

Water Quality Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement

Calendar Year 2025



**Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10**



December 2024 - Amended April 2025

The following Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) between the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will serve as the work plan for DEQ's Surface and Wastewater Division and Drinking Water Protection and Finance Division. This PPA is effective for calendar year 2025 and covers the period from January 1 through December 31, 2025. The agreement aligns DEQ and EPA Region 10 priorities and defines expected environmental outcomes. Through this agreement, DEQ and EPA can work together more efficiently in managing Idaho's water resources.

Jess Byrne, Director
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Emma Pokon, Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

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Introduction

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states share responsibility for environmental protection. This Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) describes how the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) water quality divisions and EPA Region 10 will work together to protect Idaho's water quality.

The goal of a PPA is to bring more flexibility, accountability, and innovation into the state and federal relationship. These agreements are intended to increase environmental protection by focusing on overall environmental goals and results of government programs. In the PPA process, DEQ and EPA discuss environmental conditions and program needs, agree on priorities, develop approaches to address priorities, determine roles and responsibilities, and choose program measures.

This agreement details how DEQ and EPA will work together to accomplish common water quality goals. The two agencies will continue to focus on integrating key program areas that form the foundation of Idaho's water quality programs. DEQ is the lead agency for the following core programs: safe drinking water, groundwater, water quality standards, water quality monitoring and assessment, water body and watershed restoration, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, biosolids, pretreatment, and Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) permits and compliance. Each water quality program component identifies the expected environmental results as well as the DEQ and EPA work commitments to be completed during calendar year (CY) 2025.

In May 2019, DEQ formally separated the Water Quality Division into two divisions to better accommodate the workload associated with implementing the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Acts. These two new divisions are the Surface and Wastewater Division and the Drinking Water Protection and Finance Division. The Surface and Wastewater Division houses the wastewater engineering, IPDES, and surface water bureaus. The Drinking Water Protection and Finance Division houses the drinking water, groundwater and source water protection, and grants and loans bureaus. Figure 1 shows the organizational charts for the two divisions.

To present a comprehensive overview of DEQ's efforts to protect water quality, this PPA describes additional DEQ activities funded by other federal and nonfederal funds. In CY 2025, federal grant work plans will continue to focus on optimizing the use of DEQ staff to perform more critical water quality work in-house.

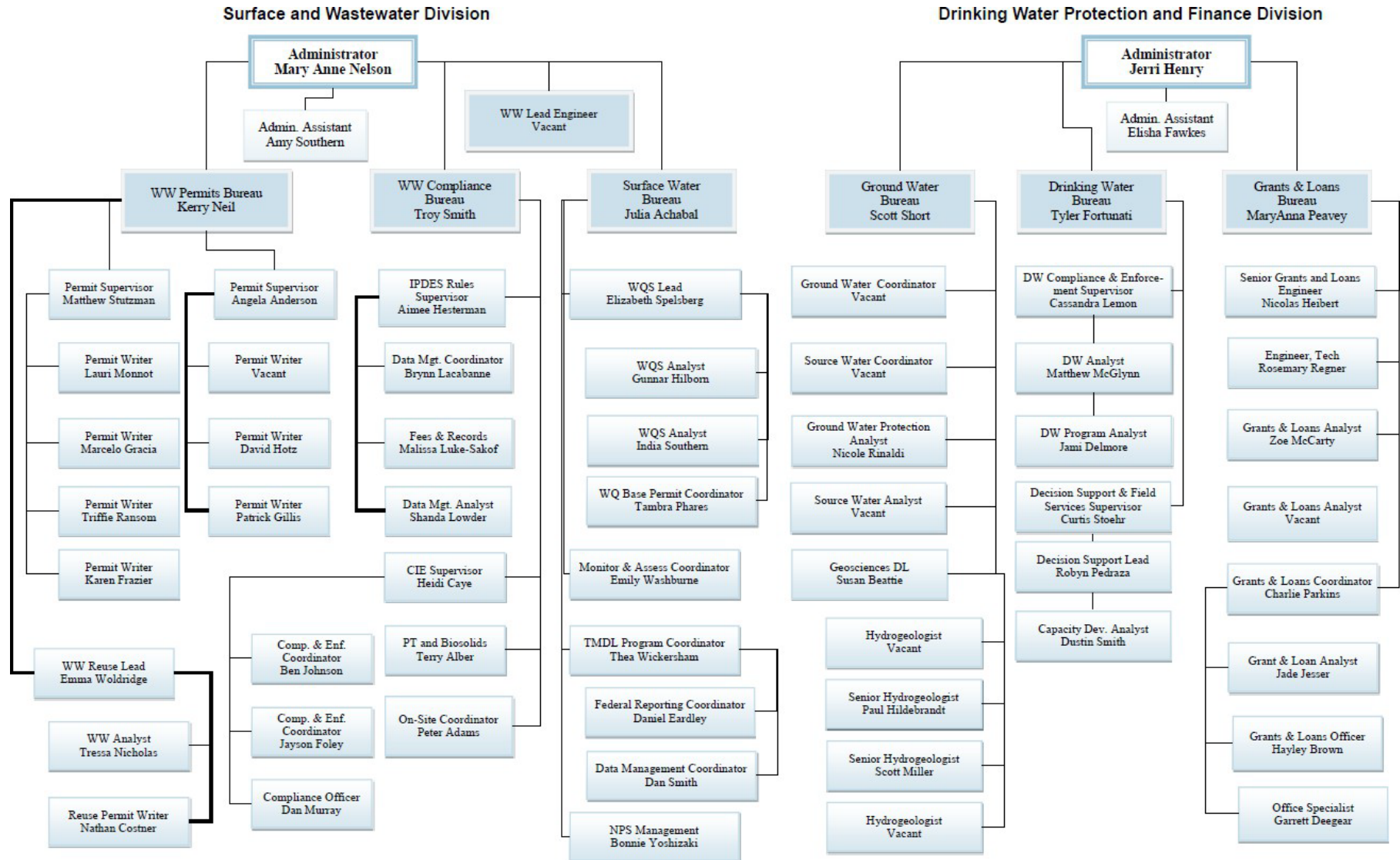


Figure 1. Surface and Wastewater Division and Drinking Water Protection and Finance Division.

Strategic Priorities

EPA and DEQ were guided in these PPA negotiations by their respective strategic plans and priorities. Available for review on each agency's website, these strategic plans are broad based and address more than just water quality strategies and priorities. Figure 2 illustrates DEQ's and EPA's planning processes for the PPA, including strategic priorities. The PPA offers an opportunity to identify common ground among these priorities and for the agencies to identify opportunities to work collaboratively on some priorities. The following sections describe each agency's strategic priorities, which establish the framework for developing this PPA. Specifically, this PPA incorporates EPA's priorities and targets that correspond to DEQ's priorities and objectives.

DEQ's Strategic Priorities

DEQ's mission is to protect human health and the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water. As described in the <https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/admin/LEIA/api/document/download/21048>, DEQ uses environmental outcomes as one method to evaluate the effectiveness of its programs. The water quality objectives include the following:

- Increase the percentage of assessed rivers and streams supporting beneficial uses by assessing surface water bodies to support completion of total maximum daily loads, a water quality improvement plan.
- Increase the percentage of complete permit applications on initial submittal by providing clearer guidance and updating the submission process.
- Increase the compliance rate of inspected facilities through outreach and education and establishing relationships with regulated facilities and removing barriers.
- Increase the percentage of permits issued before the deadline by updating and improving the permitting process.

EPA's Strategic Priorities

The EPA [National Water Program Guidance](#) provides overarching national goals, priorities, and performance measures aimed at making significant progress toward protecting human health and improving water quality. This national program guidance is augmented by the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance [National Program Guidance](#) for enforcement activities in all media.

EPA's fiscal year [2022–2026 Strategic Plan](#) communicates the agency's priorities and provides the roadmap for achieving its mission to protect human health and the environment. The strategic plan outlines crosscutting priorities, long-term performance goals, and agency-priority goals.

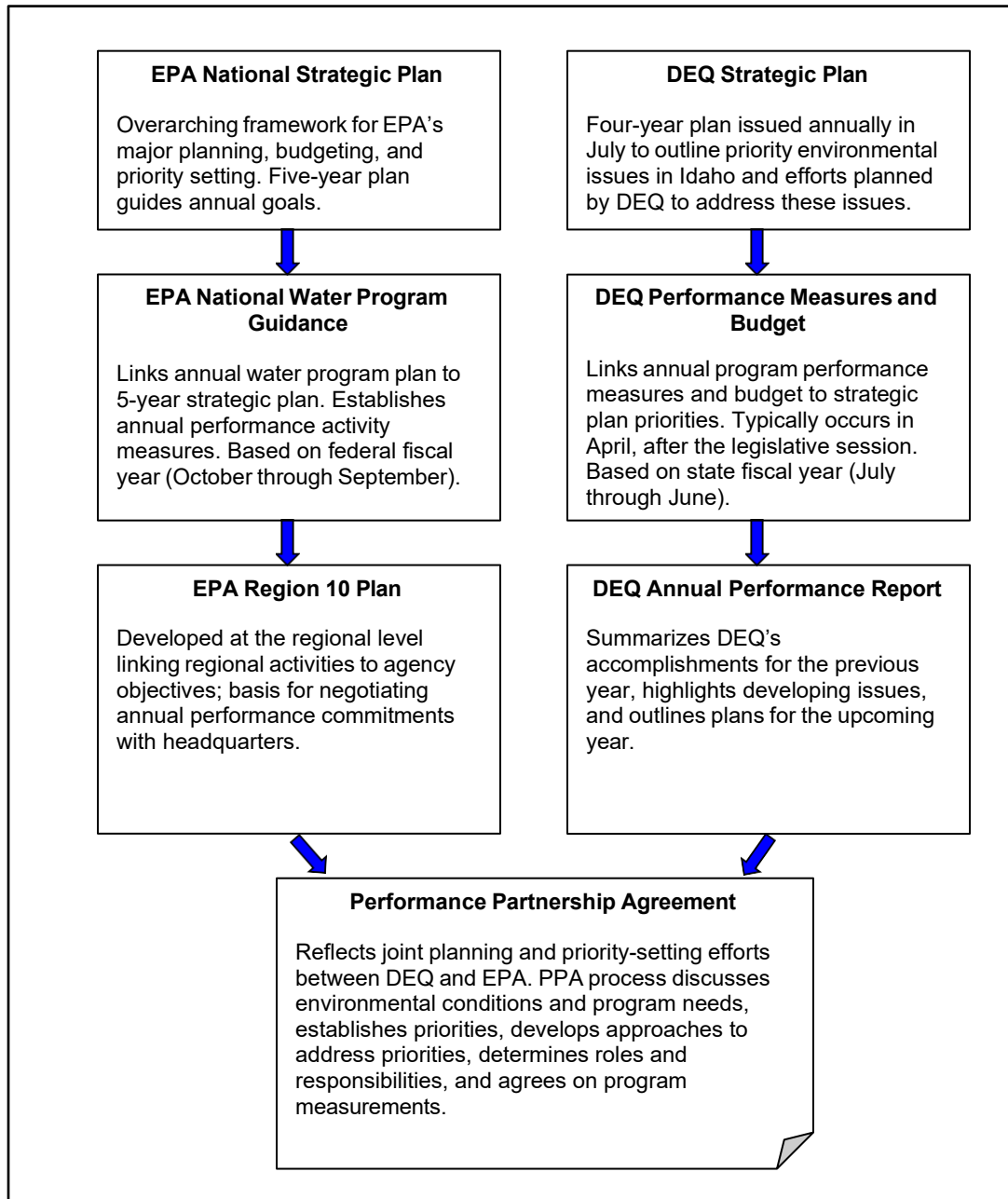


Figure 2. DEQ's and EPA's planning processes for the Performance Partnership Agreement.

General Water Quality Agreements

Information and Document Sharing Expectations

DEQ will submit annual reports to EPA that provide data on the measures indicated in the PPA, unless this information is provided in grant reports. DEQ and EPA will inform each other regarding correspondence about grants, agreements, or products or services rendered from

other local, state, and federal agencies or private entities that concern activities covered under this agreement.

Training and Technical Assistance

Each agency, within its resource limitations, will provide training and technical assistance to the other agency upon request.

Scientific Integrity

EPA is committed to restoring the public's trust in government through scientific integrity and science-based decision making. Over the next 4 years, EPA will strengthen the policies and procedures surrounding scientific integrity and the use of science and evidence to inform agency decision making and will reaffirm the agency's commitment to fostering open, objective, and honest investigation of scientific activities, data, and conclusions, and to deliver rigorous scientific research and analysis.

EPA and DEQ will work to integrate the following scientific integrity objectives as we implement the components of this PPA:

- Scientific integrity will be highly visible within the EPA and DEQ partnership.
- All responsible for protecting Idaho's water quality will embrace and model scientific integrity.
- Robust mechanisms will protect and maintain a shared culture of scientific integrity as we carry out actions under this PPA.

Tribal Engagement

EPA will continue to uphold its tribal trust responsibilities by engaging in meaningful coordination and consultation with tribes when taking Clean Water Act actions in Idaho, including approvals of water quality standards revisions, integrated reports, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and nonpoint source management plans. DEQ will provide opportunities for tribal engagement when implementing Clean Water Act programs through tribal membership on Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs), as provided in Idaho statute, and consultation with BAGs and WAGs when determining monitoring priorities, revising beneficial uses, developing TMDLs and TMDL implementation plans, and establishing water quality priorities and actions to control point and nonpoint source pollution.

As appropriate, EPA will engage DEQ on Clean Water Act-related topics of tribal interest.

Addressing Resiliency

EPA will share successes and lessons learned regarding efforts to support sustainability and resiliency and will collaborate with DEQ to identify measures that may be taken to enhance community resilience to natural stressors. EPA and DEQ will work together to ensure that outreach and education activities, loan and grant programs, rules and regulations, and public policy positions account for evolving conditions such as drought and wildfire risk. The agencies will also engage with communities—especially those most vulnerable to these natural stressors—to help strengthen their ability to adapt and thrive under changing conditions.

Joint Evaluation of Performance

Unless stipulated otherwise in the PPA or individual grant conditions, DEQ and EPA will perform semiannual reviews for all PPA commitments. These reviews are planned for May and November 2025. This joint evaluation of performance will discuss program accomplishments as measured against work plan commitments, existing and potential problem areas, and suggestions for improvement. As a result of these performance evaluations, DEQ and EPA will collaborate on preparing brief progress reports covering their respective commitments in the PPA.

Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities for EPA and DEQ are specified in the Program Commitment sections of this PPA.

Terms and Conditions

DEQ and EPA will follow all terms and conditions outlined in the operating agreements, yearly grant agreements, and federal and state statutes and regulations. To quantify effort, 2,080

person hours is one *full-time equivalent* (FTE), also known as one *work year*. As required by 40 CFR 35, the following federal sources of funding have been identified in this PPA:

Funding Source	Purpose/Use
Surface Water § 106	Reuse Permit Program; NPDES inspections/capacity development/certifications; wastewater plans/specifications; monitoring initiatives
Groundwater § 106	Groundwater Program-related activities
Nonpoint Source (NPS) § 319	Total maximum daily load (TMDL); NPS; restoration and management plans
§ 604(b)/205(j)	On-Site Wastewater Program
EPA TMDL contract	Key watershed TMDL projects
Drinking Water—Public Water System Supervision (PWSS)	Drinking Water Program administration
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) capitalization grant	Drinking Water Loans; Loan Program administration; and eligible set-aside activities
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) capitalization grant	Wastewater Loans and Loan Program administration

Outcomes

Environmental outcomes are described in the individual program sections.

Component 1. Surface Water Assessment and Protection Programs

Program Goal

The goal of DEQ's Surface Water Program is to restore impaired water bodies to conditions supporting designated and existing beneficial uses. These goals are accomplished through the following activities: monitoring and data collection, assessment, Integrated Report publication (formerly called the § 305(b) report and § 303(d) list), water quality standards development, TMDL development, and collaboration with designated management agencies (DMAs) to develop and implement water quality restoration plans.

Monitoring and data collection are proposed to continue in CY 2025 at levels similar to CY 2024.

Program Activities

Where possible, complete remaining TMDLs per the 2002 Idaho TMDL Settlement Agreement. Perform 5-year reviews of completed TMDLs. Continue monitoring and assessment activities as budget allows; develop water quality standards and guidance. Fund NPS projects.

Program Contacts

Julia Achabal, DEQ, (208) 373-0321

Hanh Shaw, EPA, (206) 553-0171

Becky Garnett, EPA, (206) 553-1646

Jenny Wu, EPA, (206) 553-6328

Program Commitments

Priorities

- Submit approximately 57 TMDLs counted as assessment unit/pollutant combinations (listed below) TMDLs covering waters identified in the 2002 Settlement Agreement will be noted in the submittal letter to EPA.
 - Boise-Mores Creek (temperature and potential natural vegetation update) (5)
 - Lemhi River (bacteria and sediment) (11)
 - Willow Creek (bacteria, sediment, temperature) (10)
 - Pahsimeroi River (temperature, sediment) (6)
 - Jordan Creek (mercury) (4)
 - South Fork Coeur d'Alene River (temperature) (16)
 - Boyer Slough (phosphorus) (1)
 - Soda Creek Addendum (phosphorus) (1)
 - Raft River (bacteria) (3)
- DMAs, with WAG input, will develop implementation plans, as their budget allows, to implement approved TMDLs.
- Identify priority watersheds for restoration, consistent with EPA's TMDL vision (2024–2026 Bridge Metric).
- Continue to update and modify water quality standards as needed.
- Coordinate harmful algal bloom response with Idaho's seven public health districts. DEQ will monitor harmful algal blooms and report data to public health districts.
- EPA will support DEQ's long-term planning and prioritization.

Outcomes

Surface water assessment and protection outcomes will increase the percentage of waters that support beneficial uses and decrease the percentage of waters that do not support beneficial uses.

Total Maximum Daily Loads

1.1 a Identify pollutant loads expected to restore beneficial uses and meet water quality standards in water quality-limited water bodies.

Outputs

- a. Submit approximately 57 TMDLs and continue developing approximately 130 TMDLs (listed under priorities above). Settlement TMDLs will be noted in the submittal letter to EPA.
- b. Share prepublic comment period drafts of TMDLs with EPA.
- c. EPA will provide comments to DEQ on prepublic drafts generally within 30 days to allow DEQ to inform and discuss EPA concerns with WAGs.
- d. Enter TMDLs, TMDL alternatives, and protection plans into EPA's assessment database, ATTAINS.
- e. Enter draft and final TMDL status into ATTAINS. EPA will verify and finalize TMDL information in ATTAINS.
- f. Participate with EPA and Oregon on developing the Hells Canyon temperature and mercury TMDLs.
- g. Participate with EPA on addressing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) impairments in the Spokane River.
- h. Continue to perform pre- and post-TMDL monitoring visits, as the budget allows, to support TMDL development and adaptive management.
- i. Continue revision of upper Snake Rock total phosphorus TMDL and explore TMDL nonpoint source (NPS) implementation opportunities in the Middle Snake River.
- j. Continue to work with EPA and its contractor to develop a final draft of the Jordan Creek mercury TMDL.

Schedule

Subbasin assessment and TMDL completions are as outlined above.

Funding

These activities are funded by state monies appropriated through the Idaho Legislature. Presently, DEQ devotes approximately 27,061 person hours (approximately 13 work years) and \$118,535 in operating funds to support this effort. Successful achievement of these activities will depend on additional funding and collaborative efforts with other agencies. TMDL implementation plan development efforts conducted by DEQ staff are funded by state general funds and some federal § 319 funds.

Program Contacts

Julia Achabal, DEQ, (208) 373-0321
Thea Wickersham, DEQ, (208) 373-0153
Jenny Wu, EPA, (208) 553-6328
Kati Carberry, EPA, (208) 378-5771

1.1 b Work with EPA, WAGs, and DMAs to facilitate implementation of TMDL pollutant load.**Approach**

Idaho Code § 3601 et seq. advises DEQ to complete TMDLs, 5-year reviews for selected TMDLs, and work with DMAs to implement TMDLs. DEQ will coordinate with EPA and the IPDES Program to ensure wasteload allocations are incorporated in discharge permits and work with DMAs and WAGs to identify projects and sources of funding to address load.

Outputs

- a. Prioritize existing TMDLs for completing 5-year reviews. Complete TMDL reviews during CY 2025 as resources allow.
- b. Consult with WAGs on 5-year review as required by Idaho Code § 39-3611(7).
- c. If a 5-year review indicates a lack of progress towards meeting the allocations and water quality targets established in a TMDL or a fundamental change in the TMDL's premise, DEQ will work with the DMAs and WAGs to determine the next steps. DEQ may initiate a process consistent with Idaho Code § 39-3611(7) to consider revisions to the TMDL as funding, technical resources, and workload priorities allow.
- d. To the extent resources allow, conduct monitoring in CY 2024 to support developing TMDLs and 5-year TMDL reviews to be completed by CY 2025.

Schedule

Idaho Code § 39-3611(7) directs DEQ to review EPA-approved TMDLs every 5 years. During CY 2025, DEQ expects to complete reviews of eight EPA-approved TMDLs. During CY 2025, DEQ will also, to the extent resources allow, conduct monitoring to support TMDL development and 5-year reviews to be completed in CY 2025.

Funding

DEQ has budgeted approximately 7,051 person hours (approximately 3.4 work years) and \$85,587 in operating funds to support this effort. Successful achievement of these activities will depend on additional funding and collaborative efforts with other agencies. TMDL implementation plan development efforts conducted by DEQ staff are funded by state general funds and some federal § 319 funds.

Monitoring and Assessment**1.2a Monitor water quality throughout the state.****Approach**

Continue ambient monitoring of Idaho waters to support Integrated Report development. Full deployment of the data management system to store and display monitoring data and enhancement of existing data collection systems and flow processes.

Outputs

- a. Develop plan to revise surface water ambient monitoring plan; identify program gaps or deficiencies that could potentially be addressed via monitoring initiative funding and develop a strategy to use monitoring initiative funds to support program enhancement.
- b. Implement at least six regional Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) ambient monitoring crews during the summer field season, as resources allow.
- c. Conduct ambient biological monitoring at approximately 240 sites statewide. Collect macroinvertebrate, fish community, and habitat data to provide ambient data and to develop causal assessment strategy.
- d. Complete full deployment of DataSight by conducting training seminars for new staff that covers metadata standards, preprocessing, and software usage so all regional offices can import project data. Explore extending the capability of the recently developed Application Programming Interface, HydroLink, to import additional data types beyond physical and chemical data into WQX.
- e. Continue to monitor harmful algal blooms, as resources allow, and make results available to the general public; provide results to Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) and public health agencies for potential health advisories.
- f. Identify resource needs and develop strategy for collecting additional data, or using available data, to provide causal assessments and refine listings following initial listing for combined biota/habitat assessment.

Schedule

Field season planning starts in February with advertising for seasonal hires and site selection and continues through June with provisioning and training. Monitoring takes place July through August and winds down in late fall with data entry and quality assurance/quality control. Timely receipt of semiannual reports prescribed by the terms and conditions of the § 106 monitoring initiative strategy grants is necessary to effectively manage grant funds.

Program Contacts

Julia Achabal, DEQ, (208) 373-0321
Emily Washburne, DEQ, (208) 373-0487
Becky Garnett, EPA, (206) 553-1646
Jason Pappani, EPA, (208) 378-5756
Lisa Kusnierz, EPA, (208) 378-5626

1.2b Assess monitoring data for beneficial use status.

Approach

Continue to develop and maintain capacity for reporting § 305(b) information in the Integrated Report. Continue electronic reporting of integrated reports using ATAINS.

Outputs

- a. Continue to implement outcomes of the October 2018 assessment LEAN event toward developing the 2026 Integrated Report by April 2026.
- b. Continue querying and assessing external data from publicly available databases (e.g., WQP and NWIS) for use in assessments for the 2026 Integrated Report. Share strategy for querying data with EPA and include in 2026 Integrated Report.
- c. Continue to coordinate with EPA, Montana, and other stakeholders on collecting and assessing data for the Kootenai River, targeting pollutants associated with coal mining in the Elk Valley, British Columbia.
- d. Continue probabilistic monitoring and collect data to support statewide condition assessment based on probabilistic survey results for inclusion in the 2026 Integrated Report.
- e. Work to revise the 2016 Water Body Assessment Guidance (WBAG).
- f. Evaluate Idaho's downstream waters protection provision at IDAPA 58.01.02.070.08 within the context of downstream state listings and integrated reports and implement by developing an assessment methodology.
- g. Evaluate DEQ's Nutrient Reduction Strategy project to identify areas of potential revision.
- h. Identify and develop additional assessment-related policy memos and guidance as necessary and as resources allow; update the index of policy memos and decisions; and provide the index as a component of any assessor training.

Schedule

Integrated Report development follows a 2-year cycle. The formal Integrated Report process begins with a call for data, followed by specific water body assessments. A preliminary draft report is produced with the state Basin Advisory Group and Watershed Advisory Group consultation. After consultation, EPA provides an informal review before the draft report is released for public comment. DEQ considers public comments and completes revisions before submitting the report to EPA for approval.

DEQ will put out a call for data, followed by specific water body assessments, querying and assessing external data and starting the BAG and WAG consultation in 2024 for the 2026 Integrated Report.

Funding

DEQ estimates approximately 29,136 person hours (equivalent to 14 work years) and \$456,211 in operating funds to support the effort in this PPA cycle. Funding sources are state general fund dollars and EPA § 106 monitoring initiative grants.

Program Contacts

Julia Achabal, DEQ, (208) 373-0321
Dan Eardley, DEQ, (208) 373-0147
Becky Garnett, EPA, (208) 553-1646
Michelle Maier, EPA, (503) 326-6994

Water Quality Standards

1.3 a Develop scientifically-based, functional water quality standards to address program needs and to ensure protection of Idaho water.

Approach

DEQ and EPA will work collaboratively to develop revised water quality standards and implementation guidance. DEQ will request applicant status, participate in Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations, and submit rulemaking dockets approved by the Idaho Legislature for EPA action.

Outputs

DEQ and EPA will collaborate on the following commitments.

DEQ Commitments

- a. Consistent with the Reasonable and Prudent Measure (RPMs) #1 from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Snake River Hells Canyon Site Specific Temperature Criterion (NMFS No: WCRO-2019-00175, September 25, 2019), DEQ will consider designation of salmonid spawning for specific segments identified in the BiOp: ID17060103SL004_08, ID17060103SL003_08, ID17060103SL002_08, and ID17060103SL001_08. DEQ will identify any available data on existing salmonid spawning use in these waters and consider initiating rulemaking to designate salmonid spawning for these waters. DEQ will share any data with EPA and provide updates of progress during the regular PPA check-ins.
- b. Consistent with the conservation measures identified in the biological evaluation for the approval of Bull Trout spawning and rearing temperature criteria for Idaho, DEQ will identify waters where Bull Trout spawning and rearing is an existing use and will request initiation of rulemaking to designate Bull Trout spawning and rearing for these waters. DEQ will share any data with EPA and provide updates of progress during the regular PPA check-ins.
- c. Coordinate with EPA through the ESA consultation process on aquatic life criteria for pesticides (acrolein, carbaryl and diazinon) and temperature provisions bundle; develop plan to implement conservation measures and any Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives or Reasonable and Prudent Measures identified in associated Biological Opinions.
- d. Initiate rulemaking to adopt or modify the 2013 EPA's § 304(a) recommended ammonia criteria for the protection of aquatic life.
- e. Consistent with state priorities identified in follow up to the Pigott Memo (Region-State Nutrient Dialogues), consider adding nutrient strategy-focused work for lakes and large rivers.
- f. Ensure consistent and effective implementation of water quality standards across Clean Water Act programs, such as IPDES permits and TDMLs, by applying salmonid spawning time frames using the BioAnalysts report and GIS maps, as described in the September 2024 policy directive.

- g. Initiate rulemaking process to revise Idaho’s temperature criteria with the end goal of submitting revisions for EPA review in May 2030; begin developing strategy and data collection, literature review, and modeling efforts in CY 2025.

EPA Commitments

- a. To the extent possible, participate in the water quality standards stakeholder meetings, guidance development meetings, and workshops hosted by DEQ.
- b. Coordinate with DEQ on the Zero-Based Regulation rulemaking process.
- c. In a timely manner, provide input on draft guidance documents shared by DEQ.
- d. Take timely action on water quality standards submitted by DEQ, including completing ESA and tribal consultations, as needed.
- e. Continue to provide timely updates and information on the federal promulgation of mercury criteria.
- f. Continue to provide timely updates and information on EPA lawsuits, rulemaking, and settlement agreements involving Idaho’s water quality standards.

Schedule

DEQ anticipates the items in Outputs will be completed and submitted to EPA no later than December 2025. DEQ will provide status updates of the items listed in Outputs during the regular bimonthly check-in meetings with EPA.

Funding

These water quality standards activities will be funded by monies appropriated through the Idaho Legislature. DEQ estimates approximately 5,554 person hours (equivalent to 3.1 work years) and \$4,500 of operating funds to support this effort. Achieving future goals depends on the availability of additional resources and collaborative efforts with other agencies.

Program Contacts

Julia Achabal, DEQ, (208) 373-0321
Elizabeth Spelsberg, DEQ, (208) 373-0158
Becky Garnett, EPA, (206) 553-1646
Andrea Ramirez, EPA, (206) 553-1058
Jason Pappani, EPA, (208) 378-5756

Component Commitments

DEQ Commitments

Refer to sections 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 regarding TMDL, monitoring and assessment, and water quality standards activities.

- a. Continue to coordinate with EPA on current lawsuits and settlement agreements.
- b. Continue dialogue with EPA on including Idaho mercury fish tissue criterion in IPDES permits and TMDLs.

- c. Share prepublic comment period drafts of TMDLs.
- d. Share drafts of each 5-year review with EPA for review and comment. Implement BURP ambient monitoring across the state.
- e. Strengthen working relationships by regularly discussing issues as they arise.
- f. Both EPA and DEQ will make appropriate staff assignments to each TMDL.
- g. Report overall Surface Water Program progress semiannually to EPA, including water quality standards submittal and approval actions, TMDLs, Integrated Report, monitoring, and PPA commitments.
- h. Continue support of the watershed approach, using basin monitoring efforts, state program integration, and stormwater planning to emphasize NPS program results.
- i. Identify priority watersheds for restoration, consistent with EPA's TMDL vision (Water Quality Measure 27 and Bridge Metric).
- j. Participate with EPA on polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) impairments in the Spokane River; Jordan Creek mercury TMDL; Tribal Water Policy; ESA consultation process for Aquatic Life criteria for pesticides and temperature.
- k. Monitor and report harmful algal bloom data for use in potential health advisories.
- l. Ensure DataSight is compatible with WQX and WQ portal.
- m. Identify resources needed to develop a strategy for causal assessments and refining combined biota/habitat assessment listings.
- n. Provide statewide condition assessment based on probabilistic survey results.
- o. Develop strategy to revise WBAG.

EPA Commitments

TMDL and Assessment Program Commitments

- a. Provide technical support and draft Jordan Creek mercury TMDL.
- b. Approve or disapprove all TMDLs and water quality standards submitted by DEQ on a timely basis.
- c. Act on the 2024 Integrated Report within statutory time frames.
- d. Continue to review and act on DEQ-submitted TMDLs and provide Idaho TMDL Settlement Agreement parties with copies of EPA-approved TMDLs and corresponding action letters on a timely basis.
- e. Participate with DEQ on addressing PCB impairments on the Spokane River.

Component 2. Watershed Protection Program

Manage § 319 Nonpoint Source Program

Approach

Implement the § 319 NPS Program through the most recent EPA-approved Idaho NPS Management Plan and 2004 EPA § 319 guidance. See the [Idaho NPS Management Plan](#).

Outputs

- a. Coordinate review and selection of NPS projects and activities directed to priority watersheds, considering multiple available funding sources.
- b. Successfully award § 319 project implementation subgrants. These grants are contingent upon approved TMDLs and other water quality priorities based on the amount of funding available and the amount of time it takes before funds are released to the state. The § 319 Idaho NPS Management Plan will be used as a guidance document for this activity.
- c. Administer subgrants according to relevant grant conditions and use the Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) to report on mandatory program activities, including estimated project load reductions (for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment, as applicable). DEQ will enter all GRTS load reduction estimates for all active and recently completed projects by February 15, 2025, and all other mandatory GRTS elements by April 1, 2025, or as otherwise directed by national guidance.
- d. Complete and submit an annual performance and progress report for the NPS Management Program as required by the § 319 NPS Program grant agreement.
- e. Update NPS memoranda of understanding as necessary.
- f. Perform § 319 project evaluations under the guidance of the Idaho NPS Management Plan. DEQ and EPA will continue to work together on the process for using § 319 funds and implementing the nine-element watershed-based plan (including qualifying TMDL implementation plans) for impaired waters.
- g. As requested by EPA, provide information on success stories, per EPA criteria. Success stories document national NPS program measure WQ-10 (if partial or full water body restoration is achieved) or progress toward restoration (non-WQ-10). For stories that qualify and with EPA's support, the Surface Water Program will seek to develop a minimum of two WQ-10 success stories each year. DEQ and EPA will continue to work together to assess and acquire monitoring equipment and resources to document water quality improvements under the strategic plan measures.
- h. Continue to ensure that approved § 319-funded project work plans have been evaluated and considered using alternative designs or measures that better address the proposed long-term water quality objectives.
- i. Surface Water and Grants and Loans programs will work together to administer the § 319 NPS Program.

- j. Evaluate DEQ's NPS grants program and identify opportunities that ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all individuals and groups in Idaho.
- k. Update Idaho NPS Management Plan for the 2025–2030 time frame.

Schedule

Activities conducted under the § 319 NPS Program will align with milestones and other responsibilities identified in the § 319 NPS grant work plan.

Funding

EPA will continue to fund approximately 60% of the § 319 NPS Program, while 40% will come from eligible state and local sources as matching funds. DEQ estimates that approximately 6,594 person hours (approximately 3.17 work years) and \$561,000 will be needed and funded from the federal § 319 grant to support § 319 DEQ administrative activities. DEQ and EPA agree to partner and work in a timely manner to address any priority funding issues.

Program Contacts

Julia Achabal, DEQ, (208) 373-0543
Bonnie Yoshizaki, DEQ, (208) 373-0439
Jenny Wu, EPA, (206) 553-6328
Kati Carberry, EPA, (208) 378-5771

Program Commitments

EPA will work with DEQ to identify ways to best use the state's § 319 allocation in a timely manner and minimize the need to request carrying over funds between grants.

Component 3. Wastewater Permits Program

Program Goal

The Wastewater Permits Program's goal is to ensure wastewater and recycled water is used in a manner that protects surface water, groundwater, and human health. The goal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program is to restore and maintain the waters of the United States, including surface waters of the state. DEQ implements the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Program including issuing and enforcing (Component 5. Wastewater Compliance) all permits in Idaho outside of Indian Country. EPA can enforce IPDES permits and retains primacy for issuing and enforcing NPDES permits for all facilities operating in Indian Country. DEQ also implements the Reuse Permitting Program to beneficially reuse recycled water and reduce the number of direct dischargers to surface waters in Idaho.

Program Activities

Coordinate all DEQ wastewater permits and approvals for new and modified wastewater treatment facilities and collection systems. Activities are organized among reuse permits, IPDES permits, and engineering approvals.

Reuse Permits

- Draft and issue reuse permits.
- Develop permit program guidance materials and ensure statewide consistency.
- Provide annual performance measures report.
- Encourage water reuse as an alternative to discharge to the waters of the United States.

IPDES Permits

- Draft and issue IPDES permits.
- Develop permit program guidance materials and ensure statewide consistency.

Engineering Approvals

- Review engineering documents, including facility plans, preliminary engineering reports, and construction plans and specifications for new and modified public wastewater facilities.

Program Contacts

Mary Anne Nelson, DEQ, (208) 373-0291 (Engineering)

Kerry Neil, DEQ, (208) 373-0278 (Permits)

Brian Nickel, EPA, 206-553-6251

Jason Pappani, EPA, (208) 378-5756

Erin Seyfried, EPA, (206) 553-1448

Program Commitments

Priorities

Reuse Permits

- Develop and maintain the wastewater reuse permits program.

IPDES Permits

- Develop and maintain the IPDES permits program.
- Develop and post the IPDES permit issuance plan.
- Draft and issue IPDES permits according to Idaho's permit issuance plan.

Engineering Approvals

- Ensure public wastewater and reuse facilities are designed and constructed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

Outcomes and Commitments

3.1 Reuse permits activities—draft and issue reuse permits/major permit modifications.

Approach

DEQ will issue new reuse permits and permit renewals on a cycle not to exceed 10 years. Priority will be given to new facilities, facilities undergoing expansion or modification, facilities with administratively extended permits, and facilities with expiring permits.

Outputs

- a. Issue 20 reuse permits/major permit modifications.
- b. Transmit to EPA, on a semiannual basis, a list of new permits, permit renewals, and major permit modifications issued.

Schedule

DEQ will report on the number of reuse permits/major permit modifications issued from January 1 to June 30, 2025, by July 31, 2025.

DEQ will transmit to EPA a list of all reuse permits/major permit modifications issued in CY 2025 within 30 days of the end of the calendar year.

Funding

State monies and federal (EPA) grants, including Surface Water § 106, fund this activity. Surface and Wastewater Division staff in DEQ's State Office and six DEQ regional offices will complete this activity.

Activity	Level of Effort
Reuse Permitting	8.4 FTE

Program Contacts

Kerry Neil, DEQ, (208) 373-0278
 Emma Wooldridge, DEQ, (208) 666-4604
 Branch Manager, EPA, (TBD)

3.2 Reuse permits activities—ensure reuse statewide consistency.

Approach

Staff in DEQ's State Office will be responsible for developing reuse permit program priorities and objectives and providing guidance for regional offices.

Outputs

- a. Provide new guidance, update existing guidance, and develop standard operating procedures for reuse permit program activities.

- b. Provide training to new and existing staff as funding is available.
- c. Hold quarterly reuse permit writer meeting.
- d. Sponsor, host, participate annually in either Pacific Northwest regional Water Reuse Conferences, or Idaho Water Reuse conferences, and related workshops.
- e. Use CWSRF funds specified in Component 6.1.d to provide wastewater operator training and associated operator continuing education units.

Schedule

All performance measures will be met by the end of the calendar year.

Funding

This activity is funded by state funds and federal (EPA) grant monies, including Surface Water § 106. Primarily staff in DEQ's State Office Surface and Wastewater Division will complete this activity with support from DEQ's Technical Services Division and the six regional offices.

Activity	Level of Effort
Develop guidance and ensure consistency	2.2 FTE

Program Contacts

Kerry Neil, DEQ, (208) 373-0278
Branch Manager, EPA (TBD)

3.3 Reuse permits activities—Water Quality § 106 grant performance measures: provide annual performance measure report.

Approach

An annual performance measure report will be provided by DEQ to indicate progress in eliminating pollutants from surface water by Reuse Permit Program activities. Overall, surface water is improved by reducing pollutant discharges, which contributes to the goal of the IPDES Program.

Outputs

- a. Total gallons annually of wastewater with pollutants eliminated from discharge to surface water by reusing water. Pounds of pollutants removed will also be provided if available for the following constituents: nitrogen, phosphorus, and chemical oxygen demand. A qualitative description will be provided for the various types of reuse permits issued by DEQ to address public health risks.
- b. Total number of facilities that reuse water, reducing the number of new facilities requiring IPDES permits and reducing the backlog of expired and new IPDES permits issued by DEQ.

Reuse permits activities: EPA commitment

Encourage water reuse where it is a preferable alternative to wastewater discharge to waters of the United States. Implement the Water Reuse Action Plan that includes clear commitments and accountability for actions that will further water reuse and help ensure the sustainability, security, and resilience of Idaho's water resources. Work with DEQ to address future water resource challenges through holistic thinking through integrated actions.

Schedule

The annual performance measure report will be provided within 60 days after the end of the calendar year.

Funding

Funding for this activity consists of 208 person hours (0.1 work years) from Water Quality § 106 funds.

Program Contacts

Kerry Neil, DEQ, (208) 373-0278
Emma Wooldridge, DEQ, (208) 666-4604
Branch Manager, EPA, (TBA)

3.4 IPDES permits activities—develop and implement the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program guidance.**Approach**

DEQ will continue implementing the IPDES Permits Program consistent with the requirements of the Clean Water Act, federal regulations, federal guidance, and state authority.

Commitments**DEQ**

- a. Coordinate a technical advisory committee to develop guidance documents, as necessary, for implementing the IPDES Permits Program.
- b. DEQ will continue to develop standard operating procedures for internal processes to assist in permit program implementation.
- c. Continue to obtain from EPA relevant information that was previously submitted to EPA by applicants/permittees. After receiving the information from EPA, DEQ will complete the following:
 - 1) Archive the information in DEQ's electronic data management system, as appropriate, and/or
 - 2) Ask applicants/permittees to enter information into the IPDES E-Permitting System, as appropriate.

EPA

- a. Provide development support for the work products cited above by reviewing draft documents for consistency with national regulations and policy, providing examples of work products used in Region 10 and nationally as necessary, and providing other input as requested by DEQ.
- b. Depending on work product, provide technical assistance and reviews of rulemaking and guidance documents (Component 5. Wastewater Compliance).
- c. Provide requested information in an electronic format as possible.

Schedule

IPDES permitting guidance development will continue through 2025 and beyond, as necessary.

Program Contacts

Kerry Neil, DEQ, (208) 373-0278
Erin Seyfried, EPA, (206) 553-1448
Brian Nickel, EPA, (206) 553-6251

3.5 IPDES permits activities—draft and issue IPDES permits.**Approach**

As a delegated program, DEQ's IPDES permitting activities are subject to EPA oversight.

Effective program implementation is required for continued delegation. DEQ will focus on maintaining and implementing all sectors.

Commitments**DEQ**

- a. Develop and transmit a permit issuance plan to EPA by October 31 of each year that identifies specific IPDES permits intended to be issued in the upcoming calendar year.
- b. Continue to reduce the backlog of administratively extended permits.
- c. Follow-up on EPA's Permit Quality Review (PQR) of the IPDES Program.

EPA

- a. Work with DEQ staff on tracking permit issuance and PQR follow-up.
- b. Review draft DEQ IPDES permits. EPA review may occur during the public notice process and proposed final permits consistent with the memorandum of agreement. EPA's goal is to average one permit review per month during this period.
- c. EPA will reissue the revised concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) general permit.
- d. Continue collaboration with DEQ on protection of waters of other states and tribes when discharges in Idaho affect such waters.

Schedule

DEQ will develop and process IPDES permits through public comment period and issue the permits. DEQ will develop permits as prioritized in the permit issuance plan.

DEQ and EPA will meet regularly to discuss substantive permitting issues and coordinate review of IPDES permits.

Program Contacts

Kerry Neil, DEQ, (208) 373-0278

Matthew Stutzman, DEQ, (208) 373-0247

Angela Anderson, DEQ, (208) 373-0560

Brian Nickel, EPA, (206) 553-6251

Funding

These activities will be funded by state general fund, state and federal (EPA) grant monies, including Surface Water § 106 funds, and when implemented, dedicated fees. Staff in DEQ's State Office Surface and Wastewater Division and six regional offices will complete these activities.

Program Element	State General	Dedicated Fee	Level of Effort Hours (FTEs)
5.1 IPDES Activities—implementation	1	—	2080 (1.0)
5.2 IPDES Activities—permitting	9.9	-	20,488 (9.9)
Total	10	-	22,568 (10.9)

3.6 Engineering approval activities—ensure public wastewater and reuse facilities are designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

Approach

Review engineering documents, including facility plans, preliminary engineering reports, and construction plans and specifications for new and modified public wastewater facilities. Provide wastewater operator training.

Outputs

Provide timely review of engineering documents submitted to DEQ for new or modified public wastewater facilities.

Schedule

Engineering plans and specifications will be reviewed as outlined in IDAPA 58.01.16.400 and § 401. Wastewater operator training will be provided throughout the year.

Funding

This activity will be funded by state and federal (EPA) grant monies, including Surface Water

§ 106 funds and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). DEQ State Office staff in the Technical Services Division and Surface and Wastewater Division, and six regional offices will complete these activities. The level of effort projected for this activity is 12,792 person hours (approximately 6.15 work years).

Activity	Level of Effort
Review wastewater plans	6.1 FTE
Wastewater operator training	0.75 FTE
Water reuse action plan	Not budgeted as separate line item

Program Contacts

Mary Anne Nelson, DEQ, (208) 373-0291
Branch Manager, EPA, (TBD)

Component 4. Groundwater Program

Program Goal

The goals of the DEQ Groundwater Program are to protect and improve the quality of the state's groundwater and ensure that existing and future beneficial uses including drinking water, agricultural, industrial, and aquaculture water supplies are met. All groundwater must be protected against contamination as a valuable public resource per Idaho's "Ground Water Quality Rule" (IDAPA 58.01.11). The quality of degraded groundwater must be restored where feasible and appropriate to support designated beneficial uses.

Since October 2005, the Groundwater Program has coordinated source water assessment and protection activities to protect public sources of drinking water.

Program Activities

Coordinate all DEQ groundwater and source water protection-related programs funded by EPA in Idaho. Primary activities include the following:

- Rule interpretation and implementation
- Project and contract management
- Policy development and implementation
- Public education and outreach
- Regional/local groundwater monitoring
- Interagency coordination
- Annual reporting
- Approval of managed aquifer recharge monitoring plans
- Technical and regulatory assistance
- Source water assessments for new sources
- Source water protection plans and projects

Regional offices may also develop and implement Groundwater Quality Improvement Plans (GWQIPs) in priority areas of the state.

The number of staff allocated to the Groundwater Program (including state general funds, federal Groundwater § 106 funds, and federal State Revolving Fund [SRF] set-aside funding) during state fiscal year (SFY) 2025 is estimated as approximately 17.0 FTEs. State general-funded FTEs increased slightly from 6.6 FTEs in SFY 2022 to 6.7 FTEs in SFY 2023 and budgeted for approximately 7 FTEs for SFY 2025. FTEs funded with federal groundwater § 106 funding decreased from 2.0 FTEs in SFY 2022 to 1.9 FTEs in SFY 2023 and is budgeted for 1.7 FTEs in SFY 2024. The number of FTEs funded by the SRF set aside to fund source water protection increased from 7.3 FTEs in SFY 2022 to 7.8 FTEs in SFY 2023 and budgeted for 7.9 in SFY 2024 for the base and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds.

DEQ experienced staffing losses in SFY 2023 and in SFY 2024. For the programs associated with groundwater and source water protection, these losses include three experienced hydrogeologists in the regional offices, the bureau chief, and two bureau staff members. The source water protection coordinator left DEQ on August 19, 2024. The new Groundwater Bureau Chief started on August 19, 2024.

Staff shortage impacts include personnel expenditures and program commitments near term, with longer impacts expected.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0191
Chris Affeldt, EPA, (206-553-6068
Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593
Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

Program Commitments

Priorities

- Focus efforts this year on filling vacancies. Hiring and developing new staff will take time, and some commitments may be challenging to meet while program staff are established.
- Develop a plan for outreach and education to assist local governments with assessing impacts of unsewered subdivisions, particularly on existing nitrate priority areas (NPAs), potential groundwater quality impacts and implementing groundwater protection measures.
- Continue groundwater monitoring in NPAs and other areas of concern throughout the state to determine the nature and extent of contamination, set a baseline for best management practice (BMP) effectiveness, and evaluate groundwater quality improvement activities.
- Implement Idaho's Ground Water Quality Rule and the *Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan* with other designated agencies by participating in the Idaho Ground Water Protection

Interagency Agreement. Signatory parties to the agreement include DEQ, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Idaho public health districts, and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC).

- Continue to populate DEQ’s groundwater quality database with new groundwater quality data in DEQ’s electronic data management system (EDMS) and share information with IDWR. Continue refinements to DEQ’s online mapping applications for the groundwater quality database and technical reports to increase accessibility for the public.
- Provide groundwater impact and protection technical recommendations to IDWR and pertinent irrigation districts. Approve groundwater quality monitoring programs at managed aquifer recharge sites according to “Land Application of Wastewater(s) or Recharge Water” (IDAPA 58.01.16.600).
- Coordinate and share information with and fund the Idaho Rural Water Association to provide statewide technical support to communities that are considering, planning, developing, and implementing source water protection plans.
- Provide Source Water Protection subawards (subrecipients) directly to public water systems, local governments, and nonprofit organizations to develop, implement, and sustain source water protection projects and activities.
- Provide education and outreach, including general groundwater education to the public. Promote groundwater BMPs to landowners and stakeholders, educate local governments about the responsibilities for groundwater protection, and assist with developing ordinances for source water and groundwater protection, as requested.
- Provide technical hydrogeological support, groundwater rule interpretation, and compliance and regulatory assistance to other DEQ programs and state agencies. Develop guidance, as needed, to facilitate consistent understanding and implementation of Idaho’s Ground Water Quality Rule.
- Develop and implement groundwater quality improvement plans (GWQIPs) in NPAs with source water protection plans to more efficiently use limited resources.
- Update and revise the Groundwater Quality Rule through the Zero-Based Regulation executive order to streamline and simplify the rule. Keep EPA updated on the rulemaking process.

Outcomes

- Decreased nitrate concentration trends in NPAs.
- Minimized risk to public health by implementing measures defined in rules for groundwater protection, managed aquifer recharge, mining, oil and gas activities, and other activities.
- Minimized risk to public health for populations served by community water systems by implementing Idaho’s source water protection strategies.
- Increased availability of source water assessment information and groundwater quality data through DEQ online applications and education and outreach to increase public

awareness of the source of their drinking water and importance of groundwater protection to protect drinking water quality.

- Increased knowledge and awareness among local decision makers on groundwater quality issues to assist with informed land use/development decisions.

Program Indicators

Program indicators include the number of improvement plans and strategies implemented in areas with degraded groundwater quality; the number of groundwater sampling events; and percentages of community water systems and/or populations served by community water systems implementing groundwater and source water protection strategies.

4.1 Manage, oversee, and provide administrative support for the Groundwater Program.

Approach

DEQ will administer Idaho's Groundwater Program to ensure statewide interpretation and implementation consistency with the DEQ state and regional offices.

Outputs

- a. Plan and coordinate Groundwater § 106 grant and PPA activities with regional offices during development of annual work plans and budgets.
- b. Coordinate with EPA to develop the groundwater tasks and language in the 2025 PPA and annual Groundwater § 106 work plan and budget.
- c. Conduct monthly program conference calls with DEQ's regional office Groundwater Program and Technical Services Division staff.
- d. Organize and conduct Groundwater Program statewide internal staff training.
- e. Ensure Groundwater Program staff receives training as needed.
- f. Prepare midyear and annual Groundwater § 106 grant and PPA reports.
- g. Provide input into the groundwater portion of DEQ's strategic plan.
- h. Provide and edit content for DEQ website.

Schedule

DEQ will submit semiannual grant reports to EPA. DEQ will contact EPA's project officer to discuss any issues that will affect the successful completion of the grant commitments as soon as DEQ becomes aware of issues.

Funding

This activity will be funded with EPA Groundwater § 106 and state funds. DEQ's Groundwater Bureau Chief, regional office managers, regional office technical leads, and administrative support will work on this activity. The projected level of annual effort for this activity is estimated to be funded annually from the federal Groundwater § 106 grant, which is budgeted

for CY 2025 just under 1.7 FTEs total. State general funds is budgeted for 4.71 FTEs for CY 2025 for the Groundwater Program.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0191

Chris Affeldt, EPA, (206-553-6068

Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593

Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.2 Coordinate groundwater implementation strategies for a comprehensive program with other DEQ programs/divisions and state and federal agency partners.

Approach

DEQ will coordinate activities with local, state, and federal other agencies and other entities and organizations for protecting groundwater.

Outputs

- a. Chair the Groundwater Monitoring Technical Committee (GWMTC) and education workgroup.
- b. Participate in the Groundwater Education Committee (GWEC).
- c. Implement the 2020 Idaho Groundwater Protection Interagency Cooperative Agreement and other existing cooperative agreements. Signatory parties to the Idaho Groundwater Protection Interagency Cooperative Agreement include DEQ, IDWR, ISDA, ISWCC, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and Idaho public health districts. Participate in interagency coordination efforts with agencies not included in the agreement such as the Idaho Department of Lands.
- d. As needed, participate in the concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) site advisory team comprised of members from DEQ, ISDA, and IDWR. The CAFO site advisory team provides suitability determinations for counties to use when considering conditional use or livestock confinement operation permits.

Schedule

Groundwater Monitoring Technical Committee meetings are held approximately every 6 months. Groundwater Education Committee meetings are anticipated to be held three times per calendar year or as needed. Other interagency meetings do not occur on a regular basis and are held on an as-needed basis.

Funding

This activity will be funded with EPA Groundwater § 106 grant. DEQ's Groundwater Bureau Chief and staff, regional office managers, and regional office technical leads will work on this activity. The projected level of annual effort for this activity in CY 2025 is estimated to be

0.4 FTE funded from the federal Groundwater § 106 grant and 0.1 FTE funded from state general funds).

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0191

Chris Affeldt, EPA, (206-553-6068

Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593

Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.3. Interpret and implement Idaho’s Ground Water Quality Rule, develop guidance, and develop policy. Provide hydrogeological support to other DEQ programs and agencies as needed. Provide support for DEQ Quality Management Plan implementation.

Approach

Continue implementing the *Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan*. Coordinate Ground Water Quality Rule interpretation and implementation with DEQ’s state and regional offices.

Outputs

- a. Conduct Idaho’s “Ground Water Quality Rule” (IDAPA 58.01.11) Zero-Based Regulation rulemaking activities.
- b. Assist local governments and health districts with assessing impacts of unsewered subdivisions on groundwater quality and implementing groundwater protection measures.
- c. Continue to provide hydrogeological support for implementing and enforcing the Ground Water Quality Rule to DEQ staff in other programs and in the regional offices. Assist other state agencies, the general public, and the regulated community as needed. Activities may include setting mining points of compliance and reviewing permit applications, UIC Class II permit applications, and freshwater protection plans for oil and gas activities.
- d. Continue to provide revisions to DEQ’s Quality Management Plan, data validation forms, and assist with developing and revising statewide generic quality assurance project plan and project-specific field sampling plans. This proposed level of effort is identical to the previous year.
- e. Complete the Zero-Based Regulation negotiated rulemaking.
- f. Revise the mining Point of Compliance guidance, as needed.

Schedule

Activities are ongoing and may be subject to change, depending on allocation of state resources and priorities.

Funding

This activity will be funded with EPA Groundwater § 106 and state general funds. DEQ's Groundwater Bureau Chief and staff and, to a lesser extent, regional office technical leads will work on this activity. This activity is estimated to be 1.02 work years funded annually from the federal Groundwater § 106 grant. State general funds will fund 0.72 FTE of effort annually. This proposed level of effort is a decrease from the previous year.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0191
Chris Affeldt, EPA, (206-553-6068
Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593
Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.4 Implement groundwater quality improvement activities, including improvement plans, in priority areas of the state.

Approach

DEQ continues to focus on combining GWQIPs with source water protection efforts at the county level. By developing county-level information, multiple NPAs within a county can be addressed. DEQ will continue to work with the public and relevant agencies in the area to develop groundwater quality improvement strategies. DEQ is educating local governments about their authorities and responsibilities for implementing source water and groundwater protection activities.

Outputs

Implement GWQIPs that are consistent with the *Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan*, Ground Water Quality Rule, and DEQ's "Policy for Addressing Degraded Ground Water Quality Areas" (PM-004) and develop effective strategies for restoring degraded areas. Implementation efforts will be directed toward more populous counties containing many source water protection areas and NPAs. Counties exhibiting a desire to implement protection activities will also be prioritized for assistance. Efforts will be directed toward areas where public water systems with high susceptibility scores are clustered.

Schedule

Activities are ongoing and may be subject to change, depending on allocation of state resources and priorities.

Funding

This activity will be funded with state funds. DEQ regional office managers and regional office technical leads will work on this activity. The projected level of effort for this activity is anticipated to be 0.4 FTE of effort for CY 2025.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0191

Chris Affeldt, EPA, (206-553-6068

Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593

Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.5 Conduct groundwater quality monitoring projects and manage groundwater quality data.**Approach**

DEQ will work with the public and coordinate with relevant agencies to develop and implement groundwater quality monitoring projects. Groundwater quality monitoring projects will be coordinated with existing projects conducted by other agencies.

Outputs

- a. Develop and conduct local or regional monitoring projects to determine baseline groundwater quality, follow up on detections of concern or complaints, or evaluate impacts of BMPs or land-use changes on groundwater quality.
- b. If funding is provided by EPA, conduct sampling of domestic wells not located within delineated source water assessment areas for emerging contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) compounds, as well as potentially for common ions, nutrients, and bacteria. DEQ will continue to work with IDWR to fund emerging contaminant lab analysis, depending upon available funding.
- c. Continue to populate the DEQ groundwater quality database with new groundwater quality data. Implement improvements to the database to increase efficiency of data entry. Continue improvements on DEQ's online mapping application to include greater constituent query capabilities and increased data download features. Continue to add IDWR data to EDMS and share data with IDWR.
- d. Prepare annual reports of groundwater quality data collected by DEQ or DEQ contractors with public funds.
- e. Maintain and update spreadsheet containing ISDA dairy inspection groundwater monitoring results of samples with nitrate at or above 10 milligrams per liter.

Schedule

The CY 2022 summary reports are complete and ready for senior management review and public comment. The CY 2023 reports will be minimally delayed and should be complete by December 15, 2025.

Funding

This activity will be funded with EPA Groundwater § 106 and state funds. DEQ State Office program staff, regional office staff, and technical services staff will work on this activity. The projected level of annual effort for this activity in CY 2025 as budgeted annually from the federal Groundwater § 106 grant. State general funds will fund 1.4 FTE of effort on an annual

basis. This level of effort is an increase from the previous year, with the caveat that there are no staff vacancies.

Sampling for emerging contaminants in disadvantaged communities may be available this year, if additional resources are acquired through contracting with other state agencies or private contractors.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-00356

Chris Affeldt, EPA (206) 553-6068

Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593

Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.6 Manage and implement groundwater quality protection strategies for managed aquifer recharge.

Approach

Continue oversight of groundwater quality monitoring activities at managed aquifer recharge sites. Coordinate with DEQ regional offices and other agencies to interpret the Ground Water Quality Rule and authorities under the “Wastewater Rules” (IDAPA 58.01.16.600) for land application of recharge water, which may include Underground Injection Control (UIC) activities. Recharge activities are uncertain due to low reservoir carryover into water year 2023 due to drought conditions during the last couple of years. Communicate and coordinate with IDWR on proposed or ongoing managed aquifer recharge projects (MARs).

Outputs

- a. Continue to work with IDWR to improve coordination and ensure MAR activities are conducted according to state water quality regulations.
- b. Review groundwater quality monitoring plans for MAR projects submitted for approval. DEQ reviews approximately 15 monitoring plans or annual reports each year from proposed or existing MAR sites.
- c. Review and provide comments to the IDWR UIC Program on injection well permits related to aquifer recharge and tracer tests as requested. Work with the IDWR UIC Program to encourage using monitoring requirements that are consistent with DEQ requirements.
- d. Provide comments and assistance with IDWR’s UIC rule revisions.

Schedule

Activities are ongoing and are subject to change depending on allocation of state resources and priorities.

Funding

This activity will be funded with EPA Groundwater § 106 and state funds. DEQ State Office program staff and regional office staff will work on this activity. The projected level of annual

effort for this activity in CY 2025 is estimated to be 0.1 FTE funded annually from the federal Groundwater § 106 grant. State general funds will fund 1.2 FTE of effort annually. This level of effort is similar to the previous year.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0356
Chris Affeldt, EPA (206) 553-6068
Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593
Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.7 Implement program and conduct public education and outreach activities.**Approach**

Continue education and outreach activities to encourage voluntary implementation of groundwater protection activities.

Outputs

- a. Provide informational presentations, materials, and technical assistance to elected officials and the general public.
- b. Participate in fairs, open houses, and other community events.
- c. Participate in groundwater quality education activities geared toward schoolteachers and students.
- d. Promote adoption of BMPs for groundwater quality protection and continue to work closely with the ISWCC to provide information to the agricultural community.
- e. Promote use of online mapping applications for groundwater quality database, technical reports, and NPAs. Direct public records requests for such data to online applications.
- f. Coordinate multiagency participation through the Ground Water Education Committee.

Schedule

Final outputs will be reported for the calendar year ending December 31, 2025, and are dependent on allocation of state resources and number of requests for DEQ participation.

Funding

This activity will be funded with EPA Groundwater § 106 and state funds. DEQ State Office program staff, regional office managers, regional technical leads, and administrative support will work on this activity. The projected level of annual effort for this activity in CY 2025 is estimated to be approximately 0.8 FTE funded annually from the federal Groundwater § 106 grant. State general funds will fund 0.42 FTE of effort annually.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0356
Chris Affeldt, EPA (206) 553-6068
Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593
Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.8 Conduct source water protection activities.

Approach

As part of the FFY 2024 Source Water Protection Program Work Plans for the base set-asides and the BIL funding set-asides, DEQ will continue to assess public drinking water sources to determine their susceptibility to contamination; provide assistance to public water systems to develop source water protection plans; develop source water protection partnerships; and integrate source water protection into existing state and federal programs. With BIL funding, DEQ will implement additional source water protection projects and continue to develop tools and resources to facilitate source water protection implementation efforts; provide source water protection education, outreach, training, and technical assistance to public water systems, local governments, schools, businesses, and the public; and manage and administer Idaho's Source Water Program.

Subawards are anticipated to be awarded to local governments or nonprofit organizations for SFY 2025.

Outputs

- a. Number of source water assessments completed for new sources.
- b. Number of source water protection plans completed and/or recertified.
- c. Number of source water protection projects completed.
- d. Number of outreach or educational events.

A comprehensive list of outputs is included in the FY 2025 Source Water Protection Program Work Plan submitted to EPA. DEQ will annually provide EPA with a list of completed tasks identified in the work plan including the number of source water assessments and certified and recertified source water protection plans, examples of outreach events, and a list of projects completed by DEQ staff or awarded through subgrants or contracts.

Schedule

Final outputs were scheduled for June 30, 2024, but are delayed until November 2024.

Funding

This activity will be funded by the EPA SRF wellhead 10% set aside (1452(k)(1))(D) from the base capitalization grant and the additional BIL funding. The DEQ State Office program staff and regional office staff (approximately 7.9 FTEs) will work on this activity. Increased funding for subawards will be provided by additional BIL funds.

Program Contacts

Scott Short, DEQ, (208) 373-0356
Chris Affeldt, EPA (206) 553-6068
Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593
Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

4.9 Component commitments.

DEQ and EPA Commitments

- a. Review Groundwater Program progress on a semiannual basis. DEQ will contact the EPA project officer to discuss any issues affecting the successful completion of the grant commitments as soon as DEQ becomes aware of issues.
- b. Continue to improve, maintain, and protect the quality of groundwater in Idaho and seek additional resources to implement actions to accomplish that goal.
- c. Continue coordination and communication across program boundaries.
- d. Focus resources in prioritized areas with significant groundwater quality degradation and in areas with a high density of public water system wells with high source water assessment susceptibility scores. If additional funding is received from EPA, sample domestic wells hydraulically downgradient of PWS wells with detections of PFAS to assess extent of PFAS impacts.
- e. Continue to share strategies on successful BMP implementation to reduce nitrate concentrations in areas with degraded groundwater.

Component 5. Wastewater Compliance

Program Goal

The Wastewater Compliance Bureau's goal is to ensure wastewater and recycled water is used in a manner that protects surface water, groundwater, and human health.

The goal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program is to restore and maintain the waters of the United States, including surface waters of the state. During CY 2025, DEQ will implement the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Program, approved state biosolids, and pretreatment programs, including issuing (Component 3. Wastewater Permits Program) and enforcing all permits in Idaho outside of Indian Country. EPA can enforce IPDES permits and retains primacy for issuing and enforcing NPDES permits for all facilities operating in Indian Country. DEQ will continue conducting IPDES inspections according to Compliance Monitoring Strategy (CMS) goals and will continue to maintain the capacity to perform tasks identified in the PPA.

Program Activities

- Perform IPDES compliance inspections.
- Track and communicate IPDES-related enforcement actions with EPA.
- Maintain DEQ capacity to perform IPDES compliance inspections.
- Implement a DEQ inspector credentialing process consistent with the federal Clean Water Act.
- Perform compliance oversight of reuse-permitted facilities.

- Develop program guidance materials and ensure statewide consistency.
- Assist public health districts in managing the On-Site Wastewater Program.

Program Contacts

Troy Smith, DEQ, (208) 373-0488
 Aimee Hesterman, DEQ, (208) 373-0113
 Heidi Caye, DEQ, (208) 373-0258
 Peter Adams, DEQ, (208) 954-1438
 Jeff Kenknight, EPA, (206) 553-6641
 Dino Marshalonis, EPA, (206) 553-1519
 Jason Rodriguez, EPA, (206) 553-8508

Program Commitments

Priorities

- Submit the DEQ-approved post-inspection follow-up letters to IPDES-permitted facilities after inspection reports are reviewed for quality assurance (QA) and are finalized.
- Review and complete QA of IPDES complaint response inspections.
- Implement the IPDES DEQ inspector credentialing process.
- Complete IPDES compliance evaluation inspections according to Idaho’s CMS.
- Follow the recommendations in EPA’s final CY 2020 SRF report.
- Ensure compliance of permitted reuse facilities through site inspections and annual report reviews.
- Ensure wastewater and recycled water are used in a manner that protects human health and the environment with respect to surface water and groundwater and decrease the number of wastewater facilities that discharge to waters of the United States.

5.1 IPDES implementation—rules, guidance, and information management.

Approach

DEQ will continue implementing IPDES compliance consistent with the requirements of the Clean Water Act, federal regulations, federal guidance, and state authority.

Commitments

DEQ

- Coordinate a technical advisory committee to develop guidance documents, as necessary.
- Continue to develop standard operating procedures for internal processes to assist in program implementation.
- Continue to develop and implement data flow and management necessary to comply with EPA’s e-Reporting and CROMERR requirements.

EPA

- a. Provide development support for the work products cited above by reviewing draft documents for consistency with national regulations and policy, providing examples of work products used in Region 10 and nationally as necessary, and providing other input as requested by DEQ. Depending on the work product, the EPA NPDES permitting program (Component 3), provides technical assistance and reviews of rulemaking and guidance documents.
- b. Support DEQ by implementing e-Reporting, ICIS/DMR, and other compliance data management tools.

Schedule

IPDES Zero-Based Regulation negotiated rulemaking began in 2022 and continued through 2023 with approval by the Idaho Legislature in 2024. Guidance development will continue through 2025 and beyond, as necessary.

Program Contacts

Troy Smith, DEQ, (208) 373-0488
Aimee Hesterman, DEQ, (208) 373-0113
Heidi Caye, DEQ, (208) 373-0258
Jeff Kenknight, EPA, (206) 553-6641
Dino Marshalonis, EPA, (206) 553-1519
Jason Rodriguez, EPA, (206) 553-8508

5.2 NPDES activities—perform NPDES inspections.**Approach**

EPA will perform compliance inspections, as needed.

Commitments**DEQ**

Participate in monthly coordination calls with EPA on compliance and enforcement topics for IPDES and NPDES permittees in Idaho. Heidi Caye will represent DEQ, and Jason Rodriguez will be the point of contact for EPA during these calls. Other key EPA and DEQ staff may be invited depending on the agenda for the monthly call.

EPA

EPA will notify DEQ of NPDES/IPDES inspections it intends to conduct. EPA will provide a list of any targeted (planned in advance) inspections and provide notification for any extemporaneous inspections.

Program Contacts

Troy Smith, DEQ, (208) 373-0488
Heidi Caye, DEQ, (208) 373-0258

Jeff Kenknight, EPA, (206) 553-6641
Dino Marshalonis, EPA, (206) 553-1519
Jason Rodriguez, EPA, (206) 553-8508

5.3 IPDES activities—compliance monitoring and enforcement.

Approach

EPA and DEQ agree that DEQ’s primary responsibility is to administer the IPDES Program and state regulations on a day-to-day basis. DEQ is the primary agency conducting inspections and initiating enforcement under Idaho laws and policies to deter noncompliance through appropriate compliance evaluations and consistent enforcement. Targeting major and nonmajor facilities for compliance inspections is consistent with DEQ’s CMS.

EPA and DEQ agree that EPA’s primary responsibility is to ensure compliance with and enforcement of federal statutes and regulations and federally approved state regulations. EPA and DEQ further agree that DEQ’s compliance and enforcement efforts must remain consistent with federal laws and regulations and provide adequate compliance monitoring and timely and appropriate enforcement actions. Overseeing DEQ’s Compliance and Enforcement Program may include direct compliance monitoring and enforcement by EPA. EPA is also responsible for addressing environmental issues in Indian Country according to federal laws, regulations, and executive orders and a trust relationship between the United States and Indian tribes.

DEQ and EPA will work together to meet EPA’s strategic measures regarding environmental law compliance rates. EPA’s significant noncompliance (SNC) initiative over the next year is to maintain a 10.1% rate of national percentage of permittees in significant noncompliance based on a single quarter of SNC data; DEQ’s single quarter SNC rate has ranged from being at or below the 10.1% rate.

EPA and the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) have developed a process and method, called the State Review Framework, for evaluating state compliance and enforcement programs for air, water, and hazardous waste. Each year, EPA reviews DEQ’s enforcement programs under the framework using data metrics. Full State Review Framework reviews, with both data metric analysis and file reviews, occur every 4 to 5 years. EPA works with DEQ to develop plans to address any necessary improvements to compliance assurance programs. DEQ will address areas needing improvement based on the information EPA identified in their 2020 final report.

Commitments

DEQ

- a. Provide EPA with a CMS schedule by November 15 of each year. The enforcement confidential list will include the facility name and permit number. For construction sites and small suction dredge permittees, DEQ will provide an estimate of the number of inspections required to meet the CMS. DEQ will benchmark the universe of construction sites and small section dredge permittees on January 1 and provide an updated targeting number by January 15.

- b. Include a completed Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Annual CMS Plan and End-of-Year Report Chart by December 31.
- c. Perform IPDES inspections and audits, including pretreatment, consistent with the annual inspection list and CMS.
- d. Perform complaint response by qualified DEQ staff.
- e. Follow QA process for all IPDES inspection reports, including complaint response, by DEQ-credentialed inspectors.
- f. DEQ will maintain access to FedTalent’s training courses and provide additional or substitute resources and processes for IPDES compliance officers to maintain DEQ IPDES inspector credentials, in lieu of EPA credentials.
- g. Finalize and transmit final postinspection follow-up letters and inspection reports to permitted facilities. Upon EPA’s request, provide copies of postinspection follow-up letters and inspection reports.
- h. Continue to use EPA-sponsored training, to implement and improve inspection capabilities for all sectors.
- i. Continue to review all relevant reports submitted by permittees.
- j. Participate in quarterly discussions with EPA Region 10 staff and others regarding the SNC initiative.
- k. Follow the recommendations in EPA’s final 2020 State Review Framework report.

EPA

- a. Notify DEQ of shadowing opportunities as far in advance of the inspection as possible.
- b. Provide training to DEQ inspectors as resources allow.
- c. Complete the enforcement action for permits where EPA has pending or ongoing federal enforcement cases. Resolution may be accomplished by the following:
 - 1) The permittee’s compliance with the requirements of the compliance order, consent agreement, or court order
 - 2) Withdrawal of the EPA action
 - 3) Court decision dismissing the action
 - 4) If agreed to by EPA, impose an equivalent state enforcement action by DEQ

Schedule

All performance measures will be met by the end of the calendar year. IPDES compliance evaluation inspection reports will be completed within 30 days of a nonsampling inspection, and within 45 days of a sampling inspection, if possible.

Program Contacts

Troy Smith, DEQ, (208) 373-0488
 Heidi Caye, DEQ, (208) 373-0258
 Jeff Kenknight, EPA, (206) 553-6641
 Dino Marshalonis, EPA, (206) 553-1519
 Jason Rodriguez, EPA, (206) 553-8508

Funding

These activities will be funded by state general fund, state and federal (EPA) grant monies, including Surface Water § 106 funds, and when implemented, dedicated fees. Staff in DEQ's State Office Surface and Wastewater Division and six regional offices will complete these activities.

Program Element	State § 106	State General	Dedicated Fee	Level of Effort Hours (FTEs)
5.1 IPDES Activities—implementation	1	1	3	10,400 (5)
5.2 NPDES Activities—inspections	2	—	—	4,160 (2)
5.3 IPDES Activities—compliance monitoring and enforcement	—	4	10	29,120 (14)
Total	3	5	13	43,680 (21)

5.4 Reuse—compliance oversight of permitted facilities.

Approach

Provide oversight of permits for compliance with permit conditions by conducting field inspections and reviewing annual reports. Facilities will be inspected once every 5 years. Perform enforcement and compliance actions as needed.

Outputs

- Inspect 20% of permitted facilities.
- Conduct timely review of reuse permit annual reports.
- Report semiannually on the number of inspections and annual report reviews completed.
- Report semiannually on the number of permit compliance activities reviewed.

Schedule

All performance measures will be met by the end of the calendar year.

Funding

This activity is funded by state funds and federal (EPA) grant monies, including Surface Water § 106 funds. Staff in DEQ's Technical Services Division, State Office Surface and Wastewater Division, and six regional offices will complete this activity.

Activity	Level of Effort
Compliance activities	4.0 FTE

Program Contacts

Troy Smith, DEQ, (208) 373-0488

Heidi Caye, DEQ, (208) 373-0258

Permitting, Drinking Water, and Infrastructure Branch Manager, EPA, TBD

5.5 On-Site Wastewater—Program Management

Approach

DEQ's State Office provides guidance materials and overall management activities related to this program through funding of the § 604(b) grant. The state and regional offices are responsible for reviewing plans and specifications and groundwater impact studies.

Outputs

- a. Chair the Technical Guidance Committee and revise the Technical Guidance Manual quarterly.
- b. Provide public health district training, seven annual public health district audits, an annual statewide audit, and program reviews.
- c. Review plans and specifications for large soil absorption systems and on-site wastewater products.
- d. Assist in the review of nutrient-pathogen evaluations.
- e. Monitor emerging contaminant monitoring over Nettleton Gulch aquifer study.

Schedule

Activities will be completed on an as-needed basis.

Funding

Funding for this activity includes federal (EPA) § 604(b) grant and state funds.

Activity	Level of Effort
On-site coordination, plan reviews, other guidance, and training	1.0 FTE

Program Contacts

Troy Smith, DEQ, (208) 373-0488

Peter Adams, DEQ, (208) 954-1438

EPA Commitments

Encourage water reuse where it is a preferable alternative to wastewater discharge to waters of the United States. Implement the Water Reuse Action Plan that includes clear commitments and accountability for actions that will further water reuse and ensure the sustainability, security, and resilience of Idaho's water resources. Work with DEQ to address future water resource challenges through holistic thinking and integrated actions.

Component 6. Drinking Water and Wastewater Loan Programs

Program Goal

The goal of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Loan Programs is to improve environmental protection and public health through construction, operation, maintenance, and management of drinking water, NPS, and point source treatment facilities.

Program Activities

- Manage the Drinking Water and Water Pollution Control Loan Programs.
- Manage the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) SRF funding programs that provide additional resources for the SRFs and targeted funding to address emerging contaminants and lead service lines.
- Increase and/or refine program marketing and outreach efforts to reach previously unserved communities.
- Manage the state grant programs for drinking water and wastewater projects.
- Conduct Zero-Based Regulation rulemaking for the loan rules in CY 2025.

Program Contacts

MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ, (208) 373-0122

Susan Poulosom, EPA, Section Chief, (206) 553-6258

Catie Jones, EPA, DWSRF Project Officer, (503)-326-3269

Casey Hagan, EPA, CWSRF Project Officer, (360)-753-8086

Program Commitments

Priorities

- Conduct Zero-Based Regulation rulemaking for the loan rules in CY 2025.
- Fully use the capacity development set-aside resources available for issuing drinking water planning grants and loan funds to improve drinking water system infrastructure.
- Fully examine the need for BIL Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Lead Service Line (LSL) funding by conducting thorough lead service lines inventories and examine the need for BIL SRF Emerging Contaminant funding by conducting sampling and/or using existing water quality data.
- Carry out the BIL mandate of providing additional subsidies. • Fully use wastewater loan fee resources made available to issue planning grants and loan funds to improve wastewater system infrastructure.

- Coordinate with the § 319 NPS Program and TMDL Program if funding is available.
- Report on environmental and public health outcomes by completing an environmental or public health benefits evaluation for each project in EPA's environmental benefits system for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or public health benefits system for the DWSRF.
- Implement, monitor, and control procedural frameworks to achieve the following:
 - Provide facility planning grants that allow optional environmental assessments.
 - Develop and implement, to the extent that Intended Use Plan and legislative scheduling allows, necessary legal, policy, guidance, and procedural changes to meet new Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.
 - Develop outreach and assistance to systems challenged by lead risks, focusing on how funding from the DWSRF BIL LSL may be used.
 - Continue developing conduit relationship with Rural Community Assistance Corporation to provide funding assistance to individuals with failing septic systems.

6.1 Manage the Drinking Water and Wastewater Loan Programs.

Approach

For each loan program, execute loan commitments for at least an amount equal to that required and defined in federal statute. DEQ and EPA recognize that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and BIL funding will likely impact priorities and outputs and the ability to produce deliverables in a timely manner for the next several years. DEQ and EPA will continue to communicate and strive to meet the program commitments.

Outputs

- a. Negotiate loan agreements for projects listed on the Intended Use Plans in a timely manner for amounts consistent with federal requirements.
- b. Prepare annual reports for CWSRF and DWSRF. Report fee use in the annual reports.
- c. Gather and assess comments relating to web-based loan handbooks. Make minor corrections to the handbooks on an ad hoc basis, while collecting substantive comments for a follow-up public comment period.
- d. Support CWSRF and DWSRF administrative costs, planning efforts, and wastewater operator training efforts with CWSRF and DWSRF loan fee revenues.
- e. Transfer excess DWSRF set-aside funds into the loan fund.
- f. Negotiate changes to State Environmental Review Process and Operating Agreements to incorporate changes in the National Environmental Policy Act environment that have occurred since the State Environmental Review Process was originally crafted.

Schedule

Loans are negotiated throughout the SFY, which ends June 30. The CWSRF and DWSRF annual reports are due October 31. With the state's new fiscal system, these reports may be delayed, and staff will communicate on the estimated dates.

Funding

This activity will be funded by the administrative set-aside portion of SRFs, loan fees, one-time state funds, and potentially the new Small System Technical Assistance allowance in the CWSRF. Eight work years will be budgeted to the SRFs and will include DEQ's State Office, Technical Services Division, and regional office staff.

Program Contacts

MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ, (208) 373-0122
Susan Poulsom, EPA, Section Chief, (206) 553-6258
Catie Jones, EPA, DWSRF Project Officer, (503)-326-3269
Casey Hagan, EPA, CWSRF Project Officer, (360)-753-8086

6.2 Fund nonpoint source projects.**Approach**

In conjunction with the Surface Water Program, fund nonpoint source sponsorship projects and direct loans to improve surface water quality in areas where TMDLs have been developed and approved, and fund groundwater quality improvement projects in areas where groundwater is degraded when funding is available.

Outputs

A priority list for SFY 2025 was prepared and issued for public comment that identifies possible nonpoint source projects.

A SFY 2026 priority list will be prepared for public comment.

Schedule

The Board of Environmental Quality will act upon the proposed SFY 2026 Intended Use Plan, June 2025.

Funding

DEQ staff time used for making NPS project loans will be charged against the CWSRF set-aside portion for administration and state appropriation when projects and funding are available.

Program Contacts

MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ, (208) 373-0122
Casey Hagan, EPA, CWSRF Project Officer, (360)-753-8086

6.3 Conduct planning grant programs for drinking water and wastewater projects.**Approach**

Develop an annual wastewater and drinking water grant project priority list.

Outputs

- a. Compile priority lists of grant projects by June 2025.
- b. Review applications from potential applicants expected to submit grant applications during SFY 2025.
- c. Report DWSRF set-aside expenditures for this activity via the DWSRF program annual report.
- d. Report CWSRF set-aside expenditures via the CWSRF program annual report.

Schedule

Grants are negotiated throughout the SFY, ending June 30.

Funding

Funding for grant program's staff is provided through the CWSRF and DWSRF fee revenues and DWSRF set asides. Approximately 4.5 work years statewide is typically budgeted.

Program Contacts

MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ, (208) 373-0122

Catie Jones, EPA, DWSRF Project Officer, (503)-326-3269

Casey Hagan, EPA, CWSRF Project Officer, (360)-753-8086

6.4 Component commitments

DEQ

- a. Follow all terms and conditions outlined in the operating agreements, yearly capitalization grant agreements, federal statutes, regulations, and published national guidance and policies for both SRF loan programs.
- b. Submit annual SRF reports to EPA as required.
- c. Complete annual development, review, and modification of the Intended Use Plans for both SRF loan programs.
- d. Coordinate with EPA Region 10 on delivery of targeted technical assistance to water and wastewater systems

EPA

- a. Conduct timely annual reviews and written reports of both SRF loan programs.
- b. Provide DEQ with advice and consultation as requested and updated program guidance from EPA headquarters as it becomes available.
- c. Provide DEQ with assistance in implementing specific federal requirements where direct EPA involvement may be required, such as AIS, BABA, Davis-Bacon, and SERP/NEPA.
- d. Provide DEQ with timely, informative, and accurate advice about SRF program implementation and development.

- e. Provide targeted technical assistance, in partnership with DEQ, to drinking water or wastewater systems that need additional help in preparing for water infrastructure projects.

Component 7. Safe Drinking Water Program

EPA Strategic Plan Goal: 5. Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities

EPA Objectives: 5.1. Ensure Safe Drinking Water Reliable Water Infrastructure

Time Period: January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

Total Estimated Cost: \$ TBD (to be updated when FFY2025 PWSS Allotments are announced)

Total Estimated FTE: TBD (to be updated)

Program Goal

The goal of DEQ's Safe Drinking Water Program is to assist and support public water systems to ensure the reliable delivery of safe drinking water.

Program Activities

Implement all DEQ drinking water-related programs funded by EPA in Idaho. Primary activities include the following: rule interpretation and implementation; compliance and enforcement oversight; policy development and implementation; education and outreach for public water systems, public water system operators, and the general public; capacity development and operator certification implementation; interagency coordination; annual reporting; approval of public water system engineering plans and specifications; compliance and technical assistance; monitoring and engineering waiver review; drinking water database management.

Program Contacts

Tyler Fortunati, DEQ, (208) 373-0140

Vacant, Section Manager, EPA

Michelle Tucker, EPA, (206) 553-1414

Dianne Sands, EPA, (206) 553-1593

Peter Contreras, EPA, (206) 553-6708

Stephen Fitzner, EPA, (208) 378-5764

Program Commitments

Priorities

- Public water systems located, designed, constructed, operated, maintained, and protected to reliably meet drinking water health-based standards.
- Public water systems serving drinking water that meets all health-based standards.

- Provide compliance and enforcement oversight of the Drinking Water Program.
- Provide compliance and technical assistance to public water systems.
- Provide capacity development and operator certification assistance to public water systems.
- Provide engineering design review of new public water systems and public water systems undergoing material modifications.

Outcomes

- Successfully address statewide compliance issues according to EPA’s 2009 Drinking Water Enforcement Response Policy (ERP).
- Prevent outbreaks of reported waterborne diseases.
- Reduce the number of community water systems in continuous noncompliance with health-based standards from two systems in the first quarter of federal FY 2025, to one system by the end of CY 2025.
 - Reduce the number of systems out of compliance with the Idaho’s Lead and Copper Rule by 25% by the end of CY 2025 using January 2023 as the baseline.
 - Increase the percent of community water systems in compliance with all health-based standards (FFY 2024 Quarter 2 values is 92.4% for Idaho).
 - Maintain the percentage of community water systems with current sanitary surveys at 95% or more by the end of CY 2025, with no system on the backlog list greater than 180 days.
- Ensure *timely* and *appropriate* response (2009 ERP) to 91 public water systems for the period covered by this PPA (based on the Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) (2009 ERP) list of FFYQ2/2024).
- Work to identify and address emerging contaminants through December 31, 2025, funding dependent.
 - Conduct per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) sampling from public water system sources and other identified monitoring locations that represent source water used by public water systems.
 - Provide training, education/outreach, and technical assistance to help public water systems develop harmful algal bloom (HAB) response plan and cyanotoxin monitoring response capabilities for public water systems using surface water.

Program Indicators

7.1 Public water systems serving drinking water that meets all health-based drinking water standards.

Approach

DEQ will administer Idaho’s Drinking Water Program with a goal of ensuring all public water systems serve drinking water that meets all health-based standards.

Outputs

- a. Coordinate at least quarterly with EPA’s Water Division to discuss Drinking Water Program performance.
- b. Consult in situations concerning imminent and substantial endangerment to public health as outlined in Component 7.6.h.
- c. Health-based violation QA/QC reports to provide proactive compliance assistance and timely resolution of health-based violations.
- d. Maintain and monitor DEQ’s drinking water exceedance notifications to provide timely response to systems in noncompliance with health-based standards.
- e. Count of CWSs with health-based violations.
- f. Percentage of public water systems in significant compliance with health-based drinking water standards.
- g. Percentage of systems with enforcement orders in compliance with the terms of their schedules.
- h. Number of systems out of compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.
- i. Cooperate and coordinate on issues related to the Unregulated Contaminant Rule.

Schedule: January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

Deliverable: DEQ will submit annual grant reports to EPA.

Funding

Funding for this indicator is provided through the Public Water System Supervision grant and associated state match funding provided by fees and will support 5 FTEs.

7.2 Public water systems that are located, designed, constructed, operated, maintained, and protected to reliably meet drinking water health-based standards.**Approach**

DEQ will conduct engineering review for new public water systems or existing public water systems undergoing material modification. Additionally, DEQ will conduct sanitary surveys on a frequency set by federal regulations.

Outputs

- a. Number of sanitary surveys completed
- b. Percentage of public water systems with current sanitary surveys
- c. Percentage of community water systems (CWS) that have current sanitary surveys (3-year frequency, except 5-year frequency for outstanding performers)
- d. Number of engineering projects completed

Schedule: January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

Deliverable: DEQ will submit annual grant reports to EPA.

Funding

Funding for this indicator will come from multiple sources depending upon the activity:

- Engineering review and assistance will be funded in-part through the 2% Technical Assistance DWSRF set-aside funding for public water systems serving less than 10,000 and will provide support for 2.25 FTEs. Remaining engineering review and assistance for all public water systems will be funded through the Public Water System Supervision grant and associated state match funding provided by fees that will provide support for 7.22 FTEs. Sixty-three percent of the DWSRF Capacity Development set-aside funding will be used for engineering planning grants and will support 0 FTEs.
- Sanitary surveys will be funded through the Public Water System Supervision grant and associated state match funding provided by fees that will provide support for 3.22 FTEs.

7.3 Capacity development, operator certification, technical and compliance assistance for public water systems.**Approach**

DEQ will maintain an EPA-approved capacity development and operator certification program that can assist these program areas and provide additional technical and compliance assistance tools for public water systems.

Outputs

- a. Maintain collaboration on state laboratory certification.
- b. Maintain DEQ's SDWIS database, report data to EPA using SDWIS/state, and cooperate to resolve data quality issues.
- c. Cooperate to resolve data quality issues.
- d. Coordinate with third-party service providers, such as Idaho Rural Water Association and the Rural Community Assistance Corp, to provide operator training support and referrals of preliminary inspection finding forms and requests for third-party assistance from public water systems.
- e. Implement the Drinking Water Program's Capacity Development strategy.
- f. Maintain collaboration on drinking water operator licensure with the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses.

Schedule: January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

Deliverable: DEQ will submit annual grant report with capacity development and operator certification reports to EPA.

Funding

Funding for this indicator will come from multiple sources depending upon the activity:

- Capacity development-related work will be funded through the Capacity Development set-aside funding and will support 0.75 FTEs.
- Laboratory certification and operator licensure is funded through the Public Water System Supervision grant and associated state match funding provided by fees and will support 0.85 FTEs.
- SDWIS data entry and reporting will be funded through the State Program Management (SDWIS) set-aside funding and will support 7.63 FTEs.
- Provide compliance and enforcement oversight of the Drinking Water Program.

7.4 Compliance, inspection, and enforcement for public water systems.

Approach

DEQ will provide compliance oversight for drinking water rules under DEQ's primacy and engage in enforcement actions when noncompliance with drinking water rules cannot be resolved through technical and compliance assistance.

Outputs

- a. Cooperate and coordinate on issues related to new rule implementation. EPA will inform DEQ of EPA's direct implementation of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) 1433. Specifically, EPA will notify DEQ of systems that will be inspected in Idaho and will provide copies of any notices of violation or orders proposed by EPA to return those systems to compliance. EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) and DEQ will also coordinate (Component 7.6.a) to ensure timely compliance with the new Lead Service Line Inventory requirements and deadline of October 16, 2024.
- b. Collaborate on requests for rule implementation such as *deep dives* and improve rule implementation. Follow current guidance.
- c. EPA will provide a 30-day notice to DEQ before communicating with or conducting a public water system inspection for which DEQ is the primary enforcement authority. EPA-led inspections will be coordinated with DEQ in advance to allow DEQ to participate in the inspection. EPA and DEQ will follow pre-established coordination and notification processes to reduce confusion and promote consistent interactions with each public water system. Coordination will be initiated by EPA through DEQ's Drinking Water Bureau Chief.
- d. Coordinate quarterly with EPA's ECAD to discuss the ETT/ETTA (enforcement targeting tool assistant) and compliance issues.
- e. Provide timely enforcement response when and where DEQ determines formal enforcement actions are necessary.
- f. Respond to maximum contaminant level violations and appropriately manage public water system monitoring schedules.

Schedule: January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

Deliverable: DEQ will submit annual grant reports to EPA.

Funding

Funding for this indicator is provided through the Public Water System Supervision grant and associated state match funding provided by fees and will support 10.13 FTEs.

7.5 Unregulated and emerging contaminants.**Approach**

DEQ will conduct activities to help address and prepare public water systems to respond to emerging contaminants in their source water.

Outputs

- a. Conduct sampling of specific emerging contaminants through appropriate field sampling plans.
- b. Develop resources for public water systems, operators, and the general public to educate and to respond to emerging contaminants.
- c. Conduct operator training on emerging contaminants.
- d. Facilitate the development of emerging contaminant response plans for public water systems where necessary.
- e. Provide resources for the provision of alternative water for public water system users impacted by emerging contaminants above the EPA's approved health advisory levels.
- f. Provide competitive grants through emerging contaminant-specific funding provided by EPA to fund public water system activities and actions to address emerging contaminants impacting the water system.

Schedule: January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

Deliverable: DEQ will submit annual grant reports to EPA.

Funding

This indicator is funded through supplemental Emerging Contaminant Funding provided by the Public Water System Supervision grant. This funding is leveraged to support operational costs associated with emerging contaminants such as sample analysis, training expenses, and associated physical resources. No FTEs are supported by this funding.

7.5 DEQ agrees to the following:

- a. Enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act and associated regulations through approval of state regulations, acceptance of state programs, and formal delegation of authority from EPA.
- b. Timely upload the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/state) data to EPA.
- c. Provide EPA with performance measure reports for the EPA health-based violation reduction effort quarterly.
- d. Implement new rules on schedule unless formal extension agreements are made according to 40 CFR 142.12.

- e. Take timely and appropriate enforcement actions to address Safe Drinking Water Act violations using the 2009 Enforcement Response Policy (ERP). Provide quarterly report on the status of public water systems identified as a priority for returning to compliance or an enforcement response. Provide copies of enforcement orders upon EPA's request.
- f. Respond to findings in the EPA annual program evaluation by addressing recommendations and implementing necessary actions as DEQ deems appropriate.
- g. Use the ETTA within the context of the ERP to assess real-time compliance issues in quarterly coordination meetings with ECAD due to the ETTA's ability to provide current compliance status versus the data lag associated with the ETT.
- h. Meet all Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) grant reporting requirements.
- i. DEQ will work with EPA toward obtaining primacy of the new PFAS rule and updated Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) rules.
- j. DEQ and EPA will coordinate to address the 2023 PWSS file review report requirements.

7.6 EPA agrees to the following:

- a. ECAD will consult with DEQ through the Drinking Water Bureau Chief before issuing any information request or taking any enforcement action against any public water system under the jurisdiction of DEQ's primacy program. After consulting DEQ, if ECAD has determined additional information is needed or ECAD will be taking an enforcement action, ECAD will contact the owner or operator of the public water system and copy DEQ on the action taken. For EPA's direct implementation of SDWA 1433 AWIA requirements, ECAD will copy DEQ on any enforcement action taken.
- b. ECAD will provide DEQ quarterly ETT performance measure results for Idaho, although ECAD recognizes that DEQ leverages ETTA data for all national compliance efforts.
- c. Both the Drinking Water Program and ECAD will submit Drinking Water Program requests for information and work tasks through the DEQ state program office only.
- d. Both the Drinking Water Program and ECAD will reduce administrative demands on the state by limiting reporting requirements to annual reports, unless noted otherwise in this PPA, and obtaining necessary reports and information from SDWIS/Fed when possible.
- e. All complaints or requests for information must be routed from EPA to DEQ's Drinking Water Bureau Chief.
- f. EPA will precoordinate with DEQ on Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 5-related contaminants with health advisories regarding sample result notification to the state, public water system, and communication regarding health advisory response for detections.
- g. The Drinking Water Program will provide rule interpretation and assistance, advance notification of training opportunities, and updates of UCMR implementation and other relevant issues.
- h. The Drinking Water Program will attend Idaho Drinking Water Advisory Committee meetings via teleconference or in person as time permits.

- i. Both the Drinking Water Program and ECAD will annually review and evaluate Idaho’s progress in implementing the provisions and requirements of this agreement and other agreements documenting delegations of responsibility from EPA to the state.
- j. ECAD may become involved in SDWA enforcement at public water systems when an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health exists (SDWA Section 1431); the state requests EPA’s enforcement support; or EPA deems that the state’s response to addressing a noncompliant public water system has not been timely or appropriate. After consultation with the state, EPA also reserves its right to consider enforcement against public water systems that are not identified as a *priority* for enforcement under the ERP where the state has not taken timely or appropriate action.
- k. ECAD will consult with DEQ through the Drinking Water Bureau Chief before finalizing any sanitary survey or inspection findings/reports that cite requirements from sections 003-010 and sections 500-560 of the “Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems” (IDAPA 58.01.08).

7.7 Safe Drinking Water Program contacts.

Idaho DEQ Contact	Phone Number
Tyler Fortunati, Drinking Water Bureau Chief	(208) 373-0140
Curtis Stoeher, Decision Support & Field Services Supervisor OpCert, SDWIS, Cap Dev	(208) 373-0542
Cassandra Lemmons, Compliance & Enforcement Supervisor	(208) 737-3871
Matt McGlynn, Drinking Water Analyst; IOC, SOC, VOC, Lead and Copper Rule, Radionuclides Rule, Public Notification	(208) 373-0120
Jami Delmore, Drinking Water Analyst; Surface Water Treatment Rules and Disinfection Byproduct Rules, Consumer Confidence Rule, RTCR, GWR	(208) 373-0174
Robyn Pedraza, Decision Support Analyst (SDWIS)	(208) 373-0111
Vacant, Capacity Development Analyst	
Elisha Fawkes, Administrative Assistant	(208) 373-0409

EPA Region 10 Contact	Phone Number
Vacant, Section Chief, Groundwater and Drinking Water, Water Division EPAA	
Peter Contreras, Section Chief, Drinking Water Enforcement, ECAD, EPA	(206) 553-6708
Stephen Fitzner, Compliance and Enforcement Measures and ETT List, ECAD	(208) 378-5764
Catelyn Jones, Idaho DWSRF Project Officer	(503) 326-3269
Vacant, SWTRs including Filter Backwash, Disinfection Byproduct Rules, Lead and Copper Rule, Operator Certification, Capacity Development	
Joe Knapik, SDWIS/Federal, Public Notification Rule, Consumer Confidence Report	(206) 553-5113
Chris Affeldt, Chemical Contaminant Rules, Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule	(206) 553-6068
Michelle Tucker, Groundwater Rule, PWSS State Coordinator, Source Water Protection Coordinator, R10 PWSS Grant Project Officer	(206) 553-1414
Cailin Bates, PFAS, LSLI, HABs	(206) 553-2851
Dianne Sands, Revised Total Coliform Rule, Groundwater Rule	(206) 553-6118