

# Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

## Annual Report

### FY2015

#### **Agency Information**

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#### **Statutory References:**

- The Environmental Quality Act, and the Industrial Development Information and Siting Act.

#### **Basic Information:**

- Number of Employees: 266
- Clients Served: The people of Wyoming, Wyoming businesses, Federal, State, local government, non-government organizations and others

#### **Budget Information:**

- The FY2015/2016 operating budget for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality is \$143M

#### **Primary Functions:**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was established by the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act and Industrial Development Information and Siting Act pursuant to W.S. §§ 35-11-101 through 2001 and W.S. § 35-12-101 through 119 respectively. As Wyoming's environmental regulatory agency, DEQ is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of delegated federal programs under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, as well as other state environmental regulatory programs.

DEQ consists of seven divisions; Air Quality, Water Quality, Solid and Hazardous Waste, Land Quality, Industrial Siting, Abandoned Mine Lands, and Administration. DEQ has 266 employees located in Sheridan, Lander, Casper, Rock Springs, Pinedale, and headquartered in Cheyenne. Together we ensure that Wyoming's natural resources are managed to maximize the economic, environmental and social prosperity of current and future generations. DEQ does this through a combination of monitoring, permitting, enforcement, remediation, and restoration activities which protect conserve and enhance the environment while supporting responsible stewardship of Wyoming's resources. Other important DEQ functions include human resources, accounting, and emergency response. Together DEQ's programs serve over 5,000 businesses operating thousands of facilities across the state.

Over the past decade, the workload of DEQ has grown. To effectively deal with that growth and the on-going environmental management requirements associated with expanding regulatory oversight from federal agencies, DEQ continually works to identify efficiency opportunities in programs. DEQ has implemented a paperless office initiative and worked with outside consultants to improve performance in targeted areas. DEQ continually looks for opportunities to re-structure programs in a manner to bring added focus to priority areas and make concerted efforts to collaborate with stakeholder groups to make the permitting process more efficient.

- **DEQ's Mission:** To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.
- **DEQ's Values:** The success of this mission requires our shared commitment to values that define and guide who we are, what we do and how we do it. These values are:

We are proactive by anticipating future impacts on Wyoming's environment and taking actions to minimize those impacts.

We are innovative by encouraging people from both inside and outside the agency to consider new approaches to protecting, preserving and enhancing a healthy environment.

We are consistent by fairly applying and implementing regulatory requirements.

We are responsive through timely and open communications with the public, the regulated community and other stakeholders who are affected by our work.

We are committed to a culture and work environment where everyone is treated respectfully, professionally developed and continuously challenged.

We are decisive and make decisions in a rigorous and timely manner supported by thorough analysis, quality data and sound rationale.

- **DEQ's Vision Statement:** The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality envisions a future where vibrant economic development and prosperity is achieved while providing sound and sensible environmental protection for the benefit of Wyoming and its citizens.

**Performance Highlights:** DEQ developed goals that describe the broad environmental responsibilities with which the various Divisions are tasked. Below, these goals have been incorporated into the department performance highlights for FY2015.

**Goal 1 – To investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites.**

DEQ investigates, remediates and restores contaminated and disturbed sites in order to protect the health, welfare and safety of Wyoming's citizens and to preserve, reclaim and enhance air, land and water resources of the state.

- The Emergency Response section received and processed 443 reported material spills in FY2015.
- In 2015 Wyoming Abandoned Mine Land (AML) reclaimed multiple coal and non-coal sites throughout the state, including work on 38 different abandoned mine sites. Approximately 374 acres were revegetated as a result of those efforts. The program continued subsidence mitigation efforts in Rock Springs and Sweetwater County with three large grouting projects.
  - An immediate response was taken at a subdivision in Gillette where structures were experiencing severe damage due to ground movement. A subsurface geophysical and drilling program was initiated in the area. Subsidence insurance was offered to the homeowners and teams were

assembled to conduct the 82 pre-policy inspections required prior to initiating a drilling program. The results of the subsurface investigation determined the structural damage was not caused by abandoned underground mines.

- The AML program completed three mine subsidence grouting projects in the Rock Springs area which stabilized 20.6 acres of highway, essential infrastructure, and residential/commercial areas.
  - Two large coal mine reclamation projects were initiated in the Reliance area. Both projects will mitigate significant impacts to Killpecker and Bitter Creeks by minimizing runoff from coal wastes entering the streams. One project, the Winton Mine Drainage, will also eliminate hazardous features immediately adjacent to a heavily used Sweetwater County Road. The second project cleaned up nearly 60 acres of coal waste on the ground surface.
  - The AML program completed the reduction of a significant highwalls located in a subdivision south of Gillette. There are other features in and around Gillette that are currently being addressed by statewide contractors.
  - The AML program is continuing efforts to reduce severe highwalls in two uranium districts in Fremont County. Both reclamation projects are multiple phases and utilize natural regrade technologies to return the areas to pre-mining land uses.
  - The AML program has initiated reclamation of numerous small and scattered non-coal sites around the state utilizing statewide contractors. This is an ongoing effort that will continue for many years.
  - The AML program continues to administer the Subsidence Insurance Program statewide. There are currently 93 active policies, most of which are in the Rock Springs area. An additional 82 policies are being issued in the Gillette area as a result of our immediate response to structural damage.
  - Due to the wet spring Wyoming AML responded to numerous subsidence issues throughout the state.
- The Air Quality Division (AQD) coordinated with the DEQ Solid and Hazardous Waste Division (SHWD) to remediate a site, located in Converse County, storing drill cuttings from oil & gas development in the area. The AQD issued a permit to incinerate the soil as part of the remediation process to control air emissions.
  - The Land Quality Division (LQD) is continually evaluating mining and reclamation to ensure that the operators are contemporaneously reclaiming the disturbed sites and placing completed reclamation back into agricultural production, wildlife habitat, and recreational use. Annual Report reviews, inspections, permit revision reviews and GIS capabilities are all avenues utilized by LQD's permit coordinators to evaluate reclamation progress and success, and disturbed areas.

Solid working relationships between the permit coordinators and operators have contributed to timely remediation or restoration of contaminated or disturbed sites with minimal enforcement action.

The LQD endeavors to investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites by coordinating with the Water Quality Division (WQD) on spill inspections and managing surface discharges at in-situ uranium mines, and managing soil salvage on well fields to enhance vegetation reestablishment prevent soil loss.

- Significant progress was made in the Hazardous Waste Program including activities under our Orphan Site Program where DEQ conducted activities at a Cody site which removed waste and contaminated soils, paving the way for the property to be reused by a pharmaceuticals company providing for significant

investments in the community. Additionally, 61 Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) activities were completed with 13 new sites entered into the VRP.

- The Storage Tank Program (STP) continued its work cleaning up contamination resulting from petroleum storage tanks leaks around the state. The total number of contaminated sites in Wyoming was 1,616 and 1,185 have been remediated. The remaining sites are either in the process of being cleaned up or awaiting remediation. There are 16 sites remaining to be placed into a remediation project.

Goal 2 - To collect, manage and monitor the environmental data needed to accomplish agency responsibilities.

DEQ continues to strive for excellence in developing and maintaining scientifically based and quality controlled data to support the DEQ's diverse programs, activities and regulatory responsibilities.

- Throughout FY2015, the Air Quality Division (AQD) Monitoring Section focused on operating and maintaining an effective and efficient network of ambient air quality monitors. To do so the Monitoring Section continually employs efficient use of available staff and fiscal resources in conjunction with identifying monitoring priorities. Network changes during FY15 include: addition of long-term monitoring in Converse County, restart of temporarily decommissioned NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring in the southern Powder River Basin, and planning for movement of two mobile trailers (Converse County mobile to Newcastle and Lovell to Torrington). Ambient monitoring data for 122 AQD ambient monitors was quality assured and submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a timely fashion by the Monitoring Section in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations as well as the DEQ-EPA Performance Partnership Agreement. In addition, the 2014 AQD Data Certification was completed prior to May 2015 and the 2015 AQD Network Plan was completed prior to July 2015 in accordance with the DEQ-EPA Performance Partnership Agreement. The ambient monitoring reflects compliance with all ambient air quality standards. Ozone monitoring within the Upper Green River Basin Ozone Nonattainment area shows attainment with national ambient air quality ozone standard for the 2012-2014 calendar year period.
- Throughout FY2015, the Emissions Inventory Section completed quality assurance and emissions inventory entry for all inventory formats (major, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), minor, oil and gas {Upper Green River Basin [annual and winter] and Southern Powder River Basin}, smoke management, greenhouse gases) into the respective databases for inventories to meet EPA and State reporting requirements as well as the DEQ-EPA Performance Partnership Agreement.
- The AQD compliance section has a testing program for engine emissions. During FY2015, the engine testing staff tested over 100 engines with portable analyzers. When an engine exceeded its permit limitations, the Division required the company to re-test the engine with an EPA Reference Method test. The engine testing program is committed to ensuring adherence with environmental standards and requirements. The Division carefully tracked the results of follow-up Reference Method testing. When needed, AQD exercised compliance assistance and enforcement measures to return the facility to compliance. The engine testing program also incorporates state-wide training of facility operators regarding the proper maintenance and operation of their engines. The compliance program also samples and monitors demolition and renovation projects for the presence of asbestos. These sampling and analytical procedures protect the environment and public health, and also ensure adherence with federal environmental standards and requirements.
- The Land Quality Division's (LQD) IT initiatives include the new Mining Information Database System (MIDAS) database, new electronic records center, new inspection application and a new electronic permitting system. The database and inspection application have been completed and are in full use. The

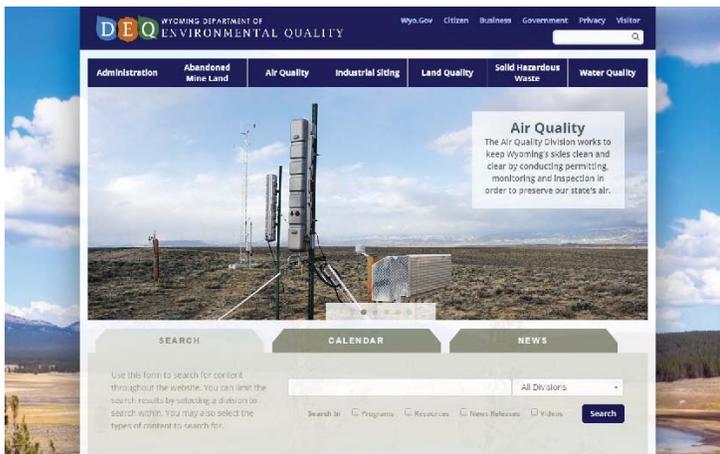
electronic records center is nearly completed, and the electronic permitting system is currently in various phases of testing. All components of LQD's IT initiatives will be developmentally completed by December 31, 2015, with system improvements and streamlining occurring with ongoing system maintenance.

- A very specific and noteworthy accomplishment that has been developed over the course of years, and continues to be improved and streamlined is managing the tremendous amount of data from one of the nation's largest coal mines. The North Antelope Rochelle Coal Mine (NARM) has over 57,000 permitted acres and produces over 100 million tons of coal per year. The large size of NARM creates a challenge for the LQD in collecting required information, conducting compliance evaluations during monthly inspections and verifying specific criteria for bond release purposes. Due to the large size of the mine and the dynamic changes of the mining activity, it was important to develop a workable system to help the LQD inspector verify compliance with regulatory requirements and permit commitments. It also became apparent that a system was needed to track verification of completion of various stages of reclamation requirements and associated bond release. A system addressing both concerns was developed using a combination of GPS and GIS technology. The creation of an electronic geodatabase to track reclamation activities and assess permit and regulatory compliance was jointly developed by the LQD and Powder River Coal Company.

Goal 3 - To apply environmental standards and requirements that protect the environment while allowing for responsible economic development.

It is the philosophy of DEQ to most effectively utilize the human resources available to both the applicant and the regulatory authority to achieve more efficient, more effective permitting.

- The new DEQ Website was completed on 12/19/14. The new website includes enhanced public notice and press release feeds, easier staff management of website content, consistency for look and feel across all agency web pages, better management of agency public documents, a calendar system that is tied to Google, and enhanced search capabilities.



- The *Upper Green River Basin (UGRB) Ozone Strategy* dated March 11, 2013 described DEQ's overall ozone reduction strategy. As the strategy evolves, the document evolves as well, approximately every six months. DEQ updated the overall strategy and released an *UGRB Ozone Strategy* dated October 21, 2014, followed by a further revised *UGRB Ozone Strategy* dated April 28, 2015 that will continue through September 2015. The completion of elements from the Ozone Strategy are all important in continuing to build the foundation to help bring the UGRB back into ozone attainment. For example, monitoring of ozone, oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), at long-term stations as well as

short-term locations during Upper Green Winter Ozone Studies, aids in understanding the benefits of ozone precursor emission reductions on ozone formation. Ozone monitoring within the Upper Green River Basin Ozone Nonattainment area shows that we have gone four winters (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) without an ozone exceedance and the monitoring shows attainment with the national ambient air quality ozone standard for the 2012-2014 calendar year period.

- IMPACT permitting software development has continued on schedule and within budget during FY15. Development tasks in the fiscal year include the following new features in IMPACT: New Source Review (NSR) and Title V application and permit enhancements, support for compliance reports on the Portal, a model data extraction tool, correspondence data migration, legacy capability for stack tests and compliance reports, XML import/export for reporting data to EPA, Portal cloning tools, incorporation of delegation of authority e-Signer role, and support for towns and counties in the Correspondence module.

In addition, increased focus has been placed on implementation of the developed modules in NSR Permitting, Title V Permitting, Compliance/Enforcement, and Emissions Inventory. During the fiscal year, the Air Quality Division (AQD) has completed many milestones using IMPACT, including: final issuance of 620 NSR permits, electronic submission and internal review of 232 compliance reports and 239 stack tests, and submission and internal review of 138 Title V facility emission inventories. Fourteen training sessions for industry and consultants were held, which resulted in 149 Portal users provisioned in IMPACT.

- A total of 1304 AQD permit actions were completed in FY15. In an effort to increase the efficiency of air permit issuance and to continue to work towards becoming a paperless operation, the development of the permitting modules in IMPACT are moving forward.

The NSR (construction) permitting module has been in use since September 2, 2014. The first permit waiver was issued electronically on October 28, 2014. The Title V (operating) permitting module has been in use since March 25, 2015. Four Title V permit applications have been submitted by industry users in FY15.

- Under the Cease and Transfer Program, in conjunction with Office of State Lands and Investment, the department evaluated and awarded funding for 7 Transfer Stations and 3 Landfill Closures for a total of \$12.8 million dollars. DEQ will continue to work with local communities to assist them in evaluating options for waste disposal. The Landfill Remediation Program is in the early implementation stages and DEQ anticipates significant progress within the next year. Additionally, the Solid Waste Permitting Program reviewed, evaluated and approved 38 permitting actions.
- The Water and Wastewater (WWW) Section Construction Permitting program issued 511 permits during fiscal year 2015. The Construction Permitting program completed 97.5% of the in-house review periods in 60 days or less. Permits took an average of 50.5 days total to issue, with each in-house action taking an average of 20 days. The Construction Permitting program also reviewed 13 subdivision plans, and issued 2 adverse recommendations and 11 non-adverse recommendations.
- The Wyoming Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs provide assistance to communities to help them finance sewage systems, landfills and drinking water systems. The programs regularly partner with other Wyoming and federal programs to round out funding packages. These programs and agencies include Wyoming Mineral Royalty Grants, Wyoming Joint Powers Act Loans, Wyoming Water Development Commission, Wyoming Business Council and USDA Rural Development.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program has made 163 loans for more than \$435M in awards and currently has more than \$76M available. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program has made 167 loans for more than \$216M in awards and currently has more than \$83M available. This has been a tremendous aid to Wyoming communities to address their infrastructure needs, but there is still more work to do. Currently Wyoming communities' estimated needs include \$213M for wastewater treatment/point source projects, \$291M for drinking water projects and \$275M for nonpoint source-projects that the State Revolving Fund programs could assist.

Both programs continued to receive federal capitalization grants with an approximate 17 percent decrease from both of last year's drinking water and clean water grants. Both capitalization grants continue to require an additional subsidization set aside and a green project set aside is required for clean water. The State Revolving Fund programs offer the lowest interest rates to communities in Wyoming.

- The Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WYPDES) Section permits the discharge of wastewater effluents via point sources into surface waters of the state. These permits contain limits on the quality of the discharge based on in-stream conditions and standards, and establish self-monitoring and reporting requirements for the permittees. The WYPDES section also has an independent compliance and monitoring unit which insures compliance with permit conditions. There are currently 831 active individual WYPDES permits 1,961 active authorizations to discharge under "general" WYPDES permits. These numbers represent an 8% decrease in individual permits due to a decline in coal bed methane and a 7% increase in general permit authorizations over 2014.

During this fiscal year, the WYPDES Permitting Program put into production the nForm System. This system allows permittees to electronically submit Notices of Intents (application forms) for most WYPDES general permits. The nForm System complies with EPA's existing Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Rule (CROMERR) by providing a legal framework for electronic signatures and provides routine notifications to the permittee on the status of the issuance of the permit. The system will also address EPA's proposed NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule. The WYPDES Program is currently rolling out the system to small increments of users and will begin fully utilizing the system in October 2015 with the reissuance of the General Permit for Discharges Associated with Pesticides.

The WYPDES Permitting program continues to strive to efficiently issue new permits and reissue existing permits. The program consistently surpasses our goal associated with issuing timely permits. The program has also been working to track CBM reservoir bonding and reclamation activities. Internal processes and tracking systems have been enhanced to ensure that the appropriate bonds are collected when the permits are renewed or transferred.

*Goal 4 - To ensure adherence with environmental standards and other requirements.*

In administering compliance programs, DEQ staff will strive to develop an atmosphere and culture where the regulated community and general public work together to achieve a mutually beneficial result where all environmental standards and laws are attained.

- Throughout FY2015, the Air Quality Division (AQD) Planning Section participated monthly in State agency pre-meetings and cooperator National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) meetings. In addition, the Planning Section participated in individual NEPA project and resource management plan meetings and teleconferences and prepared timely comments on NEPA documents, all where air is a specific topic, in accordance with established deadlines. Maintaining good communication within DEQ as well as with the

Governor's staff is a priority on an ongoing basis.

- During FY2015, the AQD compliance program performed 895 site inspections and including 140 asbestos inspections, and 160 well-site inspections. Compliance staff have also conducted numerous reconnaissance inspections and complaint investigations during this same period. The purpose of the inspections is to observe plant operation and maintenance, air pollution control devices, emissions records, and pertinent environmental documentation for the facility, to compare with permit and regulatory requirements. Compliance staff also provide compliance assistance to facilities to improve adherence with environmental standards and other requirements. Inspections regularly include meeting with facility staff on site, a written report to the facility staff and ownership, and post-inspection discussions regarding compliance assistance (and as needed return visits to the plant) to help the facility attain compliance.

The AQD compliance program utilizes informal and formal enforcement to ensure adherence with environmental standards and other requirements. Informal enforcement (e.g., Letters of Violation) alert companies to potential areas of noncompliance. The Letters of Violation encourage dialogue between AQD Compliance staff and the regulated community to encourage and expedite a return to compliance. Formal enforcement (i.e., Notice of Violation Letters) includes settlement meeting(s), normally a civil penalty, and sometimes a supplemental environmental project. Formal enforcement encourages companies to return to compliance as quickly as possible and encourages a more proactive approach among companies to remain in compliance (e.g., self-audits, leak detection and repair, dust control action plans). AQD Compliance issued 81 (and settled 49) NOV Letters during FY2015.

- From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, Land Quality Division (LQD) performed approximately 331 inspections on the coal mines across Wyoming, and performed approximately 420 inspections on noncoal mines across Wyoming. From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, LQD issued four Notices of Violation to coal mines and issued 16 Notices of Violation to non-coal mines.
- The Water Quality Division (WQD) works hard to maximize general public and stakeholder involvement in water quality projects. Over the past year, the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program has provided a good example of how the WQD works with stakeholders and the public to develop projects, provide information, and incorporate their thoughts and concerns into the TMDL process.
  - WQD staff and the consultant for the Salt River/Stump Creek TMDL project worked closely with the Star Valley Conservation District on public and stakeholder involvement. Three public meetings were held to provide information about the project, address public and stakeholder concerns, discuss the finished TMDL, and lay the groundwork for a future water quality improvement project. Monthly Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings were held to keep stakeholders informed on the progress of the TMDL, and to address their thoughts and concerns as the project evolved. Individual meetings were held with stakeholders to collect information and address concerns. When the TMDL was completed, no comments were submitted during the forty-five day public comment period; and the EPA sent a letter expressing their support for the document. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the public outreach strategy of the project.
  - A similar public involvement strategy is being used in the Bitter/Killpecker Creek TMDL Project. One public meeting has been held to inform the public of the goals of the project, and monthly TAC meetings have been held to keep stakeholders up to date on the progress of the project. Presentations have been given to both the Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCD) board, and to the Bitter Killpecker Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG). Individual stakeholder

meetings and phone calls have been made with the BLM, City of Rock Springs, and Rock Springs Grazing Association to collect information about pollution sources within the watershed. These interactions are developing productive working relationships that will result in approvable TMDLs and successful water quality improvement projects.

- Public and stakeholder involvement in the Middle Fork Crow Creek TMDL project has consisted of a meeting with the Pole Mountain Grazing Association, Laramie County Conservation District (LCCD), and the USFS. Project personnel have worked closely with LCCD, WGFD, and USFS on sampling and data collection; and a Public Involvement Plan similar to the Salt River is being developed.
  - Other TMDL program outreach efforts have been to meet with stakeholders to outline a path forward for impaired waterbodies. Meetings were held with the Popo Agie Conservation District (PACD) and Platte County Conservation District (PCRD) to discuss strategies for assessing water quality on the Middle Fork Popo Agie River, Rock Creek, and Wheatland Creek. Those projects will proceed with a high level of stakeholder involvement with conservation district personnel performing water quality sampling and public outreach.
- The Water and Waste Water (WWW) Regulatory/Enforcement program has responsibilities for drinking water, sewage, and Commercial oilfield wastewater disposal facilities (COWDF). The program's responsibilities include inspecting sites, meeting with responsible parties, negotiating actions, directing corrective measures, pursuing formal enforcement, and calculating and collecting penalties. In most instances, enforcement actions are successfully resolved through proactive and collaborative actions with responsible parties.

During the past year, the Regulatory/Enforcement program has successfully resolved three enforcement actions with six open enforcement actions remaining as of July 31, 2015. With this in mind, there are three open enforcement actions that have long term resolutions already in place. The Regulatory/Enforcement program has initiated monthly meetings with the Water Quality Administrator and Attorney General Representative to review and keep abreast of enforcement actions within the WWW Section.

- The Operator Certification program is responsible for licensing Wyoming's water and sewage operators. The program is experiencing continued success by implementing a paperless electronic program using an internet accessible database. Approximately 73% of Wyoming water and sewage operators are making use of the paperless database system. This percentage will continue to increase. All active operators will have had to log in to renew their licenses within the last three years. Inactive operators that have not yet requested access (the remaining 27%) will be switched to inactive status during the 2015 archiving cycle. Database functionality for district engineers reporting and querying facility configurations was improved. 858 licenses (611 operators) were up for renewal at the end of 2014, and 72% of them renewed successfully. The 2015 Audit resulted in the loss of no certifications out of 54 operators audited. We have re-written the instructions for operators and facility administrators and posted them online to aid them with using the database.
- For FY2015, Wyoming Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WYPDES) completed a total of 831 inspections. 86% of the facilities inspected in FY2015 were in compliance.

- WYPDES issued 109 Notice of Violations to companies who had failed to pay fees owed for permits. WYPDES was actually able to recoup about 70% or \$42,000.00 of money owed from past fees. Those fees not collected were generally expired storm water permits or fees owed from completed construction sites where the company failed to terminate the permit. Any remaining permits that were not paid for were put through the public notice process and terminated.

A new inspection process incorporating a Panasonic Data Tablet went into production in the spring of 2015. This process incorporates a field tablet to capture data (to include GPS points and photos) then uploads (synchs via wireless) into the WYPDES data base which provides a better and consistent inspection process for the inspection staff, and has expedited the production of the final inspection report. With this new tool and process the inspection staff have an improved process to capture the required data for specific inspection types, storing the data, and uploading into the WYPDES data base with less chance for transcription error. Once the information is stored in WYPDES the inspection report is about 80% complete and the inspector then provides final details for completion and submittal for approval, thus expediting the report turnaround time of report production.

- Under the Industrial Siting Division, Simplot Phosphates, LLC began construction of its Rock Springs Ammonia Facility in Sweetwater County on July 28, 2014. The facility is constructing a production plant, related utilities, and offsite facilities to produce up to 600 short tons per day of anhydrous ammonia in a single production train. The plant will be constructed adjacent to the existing Simplot Phosphate Fertilizer Complex on private land located five miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. Construction is anticipated to continue through the third quarter of 2016. Construction manpower is anticipated to peak at 460 workers during the first quarter of 2016. Simplot was issued an Industrial Siting Council permit for the facility on July 14, 2014.

Goal 5 - To develop a clear, concise and consistent regulatory framework.

The development of a regulatory framework that regulated entities and the public can understand is key to efficient regulation.

- The Air Quality Division (AQD) developed new regulations for existing oil and gas production facilities and compressor stations located in the Upper Green River Basin ozone nonattainment area. The new regulation has increased the total page count of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR) by nine (9) pages. Despite the minor increase in page count, the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Rule Development Section continues to review air quality regulations for reduction and/or streamlining opportunities.

A total of five (5) SIPs were submitted in a timely manner to EPA from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Two (2) unique rule packages were also initiated and, or completed during this timeframe. The Revision 24 rule package became effective on June 30, 2015. Once the Revision 25 rule package is officially adopted by the State, two (2) additional SIPs will be submitted to the EPA for approval.

- As part of Governor Matt Mead's Streamlining Rules Initiative, the Regulatory/Enforcement program assisted with the streamlining efforts on WWQR Chapters 2 and 6, for Wyoming Pollution Elimination Discharge System (WYPDES). The Regulatory/Enforcement program also presented Chapters 11 and 21, for the Water and Waste Water (WWW) Section, to the Water and Waste Advisory Board (WWAB) on July 25, 2014 and to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) on January 14, 2015. The WWAB and EQC approved both rule packages, which became effective on March 23, 2015.

The Regulatory/Enforcement program revised Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations (WWQRR) Chapters 15 and 25, which were presented and passed by the WWAB on July 25, 2014. The proposed changes were then presented to the EQC in July 2015, where the revisions have been tabled for another meeting of the EQC in early 2016.

The Regulatory/Enforcement program also assisted with and presented a streamlining package for WWQRR Chapters 8, 13, 16, and 27, for the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. This rule package was presented to the WWAB on October 24, 2014 and to the EQC on July 8, 2015. This rule package is currently under review by the Legislative Service Office and Governor's office. We expect them to become effective in September 2015.

Lastly, the Regulatory/Enforcement program assisted the Underground Injection Control program with updating WWQRR Chapter 24. We assisted with the revisions which were presented to the WWAB on May 7, 2015. We are working on additional suggestions from EPA Region 8 and have plans to present to the WWAB again in September 2015.

Goal 6 – To develop and maintain an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

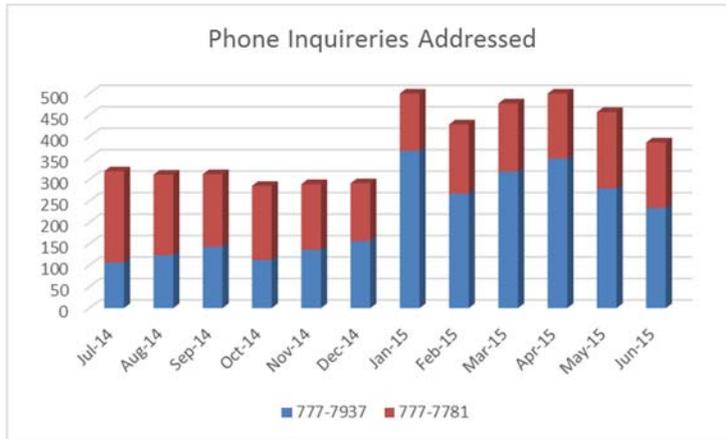
DEQ is committed to developing and maintaining an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

- The Air Quality Division (AQD) continues to look for ways to provide for and improve professional development opportunities for staff. The AQD initiated a program to help train and mentor new hires in FY15 (nearly 20% of the staff in the agency). Significant time is spent recruiting and training new staff to fill vacancies while meeting ongoing work demands.

Goal 7 - To administer and manage the resources of the agency in a responsible manner.

DEQ is committed to managing its resources in the most efficient and effective manner.

- The Audit and Accounting section manages federal grants, as well as Abandoned Mine Land pass through projects. The program also has fiscal contract management responsibility for over 300 contracts at any given time, and processes over 4,000 contract payment requests each year. The program processes over 30,000 fiscal documents per year and maintains an inventory of agency assets exceeding \$2.2 million dollars.
- The Pollution Prevention Program recognized 2 environmental stewards with formal recognition with two additional awards planned and being worked currently. The Wyoming Environmental Stewardship Program is also being revamped to reach a broader audience and recognize more businesses that are voluntarily reducing their impacts to the environment.
- DEQ remains a highly contacted agency from the public, other state and federal agencies, and interest groups. During FY2015, DEQ received and processed 4666 phone calls.



- Since September 1, 2013 until August 27, 2015, DEQ has received and responded to over 833 record requests.
- The Water Quality Division (WQD) Laboratory conducted an internal review of operations that included laboratory staff work assignments, purchasing procedures, and equipment service contracts. This review lead to changes in staff work assignments in an effort to equalize the workload of the laboratory staff and streamline the purchasing of laboratory supplies. Instrument service agreements were consolidated for multiple instruments from a single manufacturer. In addition, the WQD laboratory is working on a laboratory information management system (LIMS) improvement project which will eliminate an older results database. The LIMS improvement project will also produce reports, transfer data to other departmental databases and help in scheduling samples for analysis resulting in greater efficiencies in the laboratory.
- The Program Manager for the Watershed Protection Section and the Laboratory Supervisor held several fact finding meetings to develop a scope of work for the performance audit. In addition the Program Manager and the Laboratory Supervisor attended a national conference and training courses to assess the universe of possible contractors as well as to determine the skills need to conduct the performance audit. Attendance at the national conference and courses was particularly helpful in interacting with state assessors that are recognized as Accrediting Bodies under the National Environmental Laboratory Accrediting Program (NELAP) and gaining a better understanding of the accreditation process. The scope of work will be revised based on information gathered at these events. The anticipated completion of the performance audit is April 29, 2016.

## Department of Environmental Quality

