

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Board of Environmental Quality were established by the Environmental Protection and Health Act, Chapter 1, Title 39, Idaho Code, 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.

The board is charged with making decisions on rules proposed by the department. DEQ drafts rules with assistance from the Office of the Attorney General following a negotiated rulemaking process involving interested stakeholders. Rules may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the board. All administrative rules adopted by the board are subject to legislative review. The board also functions as the agency's administrative appeals board. Agency decisions can be appealed to the board, which may choose to hear the case or designate a hearing officer. Final determinations of the board are subject to judicial review.

To protect human health and the environment, DEQ's primary activities include:

- Monitoring and assessing conditions to ensure health-based standards are met.
- Issuing permits to facilities that manage wastes or release pollutants.
- Inspecting pollution sources to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards and, when necessary, taking enforcement action.
- Conducting remediation to remove or neutralize contaminants in soil, groundwater, and surface waters. Compliance with remedial activities is typically voluntary, but when necessary, enforcement action is taken.
- Overseeing a variety of projects, including environmental cleanups, pollution reduction efforts, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Providing technical support, outreach, and education to facilitate compliance with environmental requirements for air quality, water quality, and waste management and remediation.

DEQ works with a range of public and private partners, including the Legislature, the Board of Environmental Quality, federal and state agencies, city, county, and tribal governments, businesses, community organizations, and citizens. These partnerships are critical to accomplishing the agency's mission.

DEQ is organized into five divisions, including Air Quality, Surface Water and Wastewater, Drinking Water Protection and Finance, Waste Management and Remediation, and Technical Services. DEQ's six regional offices in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Pocatello, and Twin Falls implement agency programs and policies and provide direct services to citizens, communities, businesses, and industries.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

DEQ's core functions and regulatory authorities include:

- **Air Quality:** Ensures compliance with health-based air quality standards by collecting air quality information, monitoring and issuing permits, inspecting facilities, responding to complaints, and coordinating air quality improvement efforts with communities, citizen groups, businesses, industries, other state agencies, tribes, and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code; Clean Air Act).
- **Water Quality:** Ensures Idaho's surface and groundwaters support beneficial uses and provide safe drinking water supplies by setting water quality standards, certifying project compliance, monitoring water bodies, reporting on water quality, developing and implementing improvement plans, issuing wastewater reuse and direct discharge permits, and providing grants and loans for drinking water and wastewater facilities (Title 39,

Chapters 1, 36, 66, 76, 79, 85, Idaho Code; Title 37, Chapter 21, Idaho Code; Title 50 Chapter 13 Idaho Code; Clean Water Act).

- **Waste Management and Remediation:** Ensures the safe management and disposal of waste generated in or entering Idaho. Responds to releases of hazardous substances to surface waters, groundwaters, or soils and conducts or oversees cleanup of contaminated sites. Works with communities to rehabilitate contaminated sites to return them to a safe and developable condition (Title 39, Chapters 1, 30, 44, 58, 65, 71, 72, 74, 81, 88, Idaho Code; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act).
- **INL Oversight:** Oversees activities at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to ensure compliance with legal agreements and environmental regulations for waste treatment, remediation, and removal. Maintains an independent environmental monitoring program designed to verify and supplement monitoring programs carried out by the INL and informs the public about INL activities impacting Idaho’s environment. Working with other state agencies, DEQ assists local governments statewide in planning and responding to emergencies involving radiological materials (Title 39, Chapter 1, Idaho Code).

Revenues and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Air Quality Permitting	\$793,865	\$1,214,168	\$623,131	\$ 1,015,940
Public Water System Oversight	\$1,747,254	\$1,570,492	\$1,703,772	\$ 1,968,377
Water Pollution Control	\$4,823,194	\$4,804,852	\$4,811,893	\$1,071,609
Environmental Remediation	\$2,081,704	\$365,641	\$305,231	\$788,915
Cooperative DEQ-Federal	\$21,414,464	\$18,618,610	\$18,457,231	\$20,078,344
Cooperative DEQ-General	\$22,013,564	\$20,963,476	\$22,388,500	\$27,760,400
Cooperative DEQ-Other	\$4,268,183	\$2,602,490	\$3,986,090	\$3,541,742
Bunker Hill Consent Decree	\$287,571	\$2,124,981	\$2,163,701	\$3,562,809
Underground Storage Tank Fees	\$198,558	\$199,816	\$187,445	\$160,101
Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	\$764,771	\$1,170,992	\$1,248,714	\$1,550,232
Total	\$58,393,128	\$53,635,518	\$54,171,936^a	\$61,498,469
Expenditures	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Personnel Costs	\$31,381,508	\$30,027,626	\$32,097,049	\$33,965,595
Operating Expenditures	\$12,333,133	\$12,494,236	\$12,885,481	\$16,883,987
Capital Outlay	\$414,156	\$404,646	\$2,577,825	\$4,312,290
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$7,202,156	\$5,773,975	\$4,534,373	\$24,222,892
Total	\$51,330,953	\$48,700,483	\$52,094,728^a	\$79,384,764

a. FY 2022 is the first year DEQ expended American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, which are tracked as revenue with the State Treasurer’s Office.

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

The following table summarizes some of the key services DEQ provides to communities, businesses, industries, and the citizens of Idaho.

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Air Quality Division				
Air Quality Permits to Construct Issued	70	68	84	73
Air Quality Tier I (Title V) Permits Issued	13	14	17	14
Air Quality Tier II Permits Issued	1	1	2	0
Air Quality Permits by Rule Issued	40	31	38	25
Inspections of Stationary and Portable Air Pollution Sources	212	214	228	211
Number of Crop Residue Acres Approved and Burned	34,312	54,347	27,652	39328
Water Quality Divisions				
Wastewater Grants Awarded	\$326,625	\$303,460	\$720,343	\$2,9426,32
Wastewater Loans Awarded	\$65,765,815	\$38,577,250	\$31,007,000	\$202,594,358
Drinking Water Grants Awarded	\$339,250	\$347,500	\$891,452	\$2,536,134
Drinking Water Loans Awarded	\$62,679,141	\$19,285,914	\$11,522,820	\$135,419,593
401/404 Water Quality Certifications Issued	57	47	20	44
Wastewater Reuse Permits Issued	12	5	7	14
IPDES Direct Discharge Permits Issued	9	7	10	4
IPDES Inspections Completed	14	38	205	166
Total Wastewater Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	400	402	436	726
Total Drinking Water Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	470	492	508	446
Drinking Water Sanitary Surveys Completed	342	390	369	395
Source Water Assessments Completed	110	83	49	48
Active Nonpoint Source Projects Administered (Previous Calendar Year)	42	47	35	73
Nonpoint Source Projects Completed (Previous Calendar Year)	3	19	13	19
Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) Sites Surveyed	235	0 ^a	265	307
Waste Management and Remediation Division				
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanups Completed	21	11	18	17
Underground Storage Tank Training and Inspections Completed	285	487	371	298
Hazardous Waste Inspections Conducted	85	93	117	140
Three-to-five-year inspections of municipal solid waste landfills completed (three are required)	2	6	6	3
Snake River Plain Environmental Samples Analyzed (for INL)	5,809	6,159	5,644	7,009
Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance Efforts	78	96	90	92

a. All BURP monitoring occurs in summer (Q1); BURP was suspended due to COVID and budget reductions.

b. FY23 is the first year reporting this number.

Part II – Performance Measures

Goals and Performance Measures						
Performance Measure		FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Goal 1						
<i>Make recognizable and measurable environmental improvements</i>						
1. Reduce the number of unhealthy days based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) throughout the state	actual	2 days	16 days	17 days	21 days ^a	
	target	0 days	0 days	0 days	0 Days	0 Days
2. Increase the percentage of assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses	actual	33%	35%	35%	31% ^b	
	target	35%	35%	35%	35%	38%
3. Reduce the number of known contaminated sites	actual	234 sites	227 sites	261 sites	263 sites ^c	
	target	213 sites	211 sites	204 sites	235 sites	237 sites
Goal 2						
<i>Provide first-class customer service as a trusted source for environmental leadership</i>						
4. Increase the percentage of complete permit applications on initial submittal	actual	45%	66%	67%	79% ^d	
	target	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%
5. Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities	actual	80%	74%	73%	76% ^e	
	target	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%
Goal 3						
<i>Foster a culture of continuous improvement</i>						
6. Increase the percentage of permits issued before deadline	actual	80%	61%	62%	57% ^f	
	target	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%
7. Conduct 50 Lean improvement projects per year	actual	12%	42%	26%	88% ^g	
	target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
8. Reduce the percentage of elective, non-retirement turnover in the agency.	actual	n/a	n/a	13% ^h	9.3% ^h	
	target	n/a	n/a	6.9% ^h	11.7% ^h	8.4% ^h

- a. The number of unhealthy air quality days are subject to wildfires and weather events.
- b. Represents the total percentage of stream miles assessed as Category 1 or 2 in Idaho’s 2022 Integrated Report (IR) (May 25, 2022). The next IR will be submitted in April 2024; this will remain unchanged until then.
- c. In FY23 77 sites closed and 79 new sites identified netting 2 sites overall. These sites are due to unpredictable petroleum and chemical releases, including legacy sites that are newly identified or previously not counted.
- d. Revised for FY2023 to remove the facility plan and specification submittals and only show permit applications.
- e. FY23 strategies included providing hazardous waste labels to the regulated community, air compliance training for industrial and automotive painters, and multiprogram site inspections.
- f. DEQ inherited a backlog of permits from EPA when it gained full primacy of the IPDES Program while Idaho’s growing population has increased and the department has experience significant staff turnover
- g. Completed 44 continuous improvement projects and 23 were in progress at the end of FY23, with 44 staff completing the Lean Practitioner course and six taking advanced Lean Champion training.
- h. Performance measure revised for clarity in FY 2023; target and actual numbers reported reflect revised measure.

For more information contact:

Caroline Moores
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Director's Office
1410 N. Hilton St.
Boise, ID 83706
Phone: (208) 373-0149
Email: Caroline.moores@deq.idaho.gov