



DEQ POLICY STATEMENT PS25-09

PEER REVIEW

PURPOSE

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes peer review as an important part of scientific and technical work products that are intended to support agency decisions.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Major scientific and technical work products related to agency decisions should be peer reviewed internally. Agency managers within programs and regions determine and are accountable for the decision whether to employ internal peer review and, if so, its character, scope, and timing. These decisions are made in conformance with Idaho statute, program goals and priorities, resource constraints, and statutory or court-ordered deadlines. Peer review is not restricted to the final version of work products—rather, peer review at planning, sampling, data analysis, and engineering/scientific calculation stages is extremely beneficial. This policy supersedes PS20-14.

SCOPE

This policy applies to major work products that are primarily scientific and technical in nature and may contribute to the basis for policy or regulatory decisions. This policy does not apply to the bases for past decisions, unless the relevant scientific and technical issues are reconsidered in the agency's decision-making processes.

Peer reviews should be conducted in a manner consistent with the DEQ Internal Peer Review SOP (EDMS 2016AEC5) and not cause DEQ to miss or need extension of a statutory or court-ordered deadline. Agency managers still may undertake peer review if it can be conducted concurrently with necessary rulemaking steps.

RESPONSIBILITY

DEQ's quality assurance manager is responsible for maintaining this policy and the DEQ Internal Peer Review SOP.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is effective immediately and will remain in effect for 5 years unless amended, replaced, or rescinded prior to expiration.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2025

Jess Byrne
Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality