

## A Message from the Director

Greetings! Serving as DEQ's Director is a responsibility I take very seriously. I am committed to working closely with our citizens, businesses, and local governments to protect public health and Idaho's natural resources.



As the state's environmental protection agency, DEQ plays a key role in ensuring our air is pure, our water is clean, and our land is contaminant-free. This brochure is designed to provide a brief overview of the various activities DEQ conducts on a regular basis to fulfill its legislatively mandated responsibilities.

Throughout my career in public service, I have had many opportunities to observe how deeply Idahoans care about our environment. I welcome your input as we work together to protect public health and preserve Idaho's resources for generations to come.

John H. Tippetts  
DEQ Director

DEQ envisions a future for the citizens of Idaho where the quality of life is enhanced by the quality of the environment. In partnership with communities and businesses, we will assess, sustain, preserve, and enhance the quality of the environment while recognizing the need for maintaining the economic vitality of the state.

## How to Contact DEQ

### State Office:

1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0502

### Boise Regional Office:

1445 N. Orchard, Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0550 • Toll-free: (888) 800-3480

*Serving Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties*

### Coeur d'Alene Regional Office:

2110 Ironwood Pkwy., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 769-1422 • Toll-free: (877) 370-0017

*Serving Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties*

**Kellogg Superfund Project Office:** (208) 783-5781

### Idaho Falls Regional Office

900 N. Skyline, Suite B, Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 528-2650 • Toll-free: (800) 232-4635

*Serving Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties*

### Lewiston Regional Office

1118 "F" St., Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 799-4370 • Toll-free: (877) 541-3304

*Serving Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties*

**Grangeville Satellite Office:** (208) 983-0808

### Pocatello Regional Office

444 Hospital Way, #300, Pocatello, ID 83204  
(208) 236-6160 • Toll-free: (888) 655-6160

*Serving Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power Counties*

### Twin Falls Regional Office

650 Addison Ave. W, #110, Twin Falls, ID 83301  
(208) 236-6160 • Toll-free: (888) 655-660

*Serving Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls Counties*



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## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality



## Who we are and what we do

To protect human health and the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water.



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)



## Who is DEQ?

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is...

**...a state government department.** The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is DEQ's federal counterpart.

**...a regulatory agency.** DEQ has primary responsibility for enforcing the federal Clean Air and Clean Water Acts; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund); and Safe Drinking Water Act.

**...a team.** DEQ is staffed by highly skilled scientists, engineers, technicians, and administrators.

**...a partner.** DEQ works closely with a wide range of private and public sector groups, including EPA, other state agencies, the Board of Environmental Quality, local and tribal governments, businesses and industries, community organizations, and citizens.

## Four Key Responsibilities

**Monitor.** DEQ monitors air and water quality and assesses land to ensure that state and federal health-based standards are met.

**Permit.** DEQ issues permits to facilities that emit pollutants into the air, water, and soil in order to limit the pollutants to safe levels.

**Inspect.** DEQ inspects pollution sources to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and standards and, if necessary, takes enforcement action.

**Assist.** DEQ facilitates compliance with the requirements of environmental laws, rules, and regulations through education and outreach, technical guidance, and assistance.

## How DEQ Works to...

### ...Protect Air Quality

- ✓ **Monitors, collects, and analyzes air data.** Accurate data are important to ensure that we are meeting air quality standards.
- ✓ **Issues permits.** Permits limit the amount of pollutants that facilities and industries may emit into the air as a regular part of their business processes.
- ✓ **Provides technical assistance.** DEQ assists businesses, industries, and local governments in meeting regulatory requirements.
- ✓ **Coordinates air quality improvement efforts.** DEQ works with communities, agencies, and other groups to monitor and regulate widespread sources of air pollution, such as smoke and dust, that impact large geographical areas.
- ✓ **Conducts compliance and enforcement activities.** Staff regularly inspect sources of air emissions. Most facilities willingly comply with air quality regulations. When necessary, however, DEQ may conduct enforcement activities to obtain compliance.

### ...Protect Water Quality

- ✓ **Monitors, collects, and analyzes water quality data.** DEQ routinely measures and assesses levels of pollutants in rivers, lakes, and streams.
- ✓ **Develops plans to improve degraded waters.** When water quality fails to meet state water quality standards, DEQ works with communities, industry, and citizen groups to develop water quality improvement plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). These plans outline the actions needed to restore impaired water bodies to a healthy fishable, swimmable condition.
- ✓ **Protects drinking water.** Working with public health districts, DEQ helps public drinking water systems comply with state requirements, conducts sampling surveys and on-site visits, and reviews water system plans and specifications.



- ✓ **Provides grants and low-interest loans.** These loans help public drinking water and wastewater systems plan, construct, update, and maintain their facilities.
- ✓ **Provides technical assistance, issues wastewater permits, and conducts compliance enforcement activities.** Permits limit the amount of wastewater that facilities and industries may land-apply as a regular part of their operations.

### ...Manage Wastes and Cleanups

- ✓ **Oversees management of hazardous wastes.** DEQ provides technical assistance, issues permits, conducts inspections of facilities that generate hazardous waste, and takes corrective action when necessary to ensure that hazardous wastes are managed and disposed of properly and safely.
- ✓ **Oversees management of solid wastes.** In conjunction with counties and public health districts, DEQ oversees the development and operation of solid waste disposal sites.
- ✓ **Oversees cleanup of contaminated sites.** DEQ identifies contaminated sites, such as inactive mines, mine waste-contaminated areas, and properties contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks and solvents, and helps entities apply for grants to clean up contaminated sites.
- ✓ **Monitors activities at the Idaho National Laboratory.** DEQ also informs the public of how INL activities affect Idaho's environment, economy, and public health.