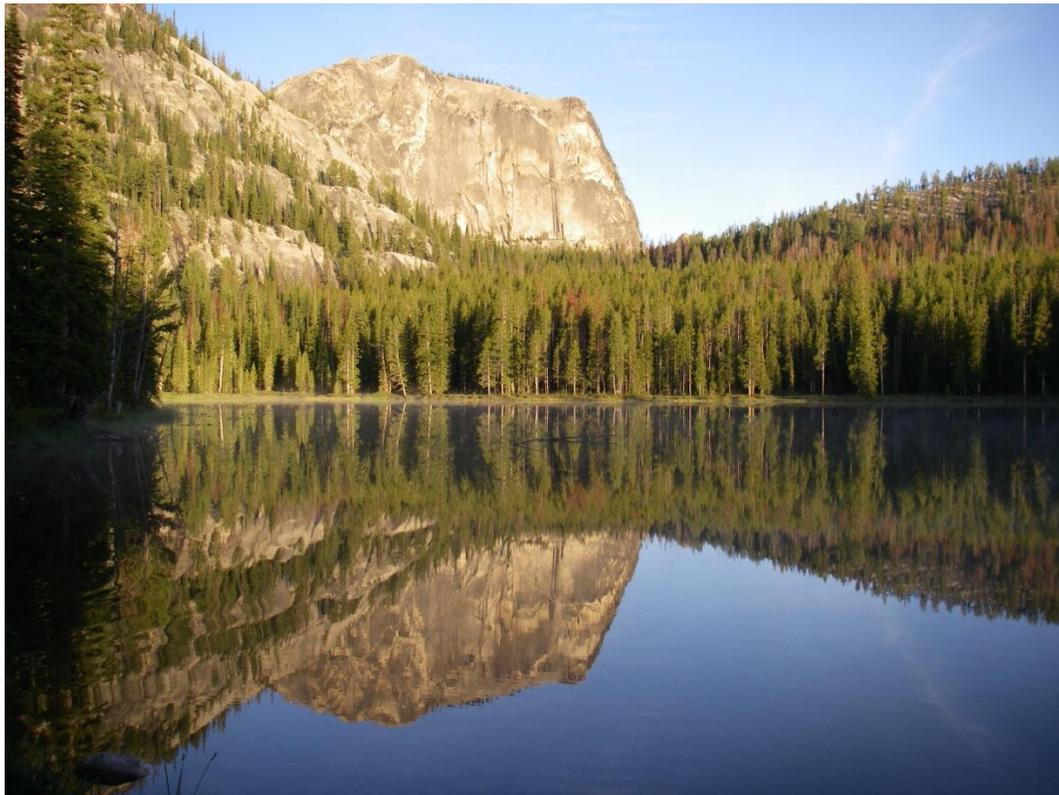




**Idaho Department
of Environmental Quality**

Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2013-2016



A Vision for the Future

July 2012

Cover photo of Yellowjacket Lake in Lemhi County.

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Message from the Director

As DEQ looks ahead to Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and beyond, the agency is committed to the path we have followed over the past several years—that is, the efficient and effective deployment of available resources to implement DEQ’s fundamental core functions and responsibilities as addressed in this strategic plan.

DEQ is a regulatory agency with legal mandates to protect the public health of our citizens and maintain the quality of our environment. We fulfill these mandates by conducting the following core functions and responsibilities:

- Monitoring air and water quality and assessing land to determine whether human health and environmental standards are being met or degraded
- Issuing permits to limit the release of pollutants into the air, water, and soil
- Inspecting potential pollution sources to ensure compliance with permits and environmental standards and, if necessary, taking enforcement action
- Facilitating compliance with the requirements of environmental laws, rules, and permits and maintaining the quality of our environment through education, outreach, technical guidance, and assistance

Though reductions in general fund support since FY2009 have challenged DEQ’s ability to sustain these core functions, the agency has continued to be successful through strategic “belt-tightening.” Efficiency has long been an agency norm, and it’s become more important than ever as we continue our commitment to providing excellent customer service to Idaho citizens and the regulated community. My goal, as DEQ’s new director, is to stay the course—to ensure we carry out our fundamental responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner possible.

As we strive to meet these responsibilities, we are also looking for creative and effective ways to attract and retain knowledgeable and talented staff. Like many state



Curt Fransen

agencies, DEQ has lost a significant number of experienced and trained technical staff over the past several years through retirements or, in many cases, resignations for higher-paying jobs in the private sector and other government agencies. While DEQ continues to retain a very capable and dedicated staff of environmental professionals, we need to enhance our ability to recruit, train, and reward well-educated and qualified scientists, engineers, analysts, and administrators.

Another emerging area of concern for the agency is the level of financial support we can expect from the federal government in coming years. More than half of DEQ’s current funding (about 58%) comes from federal grants. This funding has remained fairly steady over the years despite the economic downturn. However, given the realities of the current federal fiscal situation, we must consider and plan for possible reductions in federal funding.

While both the need for and likelihood of reduced federal funding are evident, the degree of such reductions is unknown. Significant cuts in federal support will seriously challenge DEQ’s ability to continue fulfilling core functions for federally required air, water, and waste programs that have been delegated to the state. Federal requirements pertaining to these delegated programs cannot continue to expand or even be maintained without adequate federal funding, and replacing federal funds with state general or dedicated funds does not appear viable. DEQ will continue to monitor developments on the federal level and responsively plan and prioritize our activities to best protect public health and the environment.

Like many Idaho governmental entities, institutions, businesses, families, and individuals, DEQ faces fiscal and other challenges in the coming year. DEQ’s talented and dedicated staff is focused on meeting those challenges in order to fulfill our fundamental responsibilities of protecting public health and the environment.

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Introduction

DEQ's 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.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was established by the Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act (Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 1) to protect human health and the environment.

As the state's environmental regulatory agency, DEQ is responsible for implementing and enforcing delegated federal programs under the Clean Air, Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts, as well as many state environmental laws and rules. This regulatory responsibility covers a broad range of activities to ensure Idaho's air, water, land, and citizens are protected from the adverse impacts of pollution.

Overall, our primary activities involve monitoring, permitting, inspecting, remediating, and providing oversight and technical assistance.

- Environmental monitoring is performed to assess conditions and ensure health-based standards are met.
- Permits are issued to facilities that manage wastes or release pollutants in order to limit the amounts to safe levels.

- Inspections of pollution sources and responses to complaints help ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards.
- Remediation entails removing or neutralizing contaminants in soil and surface waters. Compliance may be voluntary or, if necessary, enforcement action may be taken.
- Oversight can include many different projects such as cleanups, pollution reduction, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Finally, assistance is provided through outreach and education to facilitate compliance with environmental requirements.

DEQ works closely and collaboratively with a wide range of public and private partners, including federal and state agencies; the Board of Environmental Quality; city, county, and tribal governments; businesses; community organizations; and Idaho citizens. These partnerships are critical to accomplishing our environmental and human health protection mission.

Our 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.

Purpose and Structure of the Strategic Plan

Idaho statute requires each state agency to develop a strategic plan that is the foundation for establishing performance commitments and assessing progress toward achieving agency goals (Idaho Code 67-1903). Plans are based on the state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30); cover a four-year horizon into the future, including the year in which they are developed; and are updated annually.

The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide planning and performance information to the legislature, which oversees and assesses performance, taking into account the statutory authority granted to the agency and the agency's appropriated annual budget.

The strategic plan has been designed to mirror DEQ's organizational structure (Figure 1). The agency headquarters in Boise is organized into divisions that focus on developing and administering programs and policies.

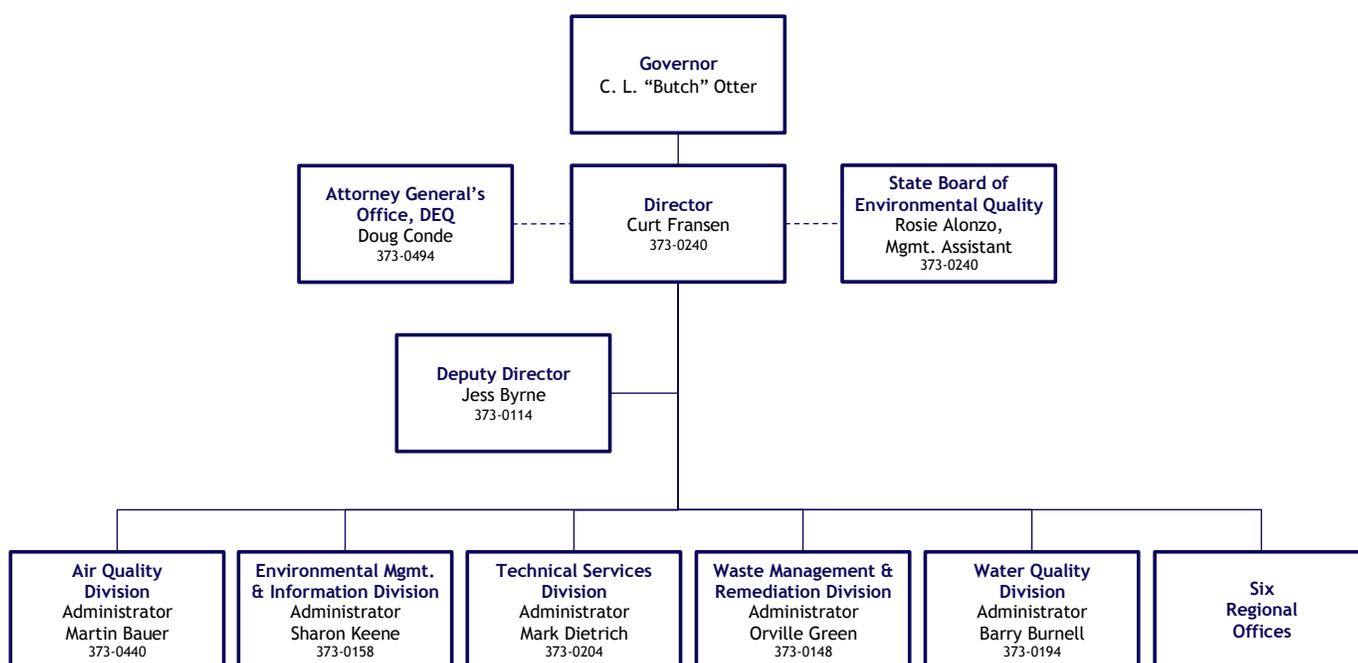


Figure 1. DEQ organizational chart.

Goals, objectives, and strategies are identified in the plan for each programmatic division—Air Quality, Waste Management and Remediation, Water Quality, and Environmental Management and Information—and for the Idaho National Laboratory Oversight Program and emergency preparedness and response.

- **Goals** describe the broad environmental and/or human health conditions the agency is trying to achieve.
- **Objectives** are the incremental steps that will be taken to achieve each goal.
- **Strategies** are the specific actions necessary to achieve the objectives.

The day-to-day, on-the-ground services of the agency are provided locally by six regional offices (Figure 2). The regional offices implement statewide programs and policies and perform many similar ongoing functions and services. However, individual regions sometimes face unique challenges specific to their geographic areas. Regional initiatives are identified in the strategic plan, consistent with corresponding goals and objectives.

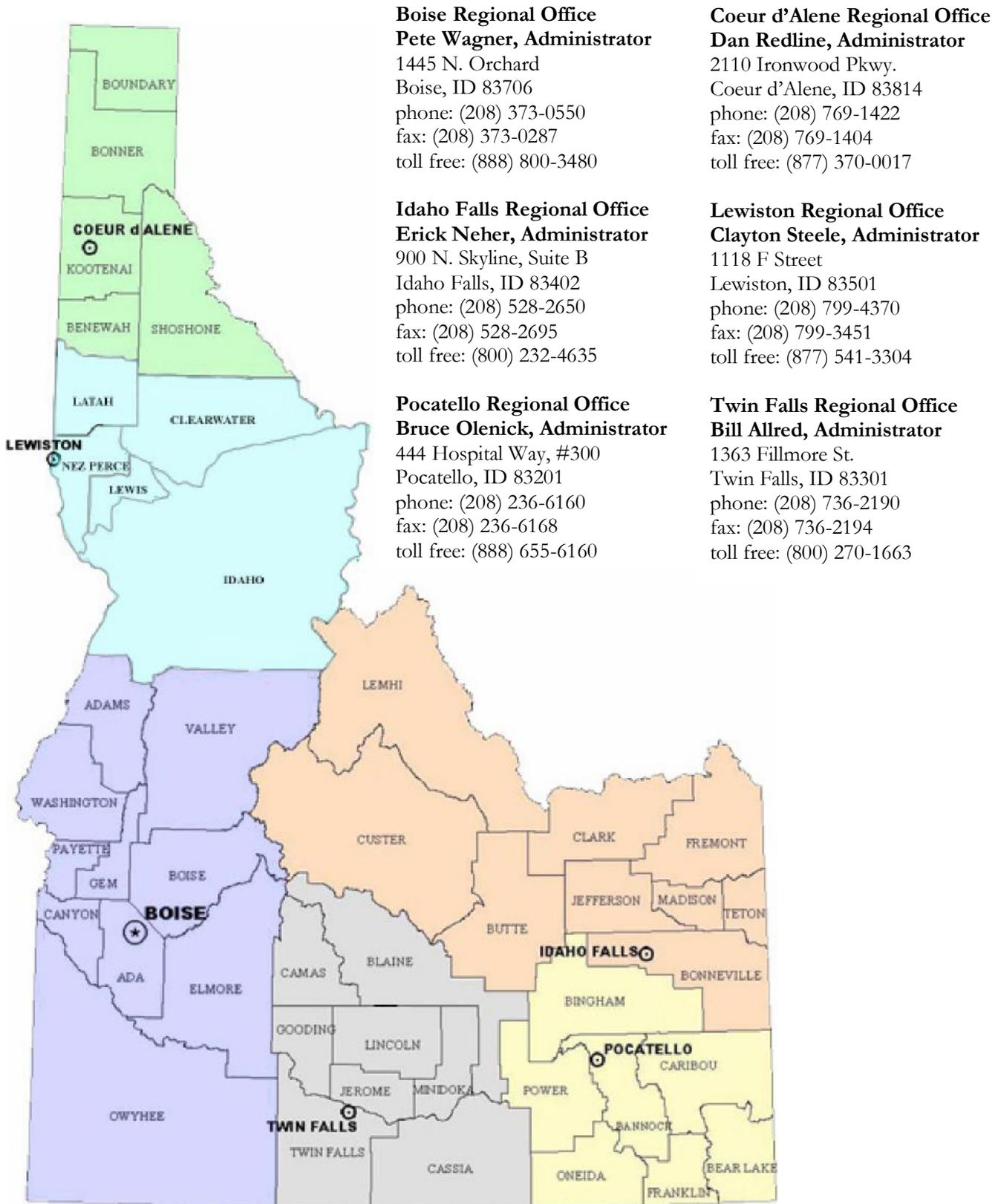


Figure 2. DEQ regional offices.

Agency Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Air Quality Goal:

Manage air quality in Idaho airsheds to ensure compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are federal standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that all states are required to meet. Standards have been established for six pollutants (known as criteria pollutants): nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, lead, and two sizes of particulate matter (PM₁₀—particulate matter less than 10 microns but greater than 2.5 microns in diameter—and PM_{2.5}, which is less than 2.5 microns in diameter).

These standards establish the health-based thresholds below which DEQ strives to control air pollution in the various airsheds throughout Idaho. An airshed is defined as a volume of air that has similar characteristics and is separated from other volumes of air by weather patterns and topography. An airshed is mostly confined to a specific and definable geographic area.

DEQ maintains and operates a comprehensive statewide air quality monitoring network in selected cities to track compliance with the NAAQS and to report on the effectiveness of various actions taken to control air pollution and protect public health.

The overriding agency goal for air quality is to meet and maintain compliance with the NAAQS. If the NAAQS are violated in a geographic area, EPA designates these geographic areas as “nonattainment areas,” and DEQ is responsible for developing plans for controlling pollution to meet and maintain the NAAQS.

DEQ is committed to working with local communities to meet these standards and to developing the best state and local solutions for controlling pollution and protecting air quality. To meet this goal, the Air Quality Division has five objectives, described below.

Objective 1. Issue and modify pollution control permits to ensure NAAQS and federal requirements for hazardous and toxic air pollutants are met in Idaho airsheds.

DEQ issues air quality permits that can be facility-specific or for categories of industrial activities. Facility-specific permits are issued for construction, modification, and operation of stationary pollution sources to control the emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere. Permit limits, monitoring requirements, and operational requirements are specified to ensure increases in emissions will not cause or contribute to violations of air quality standards. In some instances, DEQ issues general permits for specific categories of industrial activity, such as aggregate processing operations.

Strategies for controlling air pollution from stationary pollution sources:

- Perform stationary source modeling to ensure permits contain limits necessary for controlling pollution to meet the NAAQS.
- Issue construction permits within improved time frames (99 days, on average).
- Keep operating permit requirements up-to-date to comply with changes to NAAQS and reflect standards applicable to emerging pollutants.
- Develop general permits for selected industrial source categories.

Air Quality Performance Measure

- ✓ In FY2013, issue air quality permits to construct in 99 days, on average. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)

Objective 2. Ensure air pollution sources are in compliance with permit conditions and regulatory requirements.

Once permits are issued, it is important to make sure facilities comply with their provisions. DEQ conducts several types of inspections to ensure regulatory requirements and permit conditions are met. Routine compliance inspections, technical assistance inspections, and complaint response inspections are all performed to promote compliance with applicable requirements.

Strategies to ensure compliance with air quality permits and regulations:

- Inspect air pollution sources to verify compliance with permits and regulations, and when necessary, take enforcement actions in a consistent and timely manner.
- Provide outreach and technical assistance to help facilities comply with permits and regulatory requirements.

Air Quality Performance Measure

- ✓ In FY2013, conduct 84 inspections of stationary and portable air pollution sources.

Objective 3. Maintain the statewide air monitoring network to determine compliance with the NAAQS, assess the progress of pollution control efforts, protect public health, and reconcile the accuracy of mathematical air quality models.

Monitoring for ambient air quality conditions and modeling to predict air quality impacts are required under the federal Clean Air Act. These tools, in conjunction with emission inventory information, give DEQ the ability to assess compliance with the NAAQS, to forecast future compliance, and to assess the effectiveness of specific measures to control emissions, reduce levels of pollution, or both (Figure 3).

DEQ provides daily forecasts of air quality conditions to the public for pollutants of concern (such as ozone, particulates, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide) using an Air Quality Index in selected cities throughout Idaho. The forecasted Air Quality Index considers monitoring data; the NAAQS, which are health-based; local emission sources; and meteorological conditions and is reported on a scale of good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy, very unhealthy, and hazardous (Figure 4). The index provides the public a tool to gauge the severity of pollution and potential health effects. DEQ also provides advice on precautionary measures to minimize exposure and reduce air pollution.

Strategies for assessing compliance with the NAAQS and protecting public health during air quality episodes in real time:

- Maintain a statewide network of meteorological monitoring stations and provide staff access to real-time pollutant and meteorological data for modeling, air quality forecasting, and other air quality management decisions.
- Evaluate airsheds annually for compliance with the NAAQS and submit recommendations to EPA for redesignations and reclassifications.
- Make air monitoring and meteorological data available to the public and stakeholders for permit applications, crop residue burning, and other uses.
- Report air quality information to the public daily and inform the public of actions to help reduce air pollution and protect public health.
- Assist local communities in responding to the smoke impacts of wildfires by providing timely information.



Figure 3. Near-road monitoring site in southwest Idaho. DEQ has one of only two sites in the nation that is taking part in a study to determine high-traffic pollution effects. Results from this site will help cities throughout the nation develop their own near-road monitoring sites, as required by EPA. The picture shows the tall meteorological tower. Inside the shelter are particulate matter monitors and gas analyzers.

Air Quality Performance Measure

- ✓ In FY2013, achieve Air Quality Index levels in the “good” or “moderate” category for 98% of days. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)

Know Before You Go! Air Quality Index		
Category	Index Value	Level of Health Concerns
Green	0-50	Good
Yellow	51-100	Moderate
Orange	101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups
Red	151-200	Unhealthy
Purple	201-300	Very unhealthy
Maroon	301-500	Hazardous

Figure 4. Air Quality Index.

Objective 4. Protect public health from the impacts of crop residue burning.

DEQ is the state agency designated by the Idaho Legislature since fall 2008 to manage the crop residue burning program on lands other than the five tribal reservations in Idaho. The program is designed to protect public health, particularly among sensitive populations, from the impacts of smoke while enabling growers to burn crop residue from their fields.

Growers must be trained in the rules, smoke management requirements, and proper burning techniques. Atmospheric conditions and the potential for smoke to disperse must be considered before DEQ authorizes growers to conduct crop residue burning (Figure 5).

In the 2011 spring and fall burn seasons, approximately 65,362 acres were burned in Idaho under DEQ's program. Of acreage burned, 62% were in southern Idaho and 38% in northern Idaho.

As the program has developed, DEQ has implemented various improvements, including a more flexible burn decision process, best management practices for burning, enhanced documentation procedures, and new fire and public roadway safety measures. New rules to streamline the process for small-scale spot and hay bale burns in addition to conducting propane flaming, or blanching, of crops have been approved and are currently awaiting EPA approval before taking effect.

Efforts are underway to improve coordination with other burn permitting entities, expand public outreach, and address small-scale crop residue burns.



Figure 5. Crop residue burn with ideal dispersion as the smoke quickly dispersed into the transport layer.

Strategies for protecting public health from the impacts of crop residue burning:

- Conduct the program in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner.
- Make daily burn decisions by considering air quality, meteorology, field conditions, and safety factors.
- Facilitate grower compliance with program requirements through training, timely communication, and outreach activities.
- Ensure public access to up-to-date crop residue burning information through DEQ's website and other outreach activities.
- Modify the program as appropriate to accommodate grower and public concerns.

Air Quality Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, ensure approved crop residue burns do not adversely impact the Air Quality Index on 100% of burn days.
- ✓ In FY2013, ensure approved crop residue burns do not adversely impact institutions with sensitive populations.
- ✓ In FY2013, continue to evaluate the effect of ozone NAAQS and program action level on burn decisions and the burning program.
- ✓ In FY2013, continue evaluating weekend burning for the crop residue burning program.

Objective 5. Work with communities to proactively and voluntarily protect public health from air pollution and meet the NAAQS.

DEQ uses an “airshed management” approach in working with communities to protect public health from the impacts of air pollution. Airshed management is based on active citizen involvement in a collaborative process for charting the future and the necessary actions to avoid violations of air quality standards.

This approach is based on the following:

- Collection and understanding of good scientific data
- Community involvement in establishing a vision for local air quality and goals for the future
- Community selection and implementation of strategies to address threats to air quality

Vehicle emissions are among the top contributors to ozone air pollution in Idaho airsheds, particularly in urban areas. To address ozone pollution, legislation was passed in 2008 requiring establishment of a vehicle inspection and maintenance program or equivalent strategy in areas of the state that meet specific conditions. Currently, the Treasure Valley airshed is the only airshed in the state that meets these conditions.

DEQ oversees the vehicle emissions testing program in Canyon County and the city of Kuna (in Ada County). When the legislation was passed in 2008, expected ozone precursor emission reduction estimates were developed for

Ada and Canyon Counties. These reductions were estimated in 2011 using program data and EPA modeling techniques. Estimated Ada County emission reductions in 2011 were 21% greater than the 2008 estimates, while Canyon County emission reduction estimates were 50% greater.

Strategies for working with communities to prevent violations of NAAQS:

- Identify areas at risk for exceeding NAAQS by evaluating ambient air monitoring data and using air quality models to predict conditions.
- Develop and implement air pollution control strategies for maintaining or reducing ambient concentrations of air pollutants.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of control strategies to maintain or reduce air pollutants using predictive air quality models.
- Compile comprehensive inventories of pollutant sources and their emissions to use with air quality models and to support airshed management activities.
- Manage the Idaho Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program in the Treasure Valley airshed (Figure 6 and Figure 7).



Figure 6. The two-speed idle test samples tail pipe emissions and is conducted on all vehicles with a model year 1981–1995. This test is also used on vehicles with a manufacturer gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 8,500 pounds and with model years 1996–2008.



Figure 7. The on-board diagnostic test reads information from a vehicle’s on-board computer for diagnostic trouble codes specific to emissions-related problems.

Air Quality Performance Measures

- ✓ In fiscal year (FY) 2013, complete the Cache Valley nonattainment plan and submit to EPA for approval.
- ✓ In FYs2013–14, complete second annual review of the results of the Idaho Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program in the Treasure Valley airshed. In FY2013, review air quality data and make recommendations to the legislature whether the program should be continued, modified, or terminated.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete renewals of the Treasure Valley PM₁₀ maintenance plan and submit to EPA for approval.
- ✓ In FY2013, finish incorporating the Amalgamated Sugar Company's new best available retrofit technology (BART) permit into Idaho's regional haze state implementation plan (SIP).
- ✓ In FY2013, complete nitrogen oxides (NO_x) infrastructure SIP and submit to EPA.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete sulfur oxides (SO_x) designation and SO_x infrastructure SIP and submit to EPA.

Emerging Issues and Opportunities in Air Quality

New ozone standard. EPA may announce a new, more stringent standard for ozone in FY2013. Depending on the new standard, some areas of Idaho could violate the standard and need to be designated as nonattainment areas. The Treasure Valley and Kootenai County are at risk. Tighter standards for various other pollutants are expected to be implemented over the next several years as well.

Biomass for energy production. Biomass is any plant material or animal waste used to produce energy. The potential for increased use of biomass, while providing an alternative source of energy, could have a significant impact on local airsheds. The additional emissions of particulate matter from facilities producing energy with biomass could put more areas at risk for impaired air quality, should these facilities materialize. DEQ will need to work closely with communities in permitting these facilities.

Clean Air Act section 105 federal air quality grant allocation. EPA is proposing to change the formula for allocating federal §105 Clean Air Act dollars to the regions. As proposed, Region 10 could have its allocation reduced by as much as 40% phased in over the next eight years (beginning with FY2013). This reduction could have a significant impact on Idaho's ability to maintain primacy over certain air programs and may require Idaho to consider the impacts and alternatives to relinquishing some air programs to EPA. DEQ is working closely with other Region 10 states and EPA to minimize or eliminate this potential problem.

Waste Management and Remediation Goal 1:

Through proper waste and product management, prevent and protect soil and water from contamination resulting from solid and hazardous waste, petroleum products, and mining-related activities.

DEQ is responsible for monitoring and controlling the generation, treatment, storage, and disposal of wastes and regulating the management of petroleum products in underground storage tanks in Idaho. When contaminants are released into the environment, DEQ is also responsible for responding to the release and ensuring proper cleanup actions are taken to protect human health and the environment.

Several kinds of wastes and products that DEQ regulates have the potential to pose risks to human health and the environment, if not handled correctly.

Solid waste is a broad term that includes garbage, refuse, sludges, or other discarded material. It also includes discarded liquids and containerized gases. In general, DEQ's solid waste program deals with municipal and nonmunicipal solid waste at transfer stations, certain composting operations, and landfills. While the term "solid waste" technically includes hazardous and mining waste, DEQ has other specific programs to address these wastes.

Hazardous wastes have properties that make the waste dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. In regulatory terms, a hazardous waste is either a "listed" waste (a waste that appears on one of four federal hazardous waste lists due to its potential inherent dangers) or a waste that exhibits at least one of four characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity.

Mining wastes are solid or hazardous wastes that are associated with mining operations. Special regulations in Idaho govern mining operations that use cyanide.

Petroleum products are not wastes. However, when stored in underground storage tanks with their associated piping systems, they can leak and contaminate the environment or present the potential to leak if the tanks are not properly installed, operated, and inspected (Figure 8).

Overall, DEQ's waste management and remediation activities focus on preventing the release of contaminants to the environment and ensuring cleanup of contamination, once it is identified.

Objective 1. Minimize the threat of releases of hazardous, solid, and mining wastes and petroleum products to the environment.

DEQ issues permits and other approvals, conducts inspections, and provides training and compliance assistance to facilities that generate, dispose of, treat, or store wastes to ensure that those wastes do not adversely impact the environment or pose a public health risk.

DEQ also manages the state's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program, which is aimed at preventing and detecting leaks of petroleum products and hazardous substances. In FY2012, EPA granted DEQ state program approval to operate the UST Program in lieu of EPA in Idaho. DEQ's newly approved UST Program is responsible for conducting operator training, inspections, and compliance assistance at Idaho's 1,208 petroleum storage facilities.

Strategies for minimizing the release of contaminants:

- Update state regulations as necessary to ensure consistency and compliance with state and federal laws and to address directives from the Board of Environmental Quality.
- Issue siting licenses for new or expanded commercial solid waste landfills or commercial facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste.
- Issue and enforce permits for hazardous waste facilities, municipal and nonmunicipal solid waste management facilities, and cyanidation (mine/mining) operations.

- Inspect facilities that manage solid or hazardous waste, store petroleum products or hazardous substances in underground storage tanks, or conduct mining operations using cyanide.
- Complete site assessments of historic mine and mill sites and abandoned industrial and landfill sites to evaluate human health and ecological risks, and recommend risk management strategies for those found to exist.
- Issue inspection reports and, when necessary, initiate enforcement actions upon regulated facilities in a consistent and timely manner.
- Ensure that solid waste and hazardous waste facilities meet applicable financial assurance requirements.
- Issue certifications or permits for closure and post-closure of solid waste and hazardous waste facilities.
- Provide site-specific training to owners, operators, and employees on safe and compliant operation of underground storage tank systems.
- Provide access to an underground storage tank Internet database detailing the status of all regulated petroleum underground storage tank systems in Idaho.
- Provide technical and compliance assistance to regulated facilities.



Figure 8. New flexible piping installation. The pipes deliver fuel from the tank to the dispensers.

Waste and Remediation Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, conduct at least 106 inspections of facilities that manage or generate hazardous waste.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete all time-critical or scheduled hazardous waste permits and reviews within established time frames. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)
- ✓ In FY2013, conduct 20 site assessments of inactive or abandoned mine and/or mill sites and abandoned industrial and landfill sites.
- ✓ By the end of FY2013, provide site-specific operator training on equipment and applicable regulations for 100% of the 1,208 facilities in Idaho that have registered petroleum underground storage tank systems.
- ✓ By the end of FY2013, complete the federally mandated three-year inspection cycle for 100% of the 1,208 facilities in Idaho with registered petroleum underground storage tank systems.

Waste Management and Remediation Goal 2: Protect human health and the environment through proper waste management, mitigation, and remediation of contaminated areas.

DEQ learns about contaminated land or water from facility inspections, site investigations, complaints, or emergency response activities. The contamination can be the result of a variety of activities such as improper practices at existing facilities, accidental spills, or leaks from underground storage tank systems. DEQ also gathers information about suspected contamination due to abandoned mines, rural airfields that have served as bases for aerial spraying, old landfills, illegal dumps, and abandoned industrial facilities.

DEQ oversees the investigation and remediation of sites that have been or are suspected to have been contaminated by metals, chemicals, petroleum, or other waste products. DEQ also maintains a database inventory of identified contaminated sites. To meet this goal, the Waste Management and Remediation Division has three objectives.

Objective 1. Assess and remediate contaminated sites.

When environmental contamination is discovered, the site must be assessed to determine what contaminants are present, the concentrations, and the pathways that exist for contaminants to affect human health or the surrounding environment. Once assessed, the risk to the public and the environment is determined, and appropriate cleanup activities are initiated. Contamination is removed or controlled to ensure human health and the environment are protected for current and future land uses (Figure 9).



Figure 9. DEQ contractors placing gravel into a public road right-of-way where contaminated material was removed. Road shoulders are commonly found to be contaminated with lead from historic mining activities.

Strategies for assessing and remediating contaminated sites:

- Assess contaminated sites and determine the threat to human health and the environment using risk-based targets to establish site cleanup goals.
- Provide ongoing oversight for long-term cleanup sites such as the Burlington Northern Refueling Depot, Broadway Cleaners, Deming, LD McFarland, and Joslyn.
- Fund and conduct environmental assessments of “Brownfield” sites, which are vacant or underutilized properties where redevelopment or reuse is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination. These sites have the unique characteristic of high redevelopment potential and community value.
- Assist eligible entities in applying for federal grants to clean up contaminated Brownfield sites (Figure 10 and Figure 11).
- Provide oversight for five Community Reinvestment Pilot Sites (Brownfields) in progress. This pilot program was funded by the legislature to provide partial reimbursement to 10 private or nonprofit entities for completing DEQ-approved cleanups of pilot Brownfields sites. Upon completion of the cleanup, DEQ issues the pilot participant a rebate equal to 70% of the eligible cost, up to a maximum of \$150,000 per pilot site.
- Work with willing responsible parties to manage or abate risks from contamination through DEQ’s Voluntary Cleanup Program, which was created by the Idaho Land Remediation Act. As an alternative to enforcement action, a party may enter into a voluntary agreement with DEQ to clean up contaminated property to DEQ standards. Once the property is cleaned up, DEQ may provide the party a covenant not to sue.
- Initiate enforcement action, when necessary, by issuing the responsible party a notice of violation, consistent with the Hazardous Waste Management Act or Environmental Protection and Health Act. After issuing a notice of violation,

DEQ will seek to alleviate the existing threat and may pursue penalties for violations of state law, as well as seek cost recovery.

- Issue an emergency declaration when there is an imminent and substantial threat to human health or the environment and no responsible party can be identified. This declaration allows DEQ to use emergency response funding to hire remediation specialists to clean up the site. Emergency response funds are drawn from penalties imposed

on responsible parties who have violated the Hazardous Waste Management Act.

- Provide environmental expertise and field support to local first responders for approximately 300 emergency incidents in Idaho involving the potential release of hazardous materials and/or weapons of mass destruction.
- Assist local governments and the public by maintaining and providing access to the Internet database of contaminated sites in Idaho.

Waste and Remediation Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, conduct training for both DEQ staff and environmental consulting firms on using DEQ's new *Risk Evaluation Manual for Petroleum Releases*.
- ✓ In FY2013, remediate 12 leaking underground storage tank sites for safe reuse.
- ✓ In FY2013, oversee completion of 10 Brownfield site assessments. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)
- ✓ In FY2013, continue oversight of five Community Reinvestment Pilot sites in the Voluntary Cleanup Program and collect economic impact data on sites that receive state rebates.



Figure 10.
Before: New Plymouth Brownfield renewal—
abandoned and demolished former service station.



Figure 11.
After: New Plymouth Brownfield
renewal—new fire station.

Objective 2. Complete risk assessments and determine necessary action to prevent and control the release of past mining and other industrial and landfill contamination to the environment.

More than 8,500 inactive and abandoned mines, mineral locations, and mineral discoveries are located in Idaho. DEQ offers assistance to private owners of these properties to help evaluate and manage human health and ecological risks on their properties.

With property owner permission, DEQ assesses privately owned mine sites as part of the Preliminary Assessment Program. Priority is given to areas where multiple sites, ownerships, and/or claims can be assessed in a “watershed” scope to maximize efficiencies in staff field time. Consideration is also given to areas with high potential for human health and ecological impacts and high potential for future development and reuse.

In FY2013, DEQ will also begin assessing abandoned industrial landfill sites under the Preliminary Assessment Program. The DEQ State Office is working with the Coeur d’Alene and Lewiston Regional Offices to identify industrial and landfill sites for assessment.

Preliminary assessments can result in three potential conclusions:

- 1) Request for additional information to fully understand site conditions

- 2) Recommendations for voluntary site remediation or use of other cleanup or clean water authorities
- 3) Determination that no further action is necessary

Strategies to prevent and control contamination from mining:

- Work with state and federal land management agencies to identify, assess, and prioritize potentially contaminated mine sites and with property owners to determine remediation options.
- Evaluate potential impacts of new mine sites to soil, ground water, and surface water resources and collaborate with federal agencies in developing best management practices as new mines are permitted.

Strategies to prevent and control contamination from industrial and landfill sites will be developed in FY2013 working with the DEQ regional offices.

Waste and Remediation Performance Measure

- ✓ In FY2013, work with landowners to complete problem assessments and implement measures that will result in 10 mine and 10 industrial/landfill sites receiving no-further-action determinations or carried forward to a remediation process.

Objective 3. Implement major long-term cleanup actions for historic releases of mining-related contamination to the environment.

DEQ is working with EPA and other federal, state, tribal, and local agencies and stakeholders to implement two major mining cleanup projects. These projects are at opposite ends of the state—one in the phosphate mining area of southeast Idaho and the other in the Silver Valley of the Idaho Panhandle.

Selenium Contamination in Southeast Idaho. In 1996, isolated livestock deaths associated with excessive selenium uptake in the vicinity of historic phosphate mines in southeast Idaho prompted concerns over potential

human health and ecological effects from past mining operations. In response to these concerns, primary mine operators in the region formed the Idaho Mining Association (IMA) Selenium Committee to investigate and address mining-related environmental and public health issues associated with past operations. Similarly, an Interagency/Phosphate Industry Selenium Working Group (SeWG)—consisting of voluntary participants from federal, state, and tribal agencies and other stakeholder groups—was established to collaborate on these efforts.

Through the voluntary efforts of the IMA Selenium Committee and SeWG, investigators were able to confirm the release of selenium and other related metals in localized areas. Existing data indicate selenium contamination is currently focused on approximately 75 square miles of active and historic mine lease areas within the approximately 2,500-square-mile resource area.

For the past several years, DEQ has been working with private industry, federal and support agencies, and special interest groups to remediate several selenium contamination areas. DEQ has made considerable progress in completing assessments and cleanup of sites that are under state leadership and continues to support work on other cleanup sites led by federal agencies throughout the region. In all, DEQ is involved in nearly 20 selenium-related remediation sites in southeast Idaho.

Metals Contamination in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. In 1983, EPA listed the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex as a Superfund site. This listing was in large part due to high levels of metals (including lead, arsenic, cadmium, and zinc) in the local environment and elevated blood lead levels in children.

DEQ works with the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission and its member agencies, including EPA, to plan and oversee implementation of the cleanup for the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Cleanup of residential and commercial properties to address human health exposures has been the primary focus of work to date. It is projected that this project will be largely completed by the end of the 2013 or 2014 construction season, after which cleanup activities will turn to long-term preservation of efforts to protect human health by providing flood control in side drainages,

improving water quality in the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, reclaiming abandoned mine and mill sites, and restoring habitat for fish, terrestrial wildlife, and birds.

DEQ's primary role to date has been to oversee implementation of the property cleanup program (Figure 12). Upon completion, DEQ expects to focus on projects to protect and preserve remedial efforts previously implemented and to improve water quality in the original Superfund site called the "Box." DEQ will also provide oversight for work performed by other entities including the Coeur d'Alene Trust, which was created as a result of the ASARCO bankruptcy settlement. The trust will be the primary implementer and financier of work outside of the "Box" and for the out-years of the cleanup. DEQ will continue as the lead for repository siting and design.

Strategies for long-term mining cleanups:

- Work with industry and state, federal, and tribal agencies to conduct site-specific assessments, interim actions, and remediation activities to address selenium contamination resulting from phosphate mining in southeast Idaho.
- Implement projects to protect and preserve existing remedial efforts and address water quality through source control and other strategies.
- Implement natural resource restoration projects as a member of the Coeur d'Alene Trust.
- Site and design repositories to isolate contaminated materials so they are not released into the environment.
- Support the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission with its task of addressing heavy metal contamination in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Waste and Remediation Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, meet all milestones, deliverables, and deadlines for state-led phosphate mine remediation activities, consistent with agreements in place to assess and remediate selenium contamination in southeast Idaho.
- ✓ In FY2013, seek agreements to prevent continued selenium releases at the Georgetown Canyon, South Rasmussen Ridge, and Lanes Creek Mines in southeastern Idaho.
- ✓ During the 2012 construction season, remediate 300 metals-contaminated individual properties in the Coeur d'Alene Basin, achieving remediation of a total of over 3,500 properties by the end of the construction season.



Figure 12. Workers install a replacement culvert in a private driveway on a property cleanup in Kingston, Idaho, in the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. EPA, DEQ, and the responsible parties have cleaned up over 6,000 residential and commercial properties in the site.

Emerging Issues and Opportunities in Waste Management and Remediation

Waste-to-energy proposals. DEQ has received proposals to establish waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities in southwest and southeast Idaho using municipal waste to generate electricity. The DEQ Waste Management and Remediation Division's concerns with these processes include proper management of the municipal solid waste, diversion of household hazardous waste and conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste from these municipal waste streams, and proper waste characterization of any ash that is generated from the WTE process.

Flood control in the Coeur d'Alene Basin to protect human health and the environment. Flooding in the Coeur d'Alene Basin would lead to the release and deposition of contaminated soils and sediments in developed and undeveloped areas, resulting in exposure to humans and the environment. DEQ is working with EPA and state and federal flood control agencies to develop plans and implement flood control projects for this multiyear, multiagency effort. Flood control projects are complex and costly; however, the costs associated with cleaning up contamination after a flood and the risk to public safety make the Coeur d'Alene Basin project a top priority.

Idaho National Laboratory Oversight Goal: Protect human health and the environment on and around the Idaho National Laboratory.

DEQ works with the United States Department of Energy (DOE), EPA, and other agencies to ensure the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is operated in a manner that protects public health and the environment while continuing to address national energy, engineering, and environmental challenges. The agencies ensure the INL complies with legal agreements for waste treatment and remediation and with all applicable environmental regulations. DEQ has two objectives to meet this goal.

Objective 1. Monitor environmental conditions to ensure the INL and surrounding area meet air, radiation, and water quality standards, and keep the public informed.

DEQ maintains an environmental monitoring program around the INL designed to verify and supplement monitoring activities carried out by DOE. A database of monitoring results covering more than a decade has been developed. This information allows DEQ to better understand background radiation, track emissions from site facilities, and track contamination in the aquifer.

Environmental monitoring data are analyzed annually to determine changes over time. Reports are prepared and released regularly to keep the public informed.

Strategies for INL monitoring and public information:

- Operate 10 continuous air monitoring stations and 12 real-time radiation monitoring stations (Figure 13).
- Collect samples and analyze the data from 105 ground water sampling locations.
- Analyze ground water data obtained from wells drilled by the United States Geological Survey and DOE.
- Analyze sample results from three wastewater sites.
- Conduct milk sampling of dairy animals to indirectly verify the presence or absence of atmospheric radioiodine deposited in the terrestrial environment.

- Conduct soil sampling and analyze the data to evaluate the long-term deposition and migration of contaminants in the environment.
- Ensure the public is kept informed of how activities at the INL affect public health and the environment through quarterly and annual monitoring reports published on the DEQ website.



Figure 13. A community monitoring station, which displays real-time atmospheric and radiological data. The data from community monitoring stations can be viewed at www.idahoop.org.

INL Oversight Performance Measure

- ✓ In FY2013, ensure continuous air monitoring stations and real-time radiation monitoring stations are operational at least 97% of the time. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)

Objective 2. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of cleanup agreements in achieving remediation of hazardous and radiological contamination at INL sites.

Under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), records of decision (RODs) have been completed for all 10 waste area groups designated under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFA/CO). All ROD and other FFA/CO designated soil and ground water sites identified for remediation to achieve acceptable risk thresholds have been completed or are undergoing remediation.

The final ROD at INL, Operable Unit 10-08, is now in place to monitor the Snake River Plain aquifer beneath the INL and to address the investigation and remediation, if necessary, of new sites discovered as a result of facility decontamination and decommission or other CERCLA activities (Figure 14).

Strategies for reviewing and evaluating cleanup agreements:

- Review ongoing remediation, monitoring, and long-term institutional controls for existing CERCLA sites.
- Review and approve plans investigating and remediating newly designated CERCLA sites.
- Prepare documents for public presentation, comment, and resolution as necessary to support CERCLA actions at the INL.



Figure 14. The Eastern Snake River Plain aquifer and Idaho National Laboratory.

Water Quality Goal 1: Maintain and improve surface and ground water quality in Idaho.

Two primary state statutes direct DEQ's overall efforts to maintain and improve surface and ground water quality. Under Idaho Code §§39-3601 to 3623, DEQ works with six basin advisory groups (BAGs) across the state for advice on surface water quality protection. BAGs provide input on water quality improvement plans (known as total maximum daily loads or TMDLs), monitoring priorities, designation of beneficial uses, and the biennial report to EPA on state water quality (Integrated Report). In addition, they review and prioritize water quality improvement projects that address nonpoint source pollution impacts on surface and ground water. The law also requires DEQ to form and work with individual watershed advisory groups to develop and implement specific TMDLs.

Idaho Code §§39-120 to 127 designates DEQ as the primary state agency to coordinate and administer ground water quality protection programs. Rules have been promulgated under this statute to ensure DEQ maintains and protects the existing high quality of the state's ground water and the existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water. DEQ also works more informally with lake protection associations and ground water protection groups who share a common interest in protecting the quality of state water resources and public health.

Finally, DEQ has delegated authorities under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act to issue water quality certifications for other agency permits. These certifications include provisions that must be met to ensure compliance of wastewater discharge permits (known as National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] permits), dredge and fill permits (covered under the Clean Water Act Section 404), and hydropower license permits (granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC]) with state water quality standards. To meet the goal of protecting and improving the quality of surface and ground water in Idaho, the Water Quality Division has three objectives, described below.

Objective 1. Monitor and assess water quality conditions to determine compliance with standards and support of beneficial uses.

In cooperation with other state and federal agencies, DEQ conducts monitoring for surface water and ground water trends, reconnaissance, special projects, and priority areas to assess conditions, prepare reports, and update standards (Figure 15).

Surface water trend monitoring is a core DEQ responsibility and key to our understanding of water quality conditions in the state. In FYs2013–2016, DEQ will use state-funded support for surface water quality monitoring under the Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP). Federal funds will enable DEQ to conduct randomized sampling of lakes and reservoirs in summer 2012. DEQ's ability to meet its overall responsibility for protecting surface water quality will be met in FY2013.



Figure 15. DEQ staff conduct water quality monitoring on the North Fork Clearwater River.

Strategies for determining compliance with water quality standards and support of beneficial uses:

- Collaborate with other agencies to implement ground water quality monitoring networks in nitrate priority areas to evaluate trends and the effectiveness of ground water quality improvement plans.
- Conduct appropriate follow-up monitoring when chemicals are detected at levels of concern through the Idaho Department of Water Resources Statewide Ambient Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network, Idaho State Department of Agriculture dairy monitoring, or other monitoring programs.
- Every five years, evaluate ground water data for trends in nitrate concentrations and update the nitrate priority areas. FY2013 is a five-year milestone for nitrate priority area evaluation and trend analysis. Return to nitrate ground water data collection in future years.
- Include monitoring and reporting requirements in all wastewater reuse permits to ensure surface and ground water quality are protected.



Figure 16. DEQ staff electrofishing on the Spokane River.

- Collect and evaluate information from contractors and subgrantees in implementing nonpoint source projects to determine progress in reducing water quality impacts from agriculture, forest practices, mining, urban development, and other activities.
- Conduct site evaluations of active and legacy projects to assess the effectiveness of ongoing project maintenance. Each year, target one BURP monitoring activity in each DEQ region in an assessment unit where a nonpoint source project has been conducted.
 - Under agreement with EPA, inspect facilities with NPDES permits and review monthly discharge monitoring reports to determine compliance with permit requirements.
 - Conduct assessments of BURP monitoring data.
 - Compile, analyze, and interpret surface water quality data and maintain DEQ's Assessment Database.
 - Submit to EPA the 2012 biennial Integrated Report on state water quality, as required under sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.
- Collect surface water quality data (biological, chemical, and physical) as part of TMDL subbasin assessments or specific surface water quality investigations to determine compliance with state surface water quality standards (Figure 16).

Water Quality Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, complete 50 inspections of NPDES-permitted facilities, under agreement with EPA.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete 60 annual report reviews for permitted wastewater reuse facilities.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete 50 inspections of permitted wastewater reuse facilities.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete annual ground water quality monitoring summary report for calendar year 2012.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete the 2012 nitrate priority area ranking by analyzing data collected during 2007–2011.
- ✓ In FY2013, conduct water quality monitoring in 240 wadeable streams following BURP protocols.
- ✓ In FY2013, analyze surface water quality data, prepare the draft 2012 Integrated Report, solicit public comment, and submit the 2012 Integrated Report to EPA.

Objective 2. Complete reviews, guidance, and plans for improving and maintaining water quality.

DEQ performs a variety of functions designed to improve and maintain surface and ground water quality. We develop technical guidance to help consultants, businesses, permittees, and citizens comply with environmental requirements. We perform reviews and evaluations of environmental analyses to ensure proposed activities will comply with applicable requirements.

DEQ completes several types of statewide and local water quality plans designed to improve and protect water quality. Examples include the statewide Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Plan, ground water quality improvement plans for nitrate priority areas, and TMDLs for impaired surface waters. The environmental reviews and guidance are designed to prevent impacts to water quality, while the various plans address how to improve and maintain water quality.

Strategies for improving and maintaining water quality:

- Work with other state and federal partners to rewrite the NPS Management Plan and related memorandum of understanding to protect water quality from the impacts of nonpoint source activities.
- Work with local stakeholders to continue to develop and implement ground water quality improvement plans in nitrate priority areas.
- Help mining operations to characterize hydrogeologic conditions and background ground water quality prior to initiating mining activities.
- Develop guidance to facilitate implementation of the Idaho “Ground Water Quality Rule” (IDAPA 58.01.11) in a consistent manner on a statewide basis.
- Provide ground water quality data to the public through web-based applications.
- Work with watershed advisory groups (WAGs) to complete assessment unit/pollutant combination TMDLs that remain under the 2002 TMDL settlement agreement and submit to EPA for approval.
- Work with WAGs to complete TMDL reviews at five-year intervals.
- Work with WAGs to complete assessment unit/pollutant combination TMDLs for impaired water bodies identified in the 2010 Integrated Report and submit to EPA for approval. (See discussion of external factors below.)
- Work with the stakeholder committee to update the wastewater reuse guidance for use by DEQ staff, the public, and permittees and their consultants.
- Use the DEQ wastewater reuse guidance and compliance assistance as outreach tools for working with customers to improve design, testing, operator training, and other wastewater-related activities and assist customers in complying with requirements.
- Provide guidance to consultants for completing evaluations of nutrient-pathogen impacts on water quality from subsurface sewage disposal systems.
- Review nutrient-pathogen evaluations written by consultants to ensure proposed developments meet applicable water quality standards.

Water Quality Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, work with stakeholders to arrive at a current understanding of what constitutes the Designated Management Universe and to lay the groundwork for cooperatively updating the NPS Management Plan.
- ✓ In FY2013, continue to develop ground water quality improvement plans for nitrate priority areas and work with local organizations to implement those plans.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete 290 assessment unit/pollutant combination TMDLs. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)
- ✓ In FY2013, complete 6 TMDL five-year reviews.

External factors affecting performance success. The 2002 TMDL settlement agreement has driven DEQ to set priorities for completing TMDL work required under state statute. The priorities are (1) complete 2002 settlement agreement TMDLs, (2) complete TMDL five-year reviews, and (3) complete TMDLs for newly listed water bodies in the 2010 Integrated Report.

Objective 3. Implement pollution reduction actions needed to meet water quality standards and support beneficial uses.

DEQ implements pollution reduction actions in many ways, including permitting, water quality certifications of other agency permits, wastewater facility inspections, engineering reviews of wastewater systems, funding for nonpoint source pollution reduction grants, and wastewater facility improvement grants and loans.

Appropriate design and engineering can prevent pollution. Permit and certification conditions are included to limit pollutants to levels that meet applicable water quality standards. Facility inspections ensure compliance with permit requirements and can trigger corrective action, if necessary. Finally, grant and loan funding provides direct support for implementing pollution reduction actions.

Strategies for reducing surface and ground water pollution:

- Provide technical and regulatory assistance to local governments to help them protect ground water quality in accordance with their statutory responsibilities.
- Provide implementation support to communities as identified in completed ground water quality improvement plans.
- Promote reuse of treated wastewater, thereby eliminating surface water discharges and making good use of recycled wastewater (Figure 17).
- Complete annual wastewater reuse facility inspections and report reviews to ensure compliance with permit requirements and optimize treatment efficiencies and energy costs.
- Issue water quality certifications (Clean Water Act Section 401) for FERC hydropower permits, US Army Corps of Engineers dredge and fill permits (Clean Water Act Section 404), and EPA NPDES permits for wastewater discharges.
- Include performance measures, mitigation steps, and enhancement plans in certification conditions for FERC license applications to offset or correct short-term water quality impacts.
- Review and approve mitigation and enhancement implementation plans for compliance with Section 401 certification and FERC license requirements.
- Work with border states and EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10 to address interstate water quality projects such as TMDLs, NPDES permits, and FERC relicensures.
- Promote pollutant trading as a cost-effective tool to implement pollutant reduction in watersheds with approved TMDLs.
- Work with the various permitting agencies in developing an administrative record for water quality certifications documenting compliance with state water quality standards.
- Implement the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan to control metals in lake bottom sediments in coordination with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, three counties, and other watershed partners.
- Provide loan fee-funded grant assistance to eligible communities to complete the planning phase of wastewater treatment system projects to protect public health and reduce water pollution impacts.
- Provide loan assistance (Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans) to eligible communities to design and construct wastewater treatment systems that protect public health and reduce water pollution.
- Provide federal grant funding and technical oversight for projects that reduce nonpoint source pollutants.
- Complete reviews of wastewater engineering plans and specifications within 42 days, as required by statute, to ensure designs meet rule requirements, protect public health, and protect surface and ground waters from contamination.
- Provide technical information, guidance, and training on various wastewater issues of interest such as microconstituents, specific reuse topics, lagoon seepage, and handling of biosolids and septage.

Water Quality Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, obligate 100% of available wastewater and nonpoint source grant and loan funds.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete reviews of engineering plans and specifications for wastewater systems within the statutory deadline of 42 days. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)
- ✓ In FY2013, issue 20 permits for wastewater reuse facilities.



Figure 17. Land application is one method of reusing wastewater.

Water Quality Goal 2: Protect human health through the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water from public water systems.

DEQ recognizes that economic health and public health are closely related. Economically viable and sustainable communities and the health and well-being of Idaho citizens are dependent upon safe and reliable sources of drinking water (Figure 18). To meet this goal, the Water Quality Division has three objectives, described below.

Objective 1. Ensure customers served by regulated public water systems are receiving safe and reliable drinking water.

DEQ provides technical assistance, training, and support to owners of public water systems so they are able to produce and deliver safe and reliable drinking water. This objective is accomplished by ensuring that public water systems are located, designed, constructed, operated, maintained, and protected to reliably meet health-based drinking water standards.

Strategies to ensure safe and reliable drinking water:

- Provide technical assistance and training to owners and operators of public water systems to help them comply with drinking water quality standards.
- Respond immediately to all acute contamination events at public water systems and assist with timely diagnosis and resolution of the problem.
- Assist owners of public water systems in preventing waterborne disease outbreaks by requiring compliance with health-based standards and the “Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems” (IDAPA 58.01.08).
- Provide the public and public water system operators with real-time access to information on the quality of their drinking water, monitoring requirements and schedules, and other regulatory requirements through the web-based Public Water System Switchboard (www.deq.idaho.gov/pws-switchboard).
- Encourage mutual assistance between operators of water utilities and provide opportunities by hosting and maintaining the Idaho Water Area Response Network (IdWARN) website and the Operator Search Tool webpage for finding qualified operators.
- Complete engineering plan and specification reviews of public drinking water systems within the 42 days required by statute to ensure systems

are properly located, designed, and constructed.

- Conduct comprehensive sanitary survey inspections at public water systems to ensure they are properly maintained and operated.
- Provide timely response to violations and require compliance with health-based standards and rules through enforcement action, after exhausting technical assistance and educational opportunities.
- Complete source water assessments on new drinking water sources and assist communities in using the information to develop and implement drinking water source protection strategies.



Figure 18. DEQ's Drinking Water Program protects public health by ensuring drinking water from public water systems in Idaho is safe.

Water Quality Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, obligate 100% of available drinking water grant and loan funds.
- ✓ In FY2013, complete engineering plan and specification reviews of drinking water systems within the statutory deadline of 42 days. (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)
- ✓ In FY2013, work with owners of public water systems to ensure that 90% of the people served by community water systems receive water that meets all health-based standards (see discussion of external factors below). (This is a benchmark performance measure; see the Performance Accountability section.)

External factors affecting performance success. EPA promulgation of new or more stringent standards for drinking water has resulted in a decrease in the percentage of people served by safe drinking water. It is important to note that drinking water is of the same relative quality as it has been, but the additional treatment needed to comply with more stringent standards for disinfection by-products (2008), arsenic (2006), and radionuclides (2003) has proven difficult, slow, and expensive to achieve, resulting in lower compliance rates over the last several years. DEQ has entered into compliance agreement schedules with owners of public drinking water systems to provide additional time to meet the new, more stringent drinking water standards.

Objective 2. Assist public water system owners in protecting their drinking water sources from contamination.

Communities depend on clean drinking water supplies to ensure public health, economic development, sound financing, and the quality of life of residents. Source water protection is focused on preventing contamination of the aquifers and surface water bodies that are the source of public drinking water supplies.

Keeping contaminants from entering a public water system can benefit a community by reducing the risk to public health, saving on monitoring costs, and preventing the need for additional water treatment.

Strategies for protecting drinking water sources:

- Work with local governments to protect drinking water sources by including source water protection as a component in their comprehensive plans.
- Help interested local governments develop source water protection tools, such as ordinances, overlay zones, riparian buffers, and land use planning.
- Work with owners of public water systems and local governments to develop regional aquifer and watershed protection plans that include protections for drinking water sources and to recertify existing source water protection plans.

Water Quality Performance Measure

- ✓ In FY2013, increase the percentage of Idaho's population utilizing source water protection strategies to protect drinking water.

Objective 3. Provide financial assistance to public water systems for facility improvements and source water protection.

The cost of compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act provisions can be a difficult burden for many drinking water systems, especially those with small population bases. DEQ provides financial assistance to communities to prevent contamination of drinking water sources and to

make facility improvements needed to comply with regulatory requirements.

The source water protection grant program makes funding available to help communities with projects that mitigate

or prevent degradation of ground water or surface water sources that supply their systems. The DEQ grant and loan program provides funding to communities to help them make the system improvements needed to provide affordable, safe drinking water.

Strategies for funding source water protection and facility improvements:

- Provide funding to owners of public water systems, local governments, and nonprofit entities through the source water protection grant program to implement strategies to protect drinking water sources.
- Provide loan fee-funded grants to owners of eligible systems to complete facility plans in preparation for obtaining DEQ loans for designing and constructing drinking water treatment systems.
- Provide state- and federal-funded low-interest loan assistance to eligible communities for designing and constructing safe drinking water systems.
- Incorporate drinking water loan priority list rating points for source water protection activities that protect the sustainability of the system.

Water Quality Performance Measure

- ✓ In FY2013, manage approximately \$300,000 in previously awarded source water protection grants.

Emerging Issues and Opportunities in Water Quality

Water Quality Standards to protect human health—Idaho’s surface water quality toxics criteria. In May 2012, EPA disapproved Idaho’s human health based water quality toxics criteria. The disapproval was based on EPA’s uncertainty about appropriate fish consumption rates used to calculate such criteria. DEQ used EPA’s national recommended fish consumption rate of 17.5 grams per day, or the equivalent of one 4-ounce meal per week, to calculate the water quality toxics criteria. The rule was submitted to EPA in 2006 for their review and approval. Since 2006, Oregon DEQ has adopted a water quality toxics standard based on a fish consumption rate of 175 grams per day or the equivalent of a 6-ounce meal every day. DEQ, in conjunction with Idaho stakeholders, is currently evaluating whether and how to promulgate new toxics criteria and the scientific basis for doing so. There is a strong need for sound data as to actual fish consumption rates in Idaho. In the absence of state action, EPA could be forced to promulgate a federal toxics criteria for application in Idaho.

Drinking water and wastewater system loan requirements. Entering into FY2013, an imbalance has emerged in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Clean Water SRF loan funds' ability to serve the state's needs. This imbalance has developed over the last three years and may represent an issue to contend with during the next four years. The Drinking Water SRF loan fund in FY2013 can fully fund the priority list needs and have surplus funds, while the Clean Water SRF loan fund in FY2013 can only meet just over 7% of needs. Money can be transferred between the two funds and, if the present dichotomy continues, the transfer option may be a viable tool.

EPA is evolving its policy toward system sustainability. This evolution will likely continue over the next four years and will require administrative changes. The policy may translate into specific capitalization grant requirements, such as user rate structures that incorporate capital replacement. Such an evolution would pose significant issues:

- It may push user rates to a level that makes SRF loan funding unaffordable.
- It poses the administrative dilemma of how to enforce requirements when loans have entered into the repayment phase.

Antidegradation implementation. The Clean Water Act requires Idaho to protect the existing uses of all state waters and to protect high-quality waters from degradation. Federal law requires states to have both an antidegradation policy and methods to implement the policy. Idaho now has an antidegradation policy and implementation procedures in state statute and the water quality rules. Rulemaking was completed last year to incorporate state statute components into the water quality rules. Procedures to limit degradation of Idaho water bodies rely on the 2010 Integrated Report to classify Idaho’s surface waters into tiers for protection.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Goal: Prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health and environmental emergencies.

DEQ maintains the resources and readiness to quickly and effectively support local emergency response personnel and communities when an environmental or public health emergency occurs. This readiness is accomplished by training alongside regional response teams; state agencies such as the Idaho Transportation Department, Department of Fish and Game, and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS); and federal agencies such as EPA, DOE, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Additionally, DEQ maintains expertise in handling hazardous and radioactive materials by participating in advanced-level courses and exercises. To meet the emergency preparedness and response goal, DEQ has two objectives, described below.

Objective 1. Provide training and technical expertise for emergency planning and preparedness.

DEQ works with BHS and DOE to train and prepare local communities and regional response teams to respond to emergencies involving hazardous and radiological materials (Figure 19).

Strategies for emergency planning and preparedness:

- Provide specific training and technical support to cities, counties, hospitals, tribes, and other state agencies in responding to hazardous and radiological emergencies, natural disasters, and terrorist acts.
- Work with other state and federal agencies to develop predictive air dispersion and water transport models to use as tools in responding to and minimizing impacts from spills of hazardous materials.
- Work with federal, state, and local agencies to develop plans for responding to incidents occurring along transportation routes.
- Maintain expertise with the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System by participating in exercises and advanced training.
- Review the Idaho Fixed Facilities Emergency Plan annually to ensure compliance with state regulatory requirements and federal guidance.
- Activate DEQ-INL Oversight Program, DOE-Idaho Operations Office, and affected INL facilities and counties emergency plans as necessary to protect public health when an INL emergency involves the potential or actual release of radioactive materials.
- Participate in DOE and BHS emergency response exercises.



Figure 19. Regional Response Team 3, out of the Nampa/Caldwell area, exercised its personnel mass decontamination skills for an Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security exercise during Hazmat Week 2012.

Objective 2. Respond to public health and environmental emergencies.

DEQ is one of many agencies that participates in the State Emergency Management Program, operated under the leadership of BHS. When an emergency occurs, DEQ participates in the BHS communication center bridge calls for planning and coordinating incident responses. DEQ provides personnel support on-scene to assess environmental and human health risks, suggest approaches for minimizing impacts, coordinate environmental investigations, and characterize and oversee cleanup.

In the event of a state or federally declared disaster, DEQ provides personnel to work in the State Emergency Operations Center in Boise, in support offices, or both. DEQ is also authorized to implement procedures to address public health emergencies. In the event of an air pollution emergency, DEQ may implement a series of increasingly stringent pollution control measures while keeping the public informed of efforts that are underway and advised of actions to safeguard health. In the event of a release that may threaten drinking water supplies, DEQ

works with public water systems to ensure plans are in place to protect supplies and, in the event of contamination, keep the public informed and advised of necessary precautions.

Strategies for emergency response:

- Provide technical advice to on-scene incident commanders for responding to chemical and radiological emergencies.
- Provide or help identify resources needed for emergency response actions.
- Provide pertinent emergency information to the public.
- Collaborate with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Public Health to provide appropriate public health information.
- Provide immediate response to public drinking water contamination incidents that pose an acute public health threat.

Emerging Issues and Opportunities in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Building emergency response depth. As Idaho moves toward full integration with the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System for responding to local and regional emergencies, DEQ will need to build emergency response depth within the organization. Over the next few years, DEQ will train multiple levels of management as well as key staff in the Air Quality, Waste Management and Remediation, and Water Quality Divisions in the Incident Command System.

Environmental Outreach and Education Goal:

Encourage and empower Idaho citizens, businesses, and communities to engage in behaviors to protect public health and preserve Idaho's environment.

Education and outreach are effective tools for raising public awareness and promoting environmentally responsible behaviors. Although agency budget cutbacks have led to reductions in focused resources to support these activities, DEQ remains committed to integrating education and outreach into staff activities agency-wide within existing budgetary capabilities.

Objective 1. Employ public outreach to increase awareness and understanding of environmental and related health issues impacting Idaho citizens, schools, businesses, and communities.

Idaho's environmental laws, rules, and programs can be complex and difficult to understand. DEQ's public outreach efforts are aimed at helping citizens, schools, businesses, and communities learn about required as well as recommended actions to protect the environment and public health and encouraging them to make healthy, sustainable choices.

Strategies for increasing environmental and public health awareness:

- Integrate outreach, education, and compliance assistance into agency regulatory activities.
 - Develop high-quality, accurate, and understandable publications, web content, displays, and other outreach materials designed to inform stakeholders about key environmental issues and agency initiatives.
 - Provide timely public access to information on environmental issues and agency activities via the news media, DEQ's website, workshops, and events sponsored by DEQ and stakeholders.
 - Participate in community events to interact with citizens and share information on environmental issues and best practices.
 - Encourage participation in the agency's anti-idling program, Clean Air Zone Idaho, among schools, businesses, and communities to reduce tailpipe emissions.
 - Seek opportunities to work with schools over the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer to share information on aquifer protection with children.
 - Collaborate with other state agencies and public health districts to raise awareness in schools and communities of mercury spill prevention and proper disposal.
- Encourage schools to responsibly dispose of hazardous chemicals and prevent pollution through DEQ's Chemical Round-up Program.
 - Train local elected and solid waste officials on how to conduct hazardous waste collection events in their communities.
 - Encourage businesses to adopt pollution prevention methods as part of their everyday operations through the Economy, Energy, and the Environment (E3) sustainable manufacturing program.
 - Actively engage community leaders to develop locally tailored solutions for the collection of hazardous wastes, electronic waste, and other materials (Figure 20).
 - Train local organizations to safely and effectively collect mercury from recreational suction dredgers.

What is E3?

E3 is a multiagency, interdisciplinary technical assistance program aimed at increasing the economic, energy, and environmental efficiency and sustainability of manufacturers.

- E3 seeks to increase the economic efficiency and competitiveness of the manufacturing industry through lean manufacturing.
- E3 seeks to increase the energy efficiency of the manufacturing industry through comprehensive energy audits designed to reduce energy consumption without decreasing value added in the production process.
- E3 seeks to reduce the manufacturing industry's impact on the environment through pollution prevention.



Figure 20. Household hazardous waste collected from an event in Bonneville County. Surrounding communities hosted smaller events prior to the event in Bonneville County. The waste collected at the smaller satellite events was then transported to the contracted waste hauler for the Bonneville County event to cut down on the cost of disposal and transport.

Objective 2. Build the capabilities of Idaho citizens to incorporate pollution prevention practices into the workplace and their daily lives.

Pollution prevention (P2) is any activity—including the use of materials, processes, or practices—that reduces or eliminates the creation of pollutants or waste at the source. Instead of trying to manage the wastes or pollutants through treatment or disposal methods, P2 aims to prevent the initial generation or reduce the toxicity of wastes and pollutants such as hazardous waste, air pollutants, solid waste, and wastewater.

P2 also includes any activity that reduces the toxicity of materials purchased or reduces the consumption of resources such as raw materials, water, energy, or fuel. By employing P2 practices, stakeholders can enhance productivity, save money, improve workplace safety, reduce liability, and conserve natural resources.

Strategies for building P2 capabilities:

- Plan, develop, and implement projects that provide stakeholders with effective tools to prevent pollution, minimize waste, and conserve energy and resources.
- Partner with the Idaho TechHelp Program, the Idaho Office of Energy Resources, and other agencies to incorporate P2 techniques into technical assistance visits with Idaho businesses.
- Provide technical assistance to avert potential violations of environmental laws, rules, and programs; enhance compliance; and encourage above-and-beyond compliance actions to protect public health and preserve the environment.
- Recognize the P2 achievements of stakeholders, with an eye toward encouraging others to replicate these successes.

Objective 3. Lead by example to demonstrate DEQ's commitment to the benefits of modeling environmentally responsible behaviors.

As the state agency responsible for ensuring clean air, water, and land in the state and protecting Idaho citizens from the adverse health impacts of pollution, it is incumbent upon DEQ to model environmentally responsible behaviors and demonstrate the benefits of those behaviors to public health and the environment.

Strategies for leading by example:

- Encourage and facilitate staff participation in environmentally responsible behaviors such as using alternative transportation, recycling, and conserving energy (Figure 21).
- Develop and practice internal policies and procedures to prevent pollution, conserve resources, and mentor stakeholders on how to pursue and achieve similar results.
- Publish documented efforts of P2 and alternative transportation on DEQ's website.



Figure 21. As part of Commuteride's May in Motion event, 91 DEQ employees avoided driving 23,448 vehicle miles by using alternative transportation for the entire month of May.

Environmental Outreach and Education Performance Measures

- ✓ In FY2013, provide 5,000 Idaho citizens with information on simple and effective actions they can take to help protect public health and preserve Idaho's environment.
- ✓ In FY2013, target one school district for participation in the Chemical Round-up Project to promote long-term, sustainable pollution prevention.
- ✓ In FY2013, create an online household hazardous waste training tool for local governments that were unable to participate in regional household hazardous waste workshops in 2010 and 2011.
- ✓ In FY2013, promote safe and effective voluntary collection of mercury from recreational suction dredgers in at least one DEQ region.
- ✓ In FY2013, target at least one business for an E3 technical assistance project encompassing energy efficiency, environmental performance, and economic sustainability.

Emerging Opportunity in Environmental Outreach and Education

Mobile technology and applications. The use of smartphones, tablet computers, and internet-accessible devices has dramatically expanded in the past several years and provides new opportunities for DEQ outreach and education efforts. Quick Response codes, or QR codes, allow most smartphone users to access internet-based information about products and services without having to recall a website address. DEQ has just begun using QR codes, most recently to direct readers of the monthly Superfund Straight Talk column to additional information. Likewise, dedicated mobile applications have allowed smartphone and tablet users access to vast and easily accessible information. For instance, several companies have developed apps to evaluate the overall sustainability of products on store shelves by allowing users to scan the product's barcode to get information about the company and the product, including the energy and waste generated during its manufacture. DEQ anticipates increased use of these particular technology platforms in the future to significantly improve the distribution of information to our target audiences.

Performance Accountability

DEQ has established two sets of performance measures to track progress toward meeting agency goals and to maintain readiness for the challenges of the future: (1) program performance measures and (2) benchmark performance measures.

The **program performance measures** address ongoing agency functions and services to protect human health and the environment. Each division identifies and tracks measures important to managing internal program performance, meeting performance agreements with EPA, and meeting grant conditions for external funding sources. These performance commitments have been included throughout this plan to provide a more complete picture of the ongoing functions and services the agency performs.

The **benchmark performance measures** are how the agency reports performance accountability to the state legislature, which is the main purpose of the strategic plan. DEQ has chosen eight benchmark performance measures to track and report progress in meeting the overall agency goal of protecting public health and the environment. We have focused on these same measures for several years to ensure consistency in assessing progress over time. These performance measures were purposefully chosen because each reflects an actual environmental or public health outcome (result) of many different actions that, when taken together, indicate progress toward achieving overall agency goals. A definition of each benchmark measure is given below, followed by the agency performance commitments for FY2013 (Table 1).

Definitions of Benchmark Performance Measures

- 1. Permits to construct issued, on average, in 99 days.** DEQ recognizes the importance of issuing timely permits to construct so facilities that require permits can plan and make strategic business decisions. State statute requires that permits to construct be issued within 120 days. DEQ streamlined its permitting process in 2007 and tracks the amount of time it takes to issue a permit to construct on a two-year, monthly rolling average. DEQ can now issue a permit to construct, on average, in 99 days and reports annually the actual two-year rolling average number of days to issue these permits.
- 2. Air Quality Index “Good” or “Moderate” 98% of days.** The Air Quality Index is a tool to help citizens understand the severity of air pollution and potential health implications so they can take steps to protect their health and reduce their contribution to air pollution. The index is calculated using actual monitoring data compared to health-based standards. It is reported daily in selected cities on a scale of increasing pollution and health concerns, according to the following six categories: good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy, very unhealthy, and hazardous.
- 3. Hazardous waste permits and reviews.** Permits and reviews associated with hazardous wastes are completed annually according to established schedules. Time frames are established from a variety of sources, including federal regulations, project schedules, construction seasons, and company requests.
- 4. Brownfields site assessments.** A Brownfields site is a vacant or underutilized property where redevelopment or reuse is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination. Site assessments are completed to provide environmental information necessary for proceeding with redevelopment or reuse. This information is used to guide site cleanup to minimize public health risks and bolster the community’s economic vitality.
- 5. Monitoring of INL conditions.** Continuous air quality monitors and real-time radiation monitors on and around the INL track environmental conditions and must be operational at least 97% of the time.
- 6. TMDLs.** DEQ is required to complete TMDLs, or water quality improvement plans, for water bodies that are not meeting water quality standards or supporting beneficial uses. TMDLs are completed for water bodies based on the number of assessment units they contain and the number of individual pollutants that are impairing water quality. Idaho water bodies have been categorized into 5,746 assessment units based on hydrologic catalog units (subbasins) and stream order. These units encompass approximately 96,400 miles of streams and rivers and 475,457 acres of lakes and reservoirs. As an example, if a stream is made up of 3 assessment units and has 4 pollutants identified as impairing water quality, there would be 12 assessment unit/pollutant combination TMDLs to complete for that stream.
- 7. Reviews of drinking water and wastewater engineering plans and specifications.** In 2005, the legislature established a 42-day time frame for DEQ to review and act on engineering plans and specifications. This establishes a reasonable window to complete thorough evaluations while at the same time being responsive to business planning needs.
- 8. Regulating community water systems to provide safe drinking water.** The total population of Idaho is 1,584,985. Idaho has 742 community water systems, serving a total of 1,188,096 people. Rigorous monitoring requirements for community water systems must be met to ensure safe drinking water is provided and public health is protected.

Table 1. DEQ performance commitments for FY2013.

Benchmark Performance Measure	Performance Commitment FY2013
1) Number of days, on a two-year rolling average, to issue a permit to construct	99 days
2) Percentage of days the Air Quality Index is in the “good” or “moderate” category	98%
3) Percentage of scheduled hazardous waste permits or reviews completed within established time frames	100%
4) Number of Brownfields site assessments completed	10
5) Percentage of time that air monitoring and radiation monitoring stations are operational to monitor INL conditions	97%
6) Number of TMDLs completed for assessment unit/pollutant combinations	290
7) Percentage of drinking water and wastewater plan and specification reviews completed within 42 days of receipt	100%
8) Percentage of people on community water systems served by drinking water that meets health-based standards	90%

While the focus of this strategic plan is primarily on agency performance commitments for the FY2013 budget appropriation, it is also forward-looking through FY2016. Emerging issues and opportunities have been identified and described throughout this plan and are summarized in Table 2. Looking forward on a four-year horizon, these initiatives may be short-term or they may lead to a shift in agency focus and become the ongoing priorities of the future. Anticipating the opportunities and challenges of the future will better position the agency to make adjustments, if needed, while at the same time remaining focused on core functions and services.

Table 2. Emerging issues and opportunities for FYs2013–2016.

Emerging Issue/Opportunity	Time Frame
1) New ozone standard	FY2013 and beyond
2) Biomass for energy production	FY2013 and beyond
3) Section 105 federal air quality grant allocation	FY2013 and beyond
4) Waste-to-energy proposals	FY2013 and beyond
5) Flood control in the Coeur d’Alene Basin	FY2013 and beyond
6) Drinking water and wastewater system loan requirements	FY2013 and beyond
7) Antidegradation implementation	FY2013 and beyond
8) Building emergency response depth	FY2013 and beyond
9) Mobile technology and applications	FY2013 and beyond

Like all state agencies, DEQ has continued to refine its focus for FY2013 due to economic challenges. We have done so by ongoing careful examination of our core functions and services. Outputs of virtually all programs and functions will continue to operate at reduced levels in FY2013. While this approach may impact the time required to achieve our goals and objectives, it in no way reflects a diminished commitment on DEQ’s part to achieving them. In fact, our commitment to fulfilling our mission of protecting public health and the environment remains as strong as ever.



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