

Statewide Annual and 5-Year Permit Issuance Plans



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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 63 permits for development in the 2023 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

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 issuing permits in accordance with the plan and communicating 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.

Further, DEQ has developed a five-year plan (which includes the Statewide Permit Issuance Plan for federal fiscal year 2023) to provide additional notice to facilities and other interested parties. While DEQ intends to adhere to these plans, a degree of flexibility has been built into the plans to address potential future emerging 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.

The permit development process begins with a review of the application and the available data. Permit writers can request additional information from permittees when necessary. Following permit development each permit undergoes an internal DEQ review process for 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 reviews period and the public comment period, which is held for a 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 (when available). 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 in development takes local issues into consideration. 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 statewide annual and five-year permit issuance plans are available online:

<https://bit.ly/3rP5Uao>

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov.

Water Quality Permitting and Program Development

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