

DEQ: A Statewide Snapshot of Our Work

DEQ works collaboratively with all Oregonians across the state for a healthy, sustainable environment. Our work is diverse and reflects state and federal regulatory authorities, environmental needs and opportunities, statewide priorities, community interests and economic drivers.

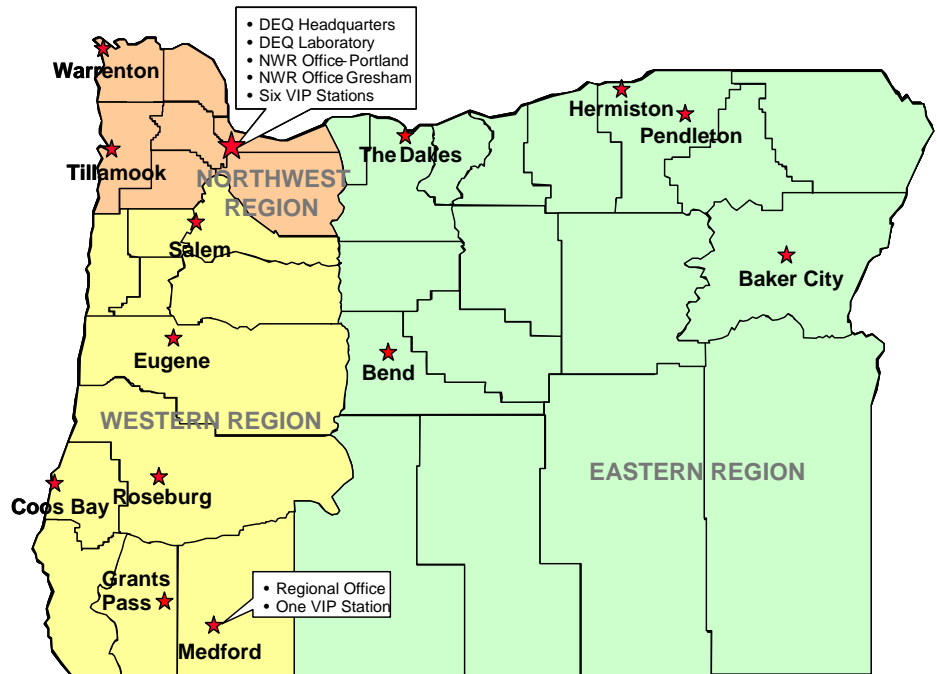


Where we work, who we are

In the early 1990s DEQ decentralized. We created regional offices around the state to better connect our employees with local citizens and organizations affected by our regulations. We currently have fifteen offices and seven vehicle inspection stations statewide.

DEQ has nearly 800 employees who issue permits, monitor environmental conditions, provide funding and technical assistance, develop policy, inspect permitted facilities and help Oregonians solve environmental problems every day. Employees include scientists, engineers, technicians, administrators, support staff and environmental specialists.

Science and environmental information are cornerstones of DEQ's credibility. We monitor the quality of Oregon's air and water at over 1,500 sites around the state and use this information to target our pollution reduction work, set permit limits, reach out to new partners, and inform citizens and policy makers about what we all can do to protect Oregon's environment today and in the future.



The people we serve

Oregon's population has been growing at a rate of about 1.2 % in recent years, with over 60% of the growth due to people moving in from other states and countries. Trends over the last decade, indicate that more

Oregonians are going to college and earning graduate degrees, median household income levels are increasing, our population is growing more ethnically diverse, and more families are speaking a language other than English at home. At the same time, more Oregonians live in poverty compared to 2000.

Population: 3.7 million
Growth since 2000: 8%
Minority population: 17%
Language other than English: 12%
High school graduates: 85%
Bachelor's degree or higher: 25%
Homeownership: 65%
Median household income: \$43,000
Minority owned businesses: 7%
Small businesses: nearly 90% of Oregon businesses employ less than 20 people

DEQ is committed to the principles of environmental justice to protect the health of all Oregonians, including traditionally underrepresented groups. DEQ is also committed to building and maintaining a diverse workforce that reflects Oregon's changing population.

Our core regulatory work

DEQ's regulatory responsibilities come from programs delegated to the state by the EPA, including the federal Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. In addition, state laws give DEQ responsibilities for protecting Oregon's air, water and land. DEQ also receives direction and guidance from the EQC, the Governor, the state legislature and the communities we serve. Our knowledge of local environmental conditions and problems drives our work as well. DEQ's *Strategic Directions* captures and reflects all of these drivers and evolves over time as environmental needs change.

Land Quality

- regulates 530 solid waste facilities/sites and 520 hazardous waste generator
- oversees cleanup of about 400 contaminated sites, and 300 UST¹ facilities/sites statewide per year
- provides over \$500,000 in grants for solid and hazardous waste reduction, recovery and reuse
- has overseen safe destruction of nearly 95,000 nerve agent weapons at UMCDP
- responds to about 920 spills and other environmental emergencies each year
- has issued 60 field citations for leaking underground tanks in 2007 so far, 88 in 2006, 118 in 2005 and 68 in 2004

Air Quality

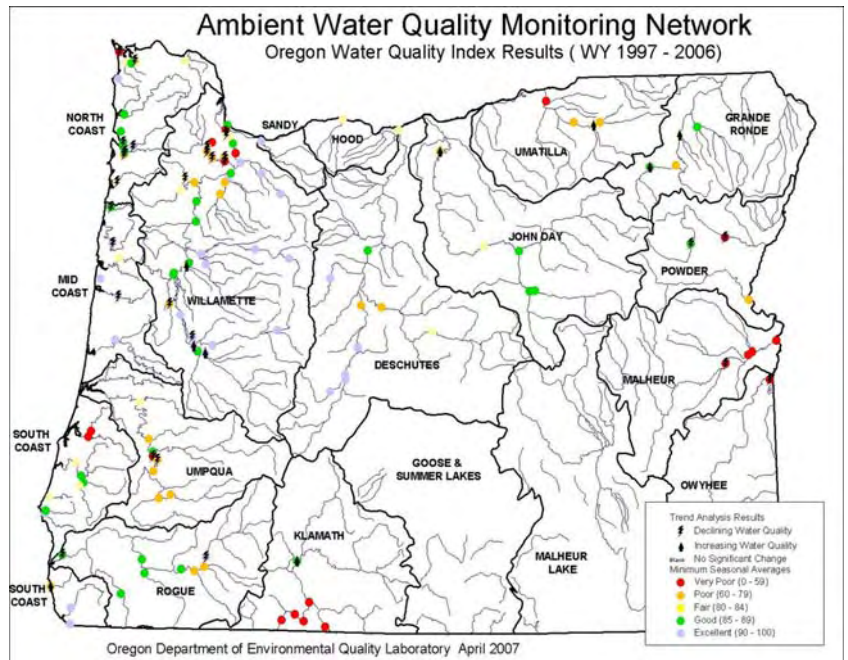
- manages about 125 Title V² permits and 1,100 ACDP³ permits
- monitors 2,500 asbestos abatement projects each year
- certifies 1,000 asbestos abatement contractors
- VIP tests over 500,000 vehicles in Portland and Medford each year
- permits 625 vapor recovery systems at gas stations
- issues about 1500 tanker truck vapor certifications
- assists over 700 large Portland area employers to meet commute trip reduction goals.

Water Quality

- manages about 4,200 NPDES⁴ permits and 450 WPCF⁵ permits
- working on over 800 TMDLs in 33 sub-basins
- provides \$4.8 million in state revolving fund loans to leverage \$24 million
- monitors Oregon's 114,000 miles of rivers, 400,000 acres of lakes, 56,000 acres of tidal wetlands, 360 miles of coastal ocean, and 206 square miles of estuaries, harbors and bays
- manages about 14,000 septic system applications per year

DEQ's Laboratory

- conducts assessments to determine status and trends, measure compliance with standards, determine sources of pollution, determine stressor/response relationships, and identify new problems
- monitors the quality of Oregon's air and water at over 1,500 stations each year, collects over 20,000 samples each year, and performs approximately 300,000 analyses each year



¹ Underground Storage Tank

² Clean Air Act Title V permits regulate large industrial sources of air pollution

³ Air Contaminant Discharge Permits regulated medium sized sources of air pollution

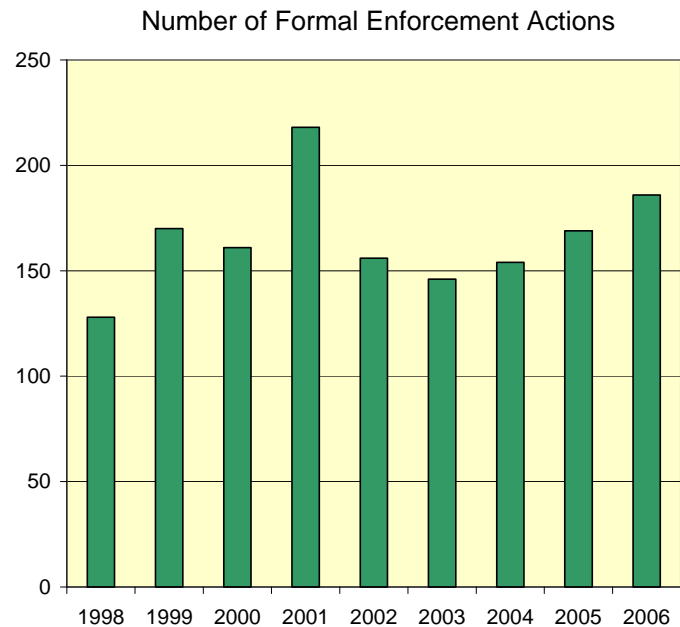
⁴ Clean Water Act National Pollution Disposal Elimination System permits regulate wastewater discharges from sewage treatment plants, pulp and paper mills and other businesses, as well as stormwater discharges

⁵ Water Pollution Control Facility permits regulate wastewater discharges to the ground, including irrigation, wastewater lagoons, onsite sewage disposal systems and underground injection control systems

Compliance and enforcement

In 2005 and 2006, DEQ revised its enforcement rules to better encourage compliance with environmental regulations, to make enforcement actions easier to understand, and to ensure that penalties are equitable and appropriately reflect the severity of each violation.

DEQ uses a combination of tools to ensure compliance including technical assistance, compliance inspections, complaint investigation, civil penalty assessment and compliance orders and public education.



Agency infrastructure



DEQ's infrastructure advances the agency's environmental work and helps employees deliver outstanding customer service. Our infrastructure is essential to help us understand and communicate changes in Oregon's environment, demonstrate the results of public funding, respond quickly to needs and opportunities, and support an effective and diverse workforce. Maintaining DEQ's infrastructure requires ongoing investments, and limited funding has often constrained our ability to optimize these critical agency functions.

Business systems development: designing, developing, implementing and maintaining computer systems

Information services: data exchange services, geographic information systems coordination, web site content management, web server administration

Employee and organization advancement: employee recruitment and hiring, internships, mentorships, performance management, health and safety, labor union relations, benefits, strategic and operational planning, process improvement activities, meeting planning and facilitation

Accounting: purchasing, contracting, invoicing, spending oversight, cost reimbursement, payroll, employee time accounting, inventory control

Budget: budget planning and implementation, program guidance, purchasing, grant management, staffing requests, position reclassification

Environmental data management: collecting and managing information, sample tracking and analysis, scientific and public reporting, interpreting technical data, quality assurance and control

