

IDAPA 58 – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

58.01.16 – WASTEWATER RULES

DOCKET NO. 58-0116-2501

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROMULGATE RULES – ZERO-BASED REGULATION (ZBR) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5220, Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency intends to promulgate a rule and desires public participation before publishing a proposed rule. This rulemaking action is authorized by Chapters 1 and 36, Title 39, Idaho Code.

METHOD OF PARTICIPATION: Those interested in participating in the negotiated rulemaking process are encouraged to attend the scheduled meeting. For those who cannot participate by attending the meeting, information for submission of written comments is provided at the end of this notice.

MEETING SCHEDULE: A negotiated rulemaking meeting has been scheduled. Any additional meeting dates will be posted at: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-information/laws-guidance-and-orders/rulemaking/wastewater-docket-no-58-0116-2501/>.

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 9:30 a.m. MT

ATTEND IN PERSON OR VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

**DEQ State Office
Conference Room A
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706**

The Teams meeting link is available at:

<https://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-information/laws-guidance-and-orders/rulemaking/wastewater-docket-no-58-0116-2501/>

The meeting location will be accessible to persons with disabilities, and language translators will be made available upon request. Requests must be made no later than five (5) business days prior to the meeting date. For arrangements contact the undersigned.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: DEQ initiated this rulemaking in compliance with [Executive Order No. 2020-01, Zero-Based Regulation \(EO 2020-01\)](#), issued by Governor Little on January 16, 2020. Pursuant to EO 2020-01, each rule chapter effective on June 30, 2020, shall be reviewed by the agency that promulgated the rule. The review will be conducted according to a schedule established by the Division of Financial Management, Office of the Governor (DFM), posted at https://adminrules.idaho.gov/forms_menu.html. This is one of the DEQ rule chapters up for review in 2025. The goal of the rulemaking is to perform a critical and comprehensive review of the entire chapter in an attempt to reduce overall regulatory burden, streamline various provisions, and increase clarity and ease of use.

DEQ is proposing updates to improve clarity, streamline compliance, and align wastewater rules with best practices in public health and environmental protection. The changes include revisions to operator requirements, such as licensure, and demonstrating technical, financial, and managerial capacity. Updated standards, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines and engineering best practices, will ensure consistency with state and national expectations.

Definitions of key terms will be clarified, and facility planning and design standards will be updated to address municipal wastewater systems, pipelines, and treatment facilities, focusing on efficiency and environmental protection. The revisions also propose to improve rules for system operations and maintenance, including emergency

preparedness and record-keeping, while simplifying the process for reviewing and approving plans and reports for both municipal and nonmunicipal systems.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RULE: The preliminary draft rule is available at: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-information/laws-guidance-and-orders/rulemaking/wastewater-docket-no-58-0116-2501/>. DEQ will facilitate negotiation of this rule in conjunction with a committee made up of stakeholders having an interest in the development of the rule. Upon conclusion of negotiations, DEQ intends to publish a proposed rule for public comment.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS: For assistance on questions concerning this rulemaking, contact Mary Anne Nelson at mary.anne.nelson@deq.idaho.gov, (208) 373-0291.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: Information regarding public comment opportunities provided throughout the rulemaking process will be available at: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-information/laws-guidance-and-orders/rulemaking/wastewater-docket-no-58-0116-2501/>.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2025.

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