

Water Resources Department REGULATORY STREAMLINING ACTION PLAN

REGULATORY ASSESSMENT PLAN AND/OR RESULTS

The Department has worked hard in recent years to establish a culture of regulatory streamlining. Stakeholder input has resulted in numerous Department commitments and actions, including the use of technology to expedite regulatory processes, the development of easy to understand information and regulations (forms, orders, letters, and rules), and a flexible, problem-solving approach to regulatory matters.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to develop this Regulatory Assessment Plan as a means of furthering its regulatory streamlining efforts. As we have worked to establish a culture of regulatory streamlining we have learned that streamlining is not a one-time event. Rather, it is an organizational attribute that requires constant reinforcement, monitoring, as well as continual critical evaluation to identify and implement improvements.

The Department's current means for assessing its regulations has been through interaction with its stakeholders and Rule Advisory Committees. This informal process has been extremely useful in gathering constructive input on Department rules, processes, and daily practices and for identifying success stories and areas for improvement. Many of the areas for improvement are the genesis of the streamlining projects identified in the Department's Streamlining Report.

In addition to continuing this ongoing effort, over the next six months, the Department will have programmatic subdivisions of the agency review their regulations and regulatory processes. Each section will be asked to identify streamlining opportunities and to specifically identify one streamlining activity (consistent with the Regulatory Streamlining Criteria provided by the Office of Regulatory Streamlining) that can be initiated in 2004. These activities will be added to the activities already listed in the Department's Streamlining Report.

RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE NEEDED

The Department is interested in learning about any success stories (best practices) from other regulatory and permitting agencies that can be incorporated into the Department's regulatory streamlining activities.

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