

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc.

Memorandum of Understanding

Objectives

The objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are:

1. To promote and facilitate the sharing of information, data and analysis regarding environmental conditions that may relate to environmental impacts of Idaho dairy farms ("environmental information") that is collected or prepared by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality ("IDEQ");
2. To improve the quality, objectivity, accuracy, interpretation and appropriate uses of environmental information that is collected or prepared by IDEQ; and
3. To foster cooperation between IDEQ and the Idaho Dairymen's Association ("IDA") regarding environmental information that is collected or prepared by IDEQ.

Background

1. IDEQ develops and applies the Idaho Water Quality Standards to protect and enhance surface water quality and to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. IDEQ is designated as the primary state agency to coordinate and administer ground water protection programs in Idaho, and in furtherance of this role, has adopted and applies the Idaho Ground Water Quality Rule. IDEQ administers the Clean Air Act in Idaho and has adopted the Rules for the Control of Ammonia from Dairy Farms.
2. IDEQ and the Idaho Department of Water Resources are authorized to coordinate the development and administration of a comprehensive ground water quality monitoring network, to establish a system for collecting, evaluating and disseminating ground water quality data and information, and to develop and maintain a natural resource geographic information system and comprehensive water resource data system, which is accessible to the public.
3. IDA's mission is to continue to develop and sustain an economically viable Idaho dairy industry that works together to achieve success in the domestic and global marketplace in meeting the needs of Idaho dairy farm families. IDA represents all dairy producers within the state of Idaho. Individually and through the IDA, Idaho dairy operators have proactively developed and implemented practices and programs to protect the environment in cooperation with state and federal agencies. IDA, through its members, representatives and consultants, has significant experience and expertise in evaluating the quality, accuracy, interpretation and appropriate uses of environmental information.
4. The quality, objectivity, accuracy, interpretation and appropriate uses of environmental information that is collected or prepared by IDEQ is critically important to IDEQ and to IDA and its members.

5. IDEQ and IDA recognize that effective implementation of their respective programs may be enhanced by greater collaboration between them in evaluating the quality, accuracy, interpretation and appropriate uses of environmental information.

Agreement

In order to achieve the objectives set forth herein, IDEQ and IDA agree to the following:

1. The parties agree to meet no less than two times per year: once no later than May 31st and once no later than November 30th. The meeting shall be used for the following purposes:
 - a. to discuss methods of improving the quality, accuracy, use and interpretation of environmental information;
 - b. to discuss the environmental information IDEQ has collected or developed and environmental information IDEQ anticipates collecting, developing, disseminating or publishing during the upcoming year;
 - c. to discuss agreements IDEQ may enter with other agencies, institutions or individuals regarding the collection, preparation, dissemination or publication of environmental information, and opportunities for IDA to participate in such agreements, and
 - d. for any other purposes that the parties at the meeting determine are appropriate.
2. To the extent environmental information is not exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, IDEQ agrees to: (1) at the request of IDA, provide IDA an opportunity to review and comment on environmental information that is collected or prepared by IDEQ; (2) meet with IDA as appropriate to discuss such environmental information; (3) consider IDA comments on such environmental information, and (4) revise the content, analysis, and conclusions contained in environmental information it develops, or modify its use of environmental information it acquires, as IDEQ deems necessary to improve its quality, accuracy, use or interpretation.
3. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as affecting the existing statutory or regulatory authority of IDEQ.
4. The term of this agreement shall be continuing, unless terminated by any one of the parties following 30 days notice to all parties.

DATED this 5th day of November, 2012.

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Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality

Idaho Dairyman's Association, Inc.



Curt Fransen
Director



Robert Naerebout
Executive Director