

## Proposed 2019 Hazardous Waste Fee Increase

### DEQ Hazardous Waste Program

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Hazardous Waste Program promotes reducing and safely managing hazardous waste, issues permits to waste management facilities, inspects waste generators and used oil processors, and helps small businesses comply with regulations. Oregon has approximately 500 hazardous waste generators.

The program includes four areas:

1. Technical assistance for hazardous waste generators to promote safe hazardous waste management practices and reduce the use of toxic substances
2. Compliance monitoring inspections, complaint response and enforcement of regulations that apply to businesses that generate hazardous waste
3. Permitting and compliance oversight of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities
4. Program administration including policy development and implementation, data reporting management and invoicing

### DEQ funding

Annually, DEQ receives approximately \$3.5 million from multiple sources, including various fees (79 percent), a federal grant (19 percent), and small cost recovery funds (2 percent). The program's current revenue supports 19 full-time staff and is unable to fill 3.5 staff vacancies.

Funding sources supporting the program include:

- Hazardous waste generator fees
- Hazardous waste landfill fees
- Cost recovery for certain permit and corrective action activities
- A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant

DEQ last increased hazardous waste fees in 2007 by asking the Legislature to increase the annual generator metric ton fee from \$110 to \$130, and the generator fee cap from \$27,500 to \$32,500. Before 2007, DEQ last increased the same fees in 2003 and other fees in 1998.

### DEQ funding shortfall

In recent years, the Hazardous Waste Program has experienced a decrease in revenue. Since 2004, federal grant funds declined by 7 percent. Hazardous waste landfill fees declined by 60 percent and Oregon General

Fund program allocation declined from \$1.2 million in 1999 to zero in 2015. The program has made adjustments to address the funding shortfall, such as reducing program staffing by 60 percent, reducing overhead costs through process improvements, and temporarily using emergency funding from solid waste fees. Without a fee increase, the program faces an impending deficit of \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million in 2019-2021.

### Proposal to increase fees

DEQ proposes increasing hazardous waste generator fees and hazardous waste permit fees to meet federal commitments and ensure safe management of hazardous wastes in Oregon. This rulemaking will address only part of the projected deficit. DEQ will pursue additional options later, including changes to Oregon law.

The proposed fee increase will be used to pay for current staffing levels, including vacancies. The proposal does not increase the number of staff or services.

### When?

If approved by the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission in May 2019, the new fees will start July 1, 2019, and will be phased in over six years. DEQ will invoice generators and permitted facilities at the new rate starting July 1, 2019, for waste generated during calendar year 2018, as reported to DEQ in 2019.

### More information

Visit <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Regulations/rulemaking/Pages/rhwfees2019.aspx> for more information on this proposed rulemaking.

### Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).



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### Hazardous Waste

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