


State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**Date:** July 3, 2018  
**To:** Environmental Quality Commission  
**From:** Richard Whitman, Director   
**Subject:** Agenda item H, Informational item: Integrated Report Improvement Project  
July 11-13, 2018, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** DEQ will provide an update on the Water Quality Integrated Report Improvement Project and summarize the agency's engagement activities.

**Background** The Water Quality Integrated Report documents Oregon's biennial water quality assessments to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Sections 303(d), 305(b) and 314 reporting requirements for Oregon's water resources. DEQ is currently updating its methodology for this work.

In June 2016, DEQ convened the Integrated Report Improvement Project and assembled a cross-functional team to plan and develop a repeatable, technically-practicable strategy for completing the report.

The goals for the Integrated Report Improvement Project were to:

- Facilitate Integrated Report assessment approvals from EPA, beginning with the 2018 cycle
- Improve business processes and methodologies for assessment
- Increase access to robust water quality data for the public

**Agency action items** DEQ posted the Draft Assessment Methodology for public notice on May 1, 2018, and accepted comments on the methodologies until June 21, 2018. As part of the process, DEQ accepts data and information from the public that may be used assess the condition of Oregon's waterbodies. Concurrent with the methodology public notice, DEQ posted its statewide call for data solicitation for the 2018 Integrated Report, and will accept data through June 29, 2018. DEQ last completed a statewide call for data before the 2010 Integrated Report; therefore, DEQ will be reviewing data from a 10-year period of record, January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2017.

At the commission meeting, DEQ will describe the Integrated Report and methodology improvements and summarize feedback received. DEQ will highlight program and communication improvements made throughout the process.

**Next steps**

DEQ will assess the water quality data submitted and draft a 2018 impaired waters list, known as the 303(d) list, and status report for Oregon waters in fall 2018. DEQ will incorporate internal and external feedback into its final assessment in summer 2019 and submit its final assessment to EPA in 2019 for approval.

DEQ will make incremental process improvements for the Integrated Report and future assessments as resources allow.

**EQC involvement**

No commission action is requested at this time, but DEQ may brief the commission on the draft Integrated Report in 2019.

The commission is not required to take action on the Assessment Methodology or Integrated Report. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 468B.039) requires the commission to host a public comment period on assessment methodology, scheduled to follow this staff presentation on July 12, 2018.

Report compiled by Becky Anthony  
*Water Quality Assessment Program*