

2019 Water Quality Permit Issuance Work Plan



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Water Quality

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*DEQ is a leader in restoring,
maintaining and enhancing
the quality of Oregon's air,
land and water.*

Annual permit issuance plan

In October each year, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality publishes a permit issuance work plan to identify the individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits DEQ intends to issue in the coming year.

The plan brings predictability and accountability

DEQ identified 48 permits for development in the 2019 federal fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30.) Permits are selected with the following considerations:

- results of the readiness review
- geographic location
- DEQ resources
- local priorities

In federal fiscal year 2019, DEQ plans to issue 30 of the permits identified for development. The remaining 18 are scheduled the following fiscal year.

The plan provides permit holders with a schedule of the development process. It also provides the public, permittees, and legislators with progress updates.

DEQ is committed to issue permits in accordance with the plan and to communicate with the public and permit holders if the permit issuance plan or schedule changes based on receipt of new, timely permit applications, or other workload priorities.

Standardized development process

Permits are developed using a standardized process to:

- schedule phases of permit development
- communicate expectations
- verify DEQ resources

DEQ has provided two staff who are a central point of contact for permit writers throughout the state. This model brings consistency to policy issues and permit implementation. Regional and program managers provide oversight and input about significant issues that are specific to the permit in their region.

Permit writers only work on permits and are selected based on experience, workload, and their areas of specialty.

Subject-matter experts provide each permit writer with topic-related expertise.

The permit development process begins with a review of the application and the available data. Permit writers can request additional information. Each permit undergoes an internal DEQ review process to ensure statewide consistency for similar permit-related topics. Overall, the reviewer is looking for technical and legal accuracy and policy limitations.

Throughout the development process, DEQ communicates with permit holders. DEQ provides two formal opportunities for review and comment: the applicant review and the public comment period held for minimum of 35 days.

Statewide permit development

Permit development at DEQ is a statewide effort regardless of where in the state the permit originates. For example, permit writers who are outside of the permit area will travel to conduct site visits with the regional compliance inspector. This connection enables the permit writer to learn about regional issues not included in the written permit administrative record.

Permit writers also meet regularly with regional representatives and managers to verify that the permit implemented takes into consideration local issues. Regional permit managers are responsible to sign permits to maintain familiarity with the permits in their region. When the permit is complete, regional compliance inspectors are the primary contact for permittees on permit compliance, technical assistance, and complaints.

Resources

The 2019 Water Quality Issuance work plan is available online:

www.oregon.gov/deq/permits/pages/default.aspx

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 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.