

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2021-2024

STRATEGIC PLAN



VISION FOR THE FUTURE

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) strategic plan for fiscal years 2021–2024. Under forward-looking performance measures, goals, and objectives, DEQ gathers data, evaluates resources, and implements processes to increase our performance and show more effectively how we protect the environment and the health of Idaho's citizens.

In addition to accomplishing our objectives, we respond to fiscal, regulatory, and environmental realities through our core functions and services:

- Manage air quality to ensure compliance with federal health-based standards.
- Protect soil and water from hazardous, solid, and mining wastes, and petroleum contamination.
- Manage, mitigate, and remediate contaminated areas.
- Protect public health and the environment at and around the Idaho National Laboratory.
- Maintain and improve surface and ground water quality.
- Ensure delivery of safe and reliable drinking water from public water systems.
- Prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies.
- Encourage and empower Idaho citizens, businesses, and communities to be environmentally responsible.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, DEQ provided guidance to regulated facilities that identified exemptions to certain requirements that could be granted upon request and documentation of a facility's inability to meet those requirements because of constraints related to the pandemic while ensuring protection of human health and the environment.

DEQ also provided a COVID-19 response web page that provides valuable resources for addressing air quality, drinking water, wastewater, and waste management and remediation issues during this time. Our staff continues to process permit applications, review regulatory submittals, respond to complaints, and conduct the majority of our usual work.

As a result of the current economic situation, state agencies have been asked to reduce their general fund budget requests for fiscal year 2021 by 5%. For DEQ, this will be a reduction of \$1.2 million. Potential reductions are being analyzed at this time.

MISSION

**TO PROTECT HUMAN
HEALTH AND THE
QUALITY OF IDAHO'S
AIR, LAND, AND WATER.**

VISION

**AN IDAHO WHERE THE
QUALITY OF OUR
ENVIRONMENT
ENHANCES HEALTHY
LIVING AND SUPPORTS
THRIVING COMMUNITIES**

The Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Program continues to issue municipal permits, and on July 1, 2019, we took on the individual industrial permit sector. In July 2020, we will begin issuing general permits (excluding storm water) for drinking water facilities, ground water remediation, pesticide applicators, small-scale suction dredging, concentrated animal feeding operations, and aquaculture facilities. IPDES compliance and enforcement actively monitors facilities across the state and works with facilities to ensure ongoing compliance with permits. DEQ provided eight virtual trainings in May and June 2020 for the general permittees using our E-Permitting system and other web applications for submitting notices of intent and compliance reports.

In 2016, EPA disapproved Idaho’s human health criteria of 10 micrograms per liter arsenic for both consumption of fish only and consumption of fish and water. By November 2023, EPA must finalize federal criteria for Idaho unless a criterion negotiated and adopted by Idaho is approved. While developing new criteria, DEQ is exploring updated arsenic toxicity information and bioaccumulation factors and collecting ambient water quality data to determine background concentrations in Idaho waters and the feasibility of achieving ambient water quality criteria derived for arsenic. The next negotiated rulemaking meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2020.

In safety, DEQ reduced the incident rate from 2.14 to 1.2. With only five reported injuries in 2019 versus 11 in 2018 and only one lost day, this represents a significant reduction in recordable accidents and far less than the Bureau of Labor Statistic’s average of 4.7 for agencies our size that perform similar work.

In January 2020, the Red Tape Reduction Act was replaced by Executive Order No. 2020-1, Zero-Based Regulation, requiring agencies to justify every regulation they want to keep. DEQ will review each rule chapter following a staggered 5-year schedule with about 20% of rule chapters reviewed annually. To date, the Air Quality Division removed some sections of IDAPA 58.01.01 and is determining the best process to review all air quality rules. The Water Quality Divisions are consolidating facility planning grant and revolving loan rule chapters. In May 2020, the Idaho Board

of Environmental Quality considered deleting the “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04) and “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20) and merging relevant sections. The Waste Management Division evaluated the “Solid Waste Management Rules” (IDAPA 58.01.06) for outdated and unnecessary language and in May 2020, the revised rule was presented to and adopted by the Board of Environmental Quality.



John Tippets, Director

In 2021, we will continue to work toward fulfilling DEQ’s core functions and use our financial resources efficiently and effectively. Over the next 4 years, we will challenge ourselves by implementing agency-wide performance measures, developing new objectives, tracking and reporting our progress, and showing our commitment to positively impacting the environment and Idaho’s citizens.

YOUR DEQ

PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), established by the Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act (Idaho Code §39-101 et seq.), protects human health and the environment.

DEQ implements and enforces delegated federal programs under the Clean Air, Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts, and state environmental laws and rules. This regulatory responsibility covers activities that ensure Idaho's air, land, water, and citizens are protected from the adverse impacts of pollution.

- Environmental monitoring assesses conditions and ensures health-based standards are met.
- Permits are issued to facilities that manage wastes or release pollutants to limit the amounts to safe levels.
- Inspections of pollution sources and responses to complaints ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards.
- Remediation removes or neutralizes contaminants in soil, ground water, and surface waters. Compliance is voluntary or enforcement action may be taken.
- Oversight includes cleanup, pollution reduction, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Outreach and education facilitates compliance with environmental requirements.

To accomplish our environmental and human health protection mission, DEQ works collaboratively with federal and state agencies; the Board of Environmental Quality; city, county, and tribal governments; businesses; community organizations; and Idaho's citizens



AGENCY PERFORMANCE—ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMITMENT

Our strategic plan establishes performance commitments and assesses progress toward achieving agency goals as required by Idaho Code §67-1903.

- Our goals describe the broad environmental human health conditions the agency tries to achieve and how we want to serve Idaho’s citizens.
- Our objectives are the incremental steps taken to achieve each goal.
- Our performance measures tell us how we know we are making progress.

This plan provides Idaho’s legislature with planning and performance commitments and accounts for the statutory authority granted to the agency and its appropriated annual budget.

Using specific performance measures, goals, and objectives, we successfully completed several objectives this year. The Air Quality Division increased woodstove outreach across the state using targeted messaging for each region. The Surface Water and Wastewater Division engaged the Basin Advisory Group in supporting prioritization based on pollutant load reduction in a format where they can recommend smaller projects. The Waste Management and Remediation Division focused on updating and creating outreach materials to increase awareness and use of DEQ’s cleanup and remediation programs. Agency-wide, we are developing a new website with a launch date set in 2020, developed an inventory of data and performance measures we are tracking, and are training our staff in lean practices. In the coming year, DEQ will continue to make action-based progress with updated performance measures and objectives.

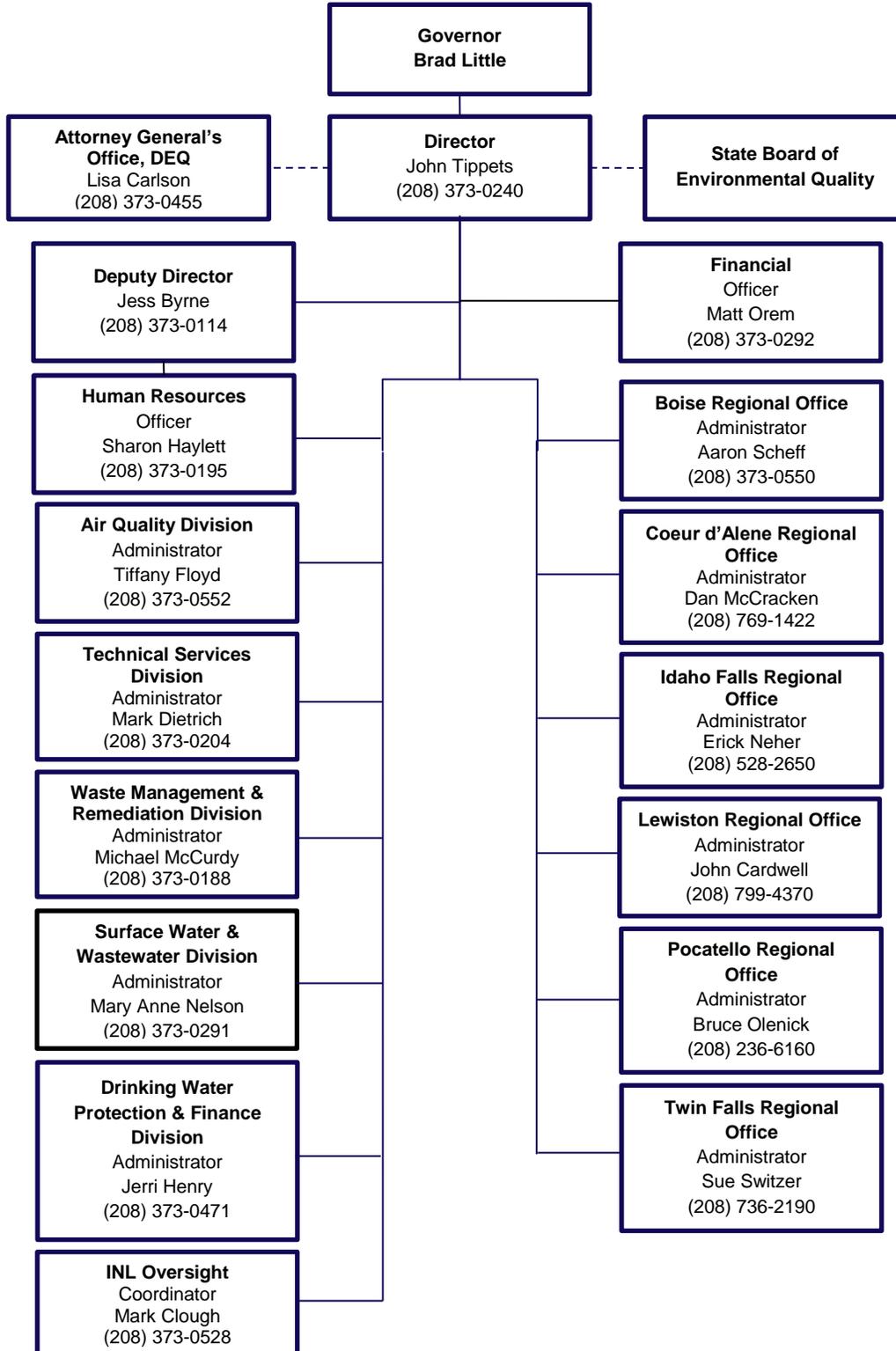


DEQ’s FY2021 performance commitments

Benchmark Performance Measure	FY 2021 Target
Reduce number of unhealthy days based on the Air Quality Index throughout the state.	0 days
Increase the percentage of assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses.	35%
Reduce the number of known contaminated sites.	211 sites (10% reduction from current 234 sites)
Increase the percentage of complete permit applications and engineering submittal packages on initial submittal.	82%
Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities.	82%
Increase the percentage of permits issued before deadline.	81%
Conduct 50 lean improvement projects per year	100%

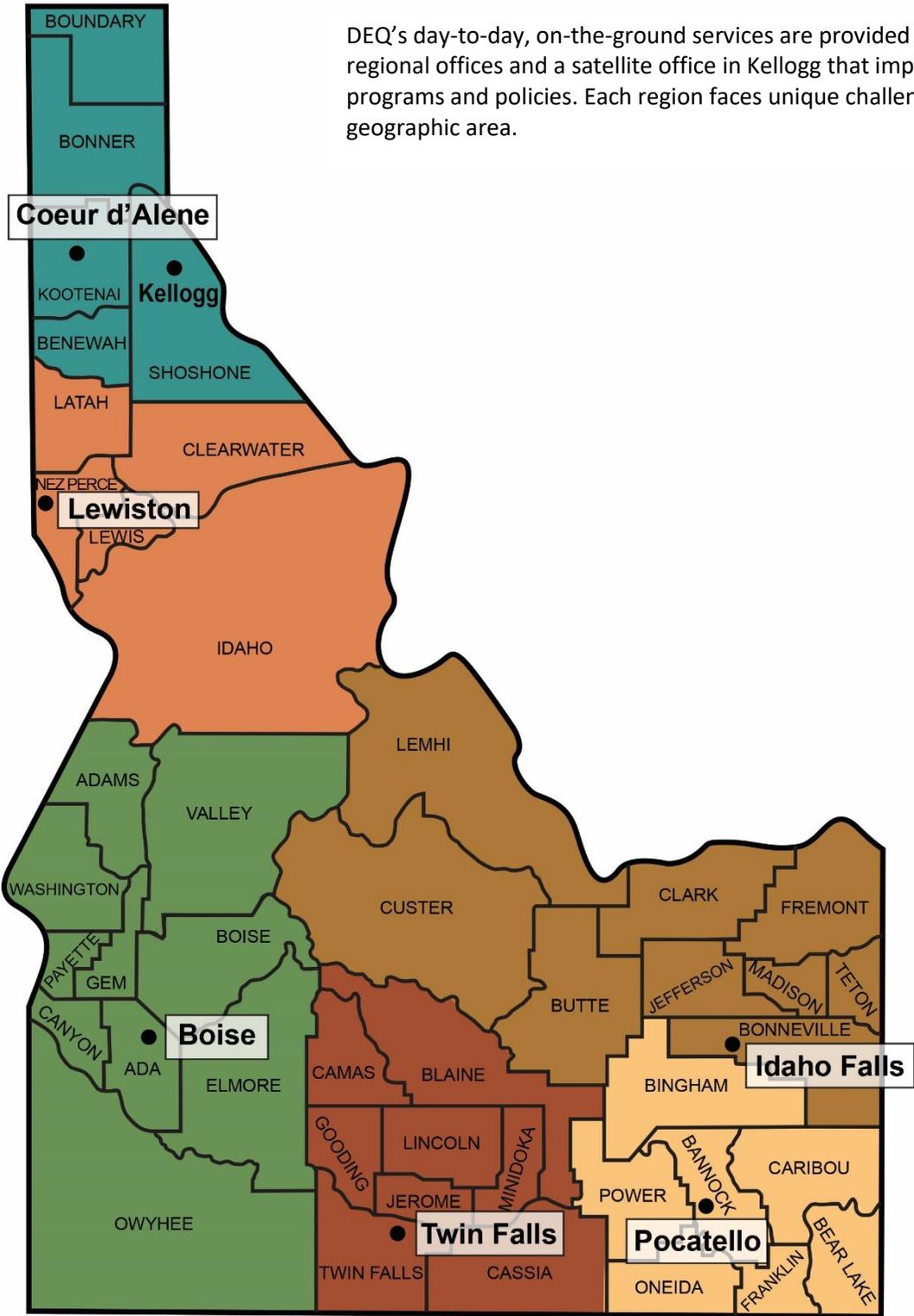
AGENCY SUPPORT—STATEWIDE

DEQ is headquartered in Boise and has five divisions, six regional offices, and a satellite office focused on developing and administering programs and policies.



REGIONAL OFFICES

DEQ's day-to-day, on-the-ground services are provided locally by six regional offices and a satellite office in Kellogg that implement state-wide programs and policies. Each region faces unique challenges specific to its geographic area.



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1—Make Recognizable and Measurable Environmental Improvements

Objectives—Air quality

- 1.1 By January 2021, submit the PM Advance Program Path Forward for St. Maries to EPA.
- 1.2 By September 2020, complete 30 woodstove replacements for Salmon with a focus on low-income residences (9 complete).
- 1.3 Use targeted outreach efforts identified in the communications plan to increase awareness and the rate of changeout for old, noncertified woodstoves statewide.
- 1.4 By March 2023, implement a statewide smoke management program, consisting of prescribed burning, wildfire, and crop residue burning.

Performance Measure

Reduce number of unhealthy days based on the Air Quality Index throughout the state.

Benchmark—0 days

This performance measure is determined by any single air monitor reaching unhealthy (red) air quality levels statewide at any time during the year. If multiple air monitors reach unhealthy air quality levels on the same day, it is still counted as 1 day.



Air Quality—DEQ's planning program works to reduce particulate matter 2.5 emissions from various sources, such as woodstove use and burning slash piles from logging operations.

Above—Improving management of smoke from burning slash piles will help improve air quality and maintain state and federal standards.

Left—Outreach efforts to increase woodstove burning awareness.

Objectives—Water quality

- 1.5 By June 2021, regionally prioritize impaired waters to focus state and federal resources based on cost per pound pollutant removed or the greatest decrease in pollutants impacting the impairment.
- 1.6 By June 2021, update and implement the water quality trading guidance.

Performance Measure

Increase the percentage of assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses.

Benchmark—35%

Derived from DEQ's 2016 Integrated Report, this performance measure includes river miles from assessed rivers and streams that support beneficial uses.



BMP Program—DEQ's agricultural best management practices program is designed to help landowners implement agricultural BMPs in high-priority watersheds throughout the state and help meet total maximum daily loads objectives. This year, the Idaho Legislature appropriated \$279,000 to support water quality improvement projects.

Objectives—Waste management and remediation

- 1.7 By July 2021, increase site owners' and operators' use of DEQ's cleanup and remediation programs by implementing informational outreach efforts.

Performance Measure

Reduce the number of known contaminated sites.

Benchmark—211 sites (July 2019 through June 2020) achieved >10% reduction; 234 open contaminated sites; 2,893 total known contaminated sites; added 123 sites to inventory; and closed 126 sites. As of June 2020, there have been more site closures than new sites added to the inventory.

This performance measure includes leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) and general remediation sites. Contaminated site closure is complete when contaminant concentrations meet acceptable risk-based or other approved criteria through assessment or remediation activities. This performance measure excludes sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund), including *mega sites*, such as the Idaho National Laboratory and Bunker Hill, Department of Defense cleanup sites, hazardous waste sites, and solid waste facilities.

Goal 2—Provide First-Class Customer Service As A Trusted Source For Environmental Leadership

Objectives—Permit applications and plans and specifications complete

- 2.1** By December 2020, provide assistance to the regulated community on how to submit an approvable engineering study and plans and specification documents to DEQ.
- 2.2** By December 2020, meet with Information Technology Services (ITS) to explore the possibility of an electronic permit application submittal software.
- 2.3** By June 2020, reorganize permit application materials on the website so they are readily accessible and user friendly.

Performance Measure

Increase the percentage of complete permit applications and facility plan and specification submittal packages on initial submittal.

Benchmark—82%

This performance measure is based on wastewater reuse applications, IPDES applications, drinking water and wastewater plan and specification submittals, air quality permit applications, and hazardous waste permit applications.

Objectives—Compliance of inspected facilities

- 2.4** Assess compliance assistance during permit handoff meetings.
- 2.5** Implement one technical assistance workshop in two regions per year to deliver informational material on application submittals, rules, and regulations.
- 2.6** By October 2022, increase the number of community water systems that are in compliance by 25%.

Performance Measure

Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities.

Benchmark—82%

This performance measure is based on 5-year averages across programs. Each program measures compliance differently. Annual updates will be made to the benchmark.



Pollution Prevention Champion—Clif Bar upgraded one-third of its printers to laser printers, reducing the emission of volatile organic compounds by several hundred pounds annually. Their purchase of 29 high-efficiency vehicles for company employees helps to avoid greenhouse gas emissions, particulates, and other emissions that contribute to degraded air quality.

Goal 3—Foster a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Objectives—Permits issued before deadline

- 3.1 By January 2021, use the Permit Information Tracking System (PITS) as the DEQ permit tracking tool on a department-wide basis.
- 3.2 By June 2020, launch DEQ’s website.
- 3.3 By December 2023, deploy an enterprise-wide platform to consolidate software applications that currently use individual applications with unique, outdated, or unsecure computer languages.

Performance Measure

Increase the percentage of permits issued before deadline.

Benchmark—81%

This performance measure includes air quality permits to construct, water quality reuse and IPDES permits, and hazardous waste permits. The IPDES Program inherited a permit backlog that will require 1-to-2 permit cycles (5–10 years) to meet the national goal of 90% current permits.

Objectives—Lean improvement projects

- 3.4 September 2020, generate root cause analysis for pursuing project improvements.
- 3.5 By December 2020, using lean practices, streamline data and performance measure tracking efforts to optimize resources.
- 3.6 By January 2021, identify a pilot program for a visual management tool that links data and people.
- 3.7 By December 2020, train 80% of DEQ staff to the lean practitioner level.
- 3.8 By March 2021, compile a summary of our existing internal and external, formal and informal feedback loops for review in the 2022 strategic planning update process.

Performance Measure

Conduct 50 lean improvement projects per year.

Benchmark—100%

Continuous improvement is a long-term approach to systematically target and incrementally change processes to improve efficiency and quality within the agency. Using the kaizen philosophy and a lean process focus, DEQ will continue to examine our processes in detail and determine output improvements. All staff are encouraged to suggest and implement changes that create continuous improvement within the regions and across the agency.



DEQ Emergency Response—Coeur d’Alene Regional Office staff responded to the BNSF Railway derailment along the Kootenai River in coordination with BNSF Railway, their contractors, county officials, and EPA. Release of contaminants to the river was quickly assessed and mitigated to protect public health and the environment.

EMERGING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

On a 4-year horizon, issues may arise that are short-term or may lead to a shift in the agency’s focus and priorities. By anticipating future challenges, DEQ will be better positioned to adjust if needed, while continuing to support our core functions and services. Emerging issues and opportunities are identified below.

Volkswagen settlement

Volkswagen agreed to settle the 2016 lawsuit alleging it manufactured diesel cars sold and operated in the United States beginning in 2009 with systems intended to defeat emissions tests, which resulted in vehicles emitting nitrogen oxide (NOx) at levels up to 40 times the amount allowed under the Clean Air Act. Settlements were reached for 2.0- and 3.0-liter diesel vehicles. Under the settlements, Volkswagen must fund a \$2.92 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust used to offset the air pollution emitted by vehicles violating the Clean Air Act. Named a designated beneficiary in January 2018, the State of Idaho can potentially receive \$17.3 million from this trust. As required by the trust, Idaho developed a Beneficiary Mitigation Plan summarizing how the state allocation of mitigation funds will be distributed among eligible mitigation projects to reduce NOx emissions. The mitigation plan was submitted to the trust in May 2018 and included proposed projects for vehicle replacement and electric vehicle charging stations.

For the 2019 Vehicle Replacement Program (VRP), the project application period closed January 2019. Agreements between DEQ and project applicants identified \$8.1 million in vehicle replacement projects to be completed over a 3-year period. Currently, DEQ has coordinated roughly \$1.7 million in VRP rebate payments.

The 2020 VRP application period was announced January 29, 2020, with a 60-day application period. Due to COVID-19 related concerns about application submission, the application period was extended twice and

closed on June 1, 2020. DEQ received 29 VRP applications with \$8.3 million in proposed rebate requests toward the replacement of 95 heavy duty diesel vehicles.



Bonner County School District and a logging company in Sandpoint, Idaho, participated in the 2019 Vehicle Replacement Program to replace old, air polluting vehicles.



In addition, the Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources, Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Program project application period remains open until funding for the program is executed. Projects will be evaluated on criteria outlined in the mitigation plan to reduce excess NOx emissions caused by violating vehicles. Three projects have been awarded, totaling just

under \$300,000, and four additional applications are under review.

Prescribed fire

Prescribed fire has long been used as a forest management tool in Idaho, and its use is expected to increase as land managers respond to large wildfires becoming more frequent in the western United States. If not managed properly, smoke from prescribed burning may endanger human health. DEQ's prescribed burning rules have two goals: protect public health and provide flexibility to land managers who use prescribed fire as a management tool. Through the negotiated rulemaking process, DEQ is engaging stakeholders to update the agency's prescribed burning rules and address the increase in prescribed fire use while still protecting public health.

Aerosols as universal waste

On December 9, 2019, EPA published a new rule adding aerosol cans to the universal waste program, a set of streamlined regulations for hazardous wastes generated ubiquitously across industry sectors. Currently, many aerosols are hazardous waste and account for almost 40% of retail items managed as hazardous waste.

The addition of aerosols to the universal waste program reduces regulatory burden for businesses that generate them while promoting recycling of aerosol can steel or aluminum. The rule allows aerosols to be managed under the streamlined set of storage, labeling, and accumulation limit requirements and reduces tracking and disposal costs. The rule also encourages municipalities and commercial companies to initiate programs to reduce the quantity of aerosol can waste going to municipal solid waste landfills.

The rule will be included in DEQ's state fiscal year 2021 proposed rulemaking as part of the annual incorporation by reference to ensure state rules remain consistent with federal regulations. In Idaho, the rule will become effective in spring 2021. DEQ will educate Idaho's businesses about the new rule and encourage proper management of aerosol cans.

Bunker Hill Superfund site— Central Treatment Plant

In 2021, DEQ will assume responsibility for operating the newly upgraded Central Treatment Plant at the Bunker Hill Superfund Site in Kellogg, Idaho. The plant will remove metals in mine water discharge from the Bunker Hill Mine and contaminated ground water from beneath the historic Bunker Hill central tailings impoundment. The new system will treat up to 5,000 gallons per minute of contaminated water. The completed treatment plant and ground water collection system is expected to capture nearly 30% of the total dissolved zinc load in the Upper Basin and to provide significant water quality improvement in the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River.



Bunker Hill Central Treatment Plant—Construction work at the treatment plant in Kellogg is targeted for completion in 2020. The facility will treat mine water and ground water to remove metals such as lead, zinc, and cadmium and will provide significant improvement to water quality in the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

DEQ has been working with EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers and their contractors during construction of the project. The federal contractors will continue to operate the system for 1 year after construction is completed to demonstrate successful operations and to provide training and transition to DEQ staff and contractors who will eventually operate the plant. Funding for future plant operations was provided via EPA settlement dollars with Hecla. The Bunker Hill Water Treatment Endowment was established in 2014 with a deposit of \$52.3 million. These settlement funds are managed by the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board. Annual operations are expected to cost up to \$2 million per year. During 2021–2024, DEQ will procure contractors to support operations of the new system, continue to develop staff expertise to oversee the plant, and work to optimize the operations of new system. The operations data from the first years of running the new system will be used to evaluate future contracting alternatives to make the most efficient use of resources to ensure sustainability of the operations funding.

Solid waste management

Nonhazardous solid waste impoundments

A nonhazardous solid waste impoundment (NSWI) facility receives pumpable waste where: (1) the waste does not pass the paint filter test before placement in an impoundment, and (2) operations are not otherwise regulated under a discharge or land application permit. NSWIs may stand-alone, or be co-located at an approved landfill or other solid waste facility. Facilities engaged in food processing or other manufacturing or industrial activities that manage their liquid waste streams on site are not managing pumpable wastes as that term is defined, and are generally not regulated as NSWIs. These facilities are often regulated under a discharge permit or wastewater reuse permit (e.g., land application permit) and are excluded from regulation by DEQ's Solid Waste Program.

Infectious substances

The need for disposal of untreated materials contaminated with infectious or potentially infectious substances is on the rise. Instances of potential or actual mad cow disease, avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, and COVID-19 have all occurred in recent years. DEQ works with landfills and other government agencies to ensure facilities have waste acceptance plans using the latest available information, facility employees are properly trained, and worker safety and the environment are protected.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 4,000 manmade chemicals found in common products such as cookware, carpets, food packaging, cosmetics, and products treated with repellants. PFAS are detected in all types of waters throughout the world from sources such as processing facilities, wastewater land application sites, unlined landfills, and fire training sites that use firefighting foam. PFAS chemicals are persistent in the environment and can travel long distances through soil and ground water.

PFAS are also persistent in the human body and accumulate over time. Due to widespread use, concentrations of PFAS are found in the blood of the general population. While public health implications are not fully understood, certain PFAS constituents may increase the risk of cancer, impact the immune system, alter hormone function, decrease fertility, and affect infant and child development.

DEQ has convened a workgroup in collaboration with the Bureau of Community and Environmental Health within the Public Health Division of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to coordinate on PFAS issues in Idaho. The group will develop a plan for determining impacts of PFAS chemicals in Idaho, determine how to address the environmental and human health impacts of PFAS chemicals, and develop

risk communication methods and outreach materials.

Underground storage tank program

In 2019, legislation proposed by the Idaho Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association that delayed certain testing and inspection deadlines for UST owners and operators to October 13, 2021, was passed. The UST Program completed outreach with owners, operators, and service providers to inform them of the new compliance date.

Harmful algal blooms

Warmer temperatures and increased levels of nutrients lead naturally occurring cyanobacteria populations to rapidly increase and *bloom* in water bodies throughout the state.

Cyanobacteria produce and use compounds during their life cycle that are harmful or toxic to vertebrates. Blooms that produce toxins present a health risk to humans, pets, and livestock.

Scientific research into cyanobacteria and the toxins they produce (cyanotoxins) is expanding. Because cyanobacteria are a public health issue, across the country most local, state, and federal agencies are developing investigation and monitoring programs. Funding for investigation, monitoring, and public education and outreach programs is critically important to provide the information people need to recognize a potential bloom and minimize their risk when recreating in our lakes and rivers.

DEQ works with the public as well as health and natural resource agencies to investigate potential blooms and determine whether toxins are present in concentrations that pose a risk to recreators or drinking water sources. We coordinate with local health districts and water body managers to warn the public of any potential health risks and identify locations with blooms through the “Recreational Water Quality Health Advisory” website and social media outlets.

Voluntary cleanup program opportunity

Property redevelopment, reuse, and revitalization may be complicated if the environmental status is uncertain.

Environmental agencies in several states, including Idaho, have successful voluntary cleanup programs to assist landowners. DEQ's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) was created in 1996 by the [Idaho Land Remediation Act](#) (Idaho Code §39-72) to encourage innovation and cooperation between the state, local communities, and private parties to revitalize properties with hazardous substance or petroleum contamination. The [Idaho Land Remediation Rules](#) (IDAPA 58.01.18), adopted in 1997, detail implementation procedures for the program. Any legal entity recognized by law is eligible to apply to participate in the program, including individuals; associations; local, state, and federal governments; and public or private corporations. Benefits of participating in the VCP include the following:

- Expedited remediation process
- Avoid adversarial enforcement actions
- Seven-year partial property tax exemption upon completing cleanup
- Covenant not to sue from DEQ
- Use of site-specific risk-based cleanup standards
- Inclusion of activity and use limitations and environmental covenants in cleanup plans
- Lender liability protection

Participating in the VCP and conducting additional assessment activities, under the oversight of DEQ, will assist the landowner with determining whether any remedial action is needed. Landowners considering or working on a project where environmental concerns potentially complicate the transfer, reuse, and revitalization of a property can contact DEQ to discuss project eligibility, the VCP process, and the benefits of participating in the VCP.

State Revolving Fund Assistance

DEQ issued its largest Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan in the program's history to the City of Lewiston for \$43,000,000. DEQ also issued emergency funds to two small communities to make repairs to their system to remove unforeseen risks to public health. In addition, EPA issued two awards to DEQ for our innovative funding and focus on sustainability and public health protection. The first award was the use of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to assist the Boise School District with a forgivable loan to replace 1,597 old lead faucets in 20 schools with lead-free water-efficient fixtures. This project helped reduce lead exposure in drinking water for students and saved an estimated 1.7 million gallons of water per year. The second award



was for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Abatement Program, which has funded nearly \$1.5 million since 2017 to replace piping and fixtures for several communities throughout Idaho.

CYBERSECURITY

Adoption of NIST Cybersecurity Framework and Implementation of CIS Critical Security Controls 1–5—

As a technology customer of the Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) in the Governor's Office, we are using the cybersecurity systems and technical expertise in ITS to fulfill requirements related to Executive Order 2017-02. Staff from ITS were briefed on the NIST Core Framework, CIS Controls 1-5, and their plan for adoption of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework. We participate in DHR and ITS administered cybersecurity training, as awareness is a critical component of an effective cybersecurity program. As briefed by ITS staff, implementation of the CIS Controls 1-5 will be their responsibility for the systems they operate and, as technological tools applied to the computer systems, largely invisible to us as a customer. ITS, working through the multiagency Incident Response Task Force, has developed an Incident Response Program in support of our agency.

RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT AND ZERO-BASED REGULATION

The 2019 Red Tape Reduction Act (Executive Order 2019-02) required state agencies to review their administrative rules to identify costly, ineffective, duplicative, or outdated regulations. In January 2020, Governor Little repealed Executive Order 2019-02 and issued Executive Order No. 2020-1, Zero-Based Regulation, requiring agencies to justify every regulation they want to keep. Moving forward, every rule chapter in effect will be reviewed by DEQ, according to a staggered, 5-year schedule. About 20% of rule chapters will be reviewed annually.

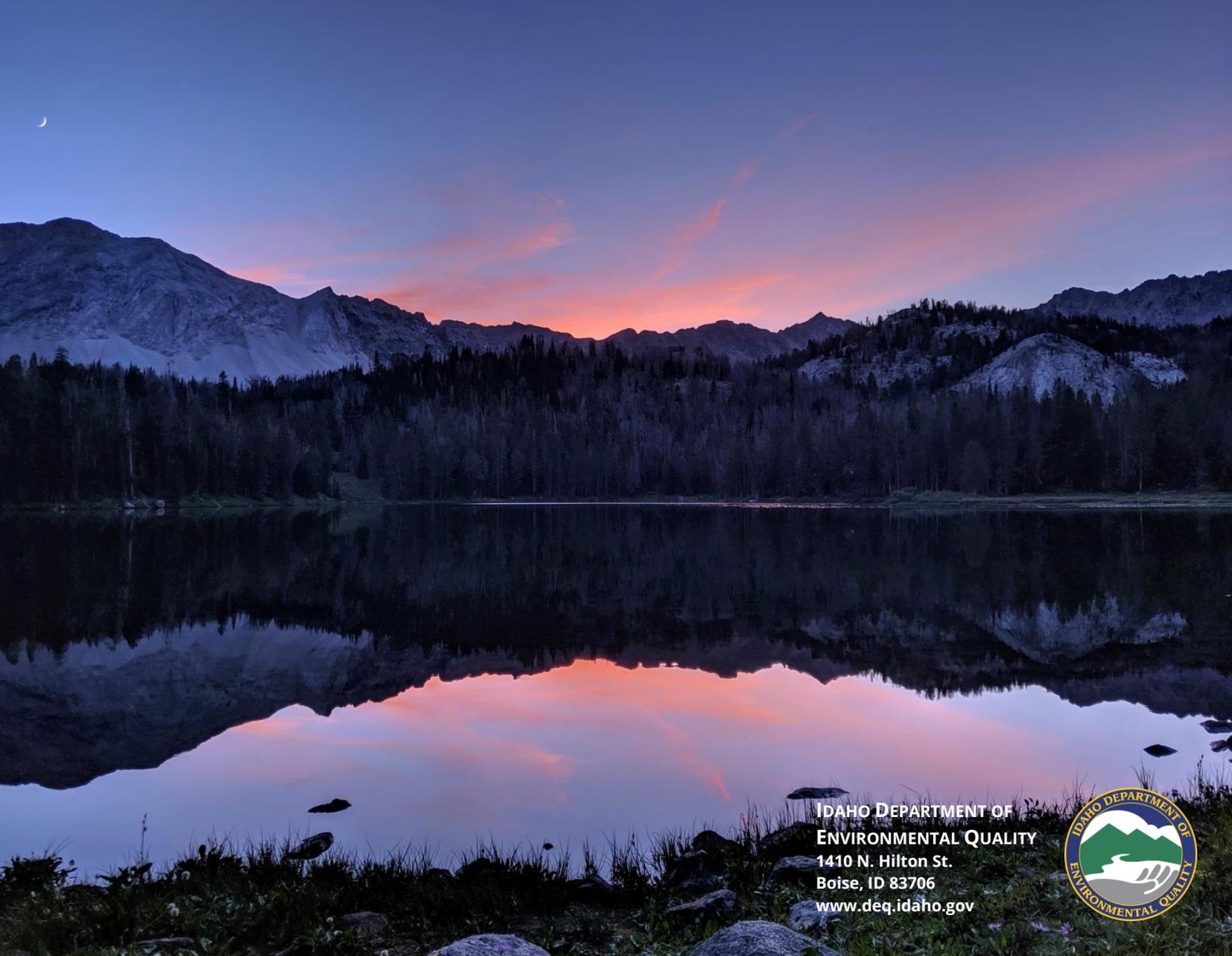
To reduce the number of chapters, words, and restrictive terms from our administrative rules in accordance with these executive orders, DEQ accomplished the following:

- The Air Quality Division removed some sections of code: IDAPA 58.01.01.590–591, 845–848, and 855–859 (Docket 58-0101-1903). The division is currently determining the best process to review all air quality rules, such as combining similar sets of rules in the same docket, prioritizing rules to review, scheduling staff based on availability and complexity of the rulemaking, and comparing Idaho’s rules to those of other states.
- The Water Quality Divisions determined two facility planning grant chapters and two revolving loan rule chapters could be consolidated to two chapters. In May 2020, the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality will consider deleting the “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04) (Docket 58-0104-1901) and the “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20) (Docket 58-0120-1901), and merging relevant sections.
- The Waste Management Division evaluated the “Solid Waste Management Rules” (IDAPA 58.01.06) (Docket 58-0106-1901) for outdated, duplicative, and unnecessary language and held a negotiated rulemaking meeting on August 29, 2019. In May 2020, the revised rule was presented to and adopted by the Board of Environmental Quality. Revisions to the rule resulted in removal of 1,547 words, including 44 restrictive words, and decreased the rule length by 4 pages. The division is also working on the “Rules for Ore Processing by Cyanidation” (Docket 58-0113-1901) in response to a request by the Idaho Mining Association to improve these rules, holding negotiated rulemaking meetings in 2019 and 2020. Both dockets will be introduced in the 2021 legislative session. Negotiated rulemaking for the “Rules for the Design and Construction of Phosphogypsum Stacks” (Docket 58-0119-2001) was initiated during fiscal year 2020 in response to House Bill 367, which was signed by the governor on March 9, 2020. This docket may be introduced in the 2022 legislative session.

CONCLUSION

DEQ reports performance accountability to the state legislature through benchmark performance measures. This year staff worked across state and regional offices to successfully reach many of our new objectives, further develop existing objectives, and create new objectives that bring us closer to achieving meaningful performance measures. Our commitment to protecting public health and Idaho’s environment is reaffirmed through the work we do, our partnerships, and the communities we work with. Our agency-wide benchmark performance measures reflect tangible, achievable public health and environmental outcomes for Idaho and drive us to continue to improve and serve as a trusted resource for Idahoans.





IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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Your DEQ—PROTECT, ENHANCE, SUPPORT

While the core of DEQ's work is defined by our air quality, water quality, and waste and remediation management divisions, that work is sustained by support staff in the following areas:

- **INL Oversight**—Independently evaluates the effectiveness of the Idaho National Laboratory's public health protection programs.
- **Technical Services**—Provides peer-reviewed scientific and engineering support to DEQ's air, water, and waste divisions and six regional offices.
- **Pollution Prevention**—Empowers businesses and citizens to engage in behaviors that protect public health and preserve Idaho's environment.
- **Communications and Outreach**—Raises awareness and understanding of health and environmental issues through social media and clear, concise documentation.
- **Financial**—Manages DEQ's budget and expenditures and facilitates grant applications and funds.
- **Human Resources**—Plans, develops, and implements a comprehensive human resource program for DEQ including recruitment, compensation, benefits, training, performance management, and employee relations.
- **Facilities**—Oversees buildings and communications systems and maintains vehicle fleet.