agency's decision-making processes.

Peer reviews should be conducted in a manner consistent with the Procedure for Internal Peer Review of Technical Work Products (TRIM 2015ABH6) and not cause DEQ to miss or need extension of a statutory or court-ordered deadline. Agency managers still may undertake peer review if it can be conducted concurrently with necessary rulemaking steps.

#### RESPONSIBILITY

DEQ's quality manager is responsible for maintaining this policy as well as the Procedure for Internal Peer Review of Technical Work Products.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

This policy is effective immediately and will remain in effect for 5 years unless amended, replaced, or rescinded prior to expiration.

Dated this 21st day of May, 2015



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Curt Fransen  
Director