Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Board of Environmental Quality (Board) 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 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 Rules may be adopted, amended, or repealed by the Board.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:

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

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 four divisions, including Air Quality, Surface and Wastewater, Drinking Water Protection and Finance, and Waste Management and Remediation. 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 recycled water 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, property owners, and local governments to remediate and redevelop contaminated property and promote economic use (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).

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Air Quality Permitting	$ 1,015,940	$1,196,722	$1,410,139	$570,364
Public Water System Oversight	$ 1,968,377	$1,904,568	$3,080,906	$1,820,508
Water Pollution Control	$1,071,609	$10,300,714	$10,535,114	$19,999,111
Environmental Remediation	$788,915	$2,767,390	$6,085,018	$3,125,758
Cooperative DEQ-Federal	$20,078,344	$16,348,473	$23,606,311	$32,975,363
Cooperative DEQ-General	$27,760,400	$26,092,299	$29,284,610	$25,988,582
Cooperative DEQ-Other	$3,541,742	$5,694,604	$2,504,200	$3,317,319
Bunker Hill Consent Decree	$3,562,809	$4,486,481	$3,558,015	$4,489,380
Underground Storage Tank Fees	$160,101	$324,408	$190,623	$251,058
Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES)	$1,550,232	$1,671,859	$1,453,443	$1,827,498
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)		$157,468,018	$73,819,084	$147,963,737
Total	**$61,498,469**	**$228,255,537**	**$155,527,463**	**$242,328,677**
Expenditures	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
Personnel Costs	$33,965,595	$35,276,453	$36,995,172	$39,896,587
Operating Expenditures	$16,883,987	$20,063,559	$20,340,895	$24,550,172
Capital Outlay	$4,312,290	$4,642,499	$4,402,875	$3,296,751
Trustee/Benefit Payments	$24,222,892	$91,461,003	$89,268,824	$138,418,909
Total	**$79,384,764**	**$151,443,514**	**$151,007,765**	**$206,162,419**

- FY 2023 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.

Air Quality Division

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Air Quality Permits to Construct Issued	73	59	72	54
Air Quality Tier I (Title V) Permits Issued	14	10	6	0
Air Quality Tier II Permits Issued	0	0	1	3
Air Quality Permits by Rule Issued	25	37	94	78
Inspections of Stationary and Portable Air Pollution Sources	211	215	220	250
Number of Crop Residue Acres Approved and Burned	39,328	28,885	34,098	27,275

Water Quality Divisions

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Wastewater Grants Awarded	$2,9426,32	$1,166,710	$549,986	$414,530
Wastewater Loans Awarded	$202,594,358	$132,243,084	$80,450,763	$103,625,891
Drinking Water Grants Awarded	$2,536,134	$465,136	$312,686	$424,616
Drinking Water Loans Awarded	$135,419,593	$96,391,744	$61,310,579	$50,434,013
401/404 Water Quality Certifications Issued	44	35	39	34
Wastewater Reuse Permits Issued	14	9	10	11
IPDES Direct Discharge Permits Issued	4	4	1	4
IPDES Inspections Completed	166	178	151	134
Total Wastewater Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	726	538[1]	414	556
Total Drinking Water Engineering Plan and Specification Reviews Completed	446	453	381	461
Drinking Water Sanitary Surveys Completed	395	369	393	431
Source Water Assessments Completed	48	36	43	62
Active Nonpoint Source Projects Administered (Previous Calendar Year)	73	101	104	62
Nonpoint Source Projects Completed (Previous Calendar Year)	19	39	39	22
Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) Sites Surveyed	307	240	225	241[2]

Waste Management and Remediation Division

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanups Completed	17	16	7	11
Underground Storage Tank Training and Inspections Completed	298	415	390	332
Hazardous Waste Inspections Conducted	140	123	123	119
Three-to-five-year inspections of municipal solid waste landfills completed.	3	1	2	4
Snake River Plain Environmental Samples Analyzed (for INL)	7,009	6,605	6,291	6,824

[1] FY24 number has been changed from 991. The 991 total included both Wastewater and Drinking Water Engineering and Specification Reviews completed.
[2] All BURP monitoring occurs in summer. This number reflects sites surveyed in summer 2025.

Part II – Performance Measures

Goal 1 - Make recognizable and measurable environmental improvements

Performance Measure		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
1. 100% of monitored airsheds meet national ambient air quality standards.[3]	actual	-	-	100%	100%	
	target	*New Measure*	*New Measure*	*100%*	*100%*	*100%*
2. Increase assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses.	actual	31%	31%	44%	45%[4]	
	target	*35%*	*38%*	*38%*	*38%*	*38%*
3. Reduce the number of known contaminated sites (by 10% from previous year).	actual	263 sites	247 sites	246 sites	258 sites[5]	
	target	*235 sites*	*237 sites*	*222 sites*	*220 sites*	*232 sites*

Goal 2 - Provide first-class customer service as a trusted source for environmental leadership

Performance Measure		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
4. Develop and update public facing tools to provide resources to regulated entities, community leaders, and other stakeholders in obtaining permits or ensuring compliance.	actual	-	-	-	10[6]	
	target	*New Measure*	*New Measure*	*New Measure*	*4*	*4*
5. Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities through outreach and education.	actual	76%	78%	79%	76%	
	target	*82%*	*82%*	*82%*	*82%*	*82%*

[3] This performance measure ensures DEQ maintains a statewide air quality monitoring network facilitating the ability to identify airsheds in need of improvement and ensuring compliance with the national ambient air quality standards. The target represents DEQ's commitment to maintain this network and to continue to meet air quality standards throughout the state.
[4] Represents the total percentage of stream miles assessed as Category 1 or 2 in Idaho's 2024 Integrated Report (IR) (July 2025). The report is created and approved by EPA biennially. Idaho has 92,056 total stream miles. 66,372 stream miles have been assessed (72%). Of these stream miles, 45% are supporting beneficial uses.
[5] In FY26, 54 sites closed and 66 new sites were identified, increasing overall sites by 12. These sites are due to unpredictable petroleum and chemical releases, including legacy sites that are newly identified or previously not counted.
[6] This measure includes updated public facing tools for obtaining permits or ensuring compliance, such as creation of several different forms and fillable PDFs for various permits, and fact sheets for managing spent solvents, hazardous waste treatment and disposal, and outdoor shooting range management and cleanup.

Goal 3 - Foster a culture of continuous improvement

Performance Measure		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
6. Increase the percentage of permits issued before deadline by streamlining processes.	actual	57%	49%[7]	54%	47%	
	target	*81%*	*81%*	*81%*	*81%*	*81%*
7. Increase the efficiency of monitoring, assessment, compliance, and/or enforcement programs through development of improved data management and workflows.	actual	-	-	1	1[8]	
	target	*New Measure*	*New Measure*	*4*	*4*	*4*

Goal 4 - Attract, develop, and retain a qualified and competent workforce.

Performance Measure		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
8. Reduce the percentage of elective, non-retirement turnover in the agency.	actual	9.3%	9.5%	9.6%	8.9%[9]	
	target	*11.7%*	*11.7%*[10]	*11.7%*[10]	*9.0%*	*Revised next year*
9. Reduce the vacancy rate.	actual	-	-	-	6%[11]	
	target	*New Measure*	*New Measure*	*New Measure*	*7%*	*7%*

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[7] This number has been changed from the FY24 report indicating 73% to reflect the correct percentage of 49%.
[8] Measure reflects ongoing efforts transitioning to a new content management system (Laserfiche) and any workflows and data management improved during this process. The completed project for FY26 is a new complaint tracking application that allows for the mapping, automated emails for responsible parties, and improved tracking of citizen complaints.
[9] Number reflects the elective turnover rate, as of June 7, 2026.
[10] Numbers updated to match Strategic Plan for these years.
[11] Number reflects the vacancy rate as of June 7, 2026.