

FY 2014 Annual Report

Submitted

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By

Wyoming Department of
Environmental Quality

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

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Other Locations: Casper, Lander, Rock Springs, Sheridan and Pinedale

Statutory References: The Environmental Quality Act, and the Industrial Development Information and Siting Act.

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

Budget Information: The FY2013/14 operating budget for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality is \$233M of which \$65M are in general funds.

WYOMING

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Annual Report

FY 2014

Quality of Life Result

Wyoming natural resources are managed to optimize the economic, environmental and social prosperity of current and future generations.

Department

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Contribution to Wyoming Quality of Life

This agency contributes to Wyoming's quality of life through a combination of monitoring, permitting, enforcement and restoration/remediation activities which protect, conserve and enhance the environment while supporting responsible stewardship of our state's resources.

Basic Facts

This agency has 267 employees and operates with a FY 13/14 budget of \$233 million of which \$65 million were provided by the state general fund.

Introduction

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 1904 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 267 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.

Goals

DEQ developed goals that describe the broad environmental responsibilities with which the various Divisions are tasked.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

Air Quality Division

The Air Quality Division (AQD) is responsible for the protection and preservation of the ambient air in the State of Wyoming. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants (particulate matter, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, lead) that are designed to protect public health. The AQD implements four major programs and utilizes state regulations to guarantee state primacy and to maintain attainment of Wyoming ambient air quality standards (WAAQS) and EPA's NAAQS. The four major programs of AQD include permitting, compliance and inspections, resource management, and regulation development.

Challenges of Division

The AQD faces challenges protecting the ambient airshed in Wyoming for the health and welfare of its citizens. It is the largest of the three environmental media (air, water, land) that the WDEQ must protect and it has a complex chemistry that is constantly affected by changes in weather and anthropogenic influences globally. Both the state and the federal regulations set limits on the amount of man-made pollution that can be emitted to the atmosphere. Because of these factors, the AQD's greatest challenge remains in understanding how air pollution affects ambient air and importantly, how to effectively communicate challenges with the public and the media.

A second challenge is the rate at which air regulations have evolved and continue to change, especially in the last few years. There are an increasing number of federal regulations being proposed and finalized by EPA and this increased rate of change has created backlogs at the federal level which trickle down to the states. Regulatory change at the federal level creates an obligation by states to revise their regulations so that a subsequent State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittal can be made in a timely fashion to the EPA for approval. The Agency continues to work with EPA to address their backlog.

Achievements of Division

AQD has achieved a great deal despite the challenges that it faces. AQD is a leader in the early development of guidance and regulations that directly affect the oil and gas industry. On more than one occasion, EPA has sought technical input from AQD during development of New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the oil and gas industry. In contrast, the EPA recently finalized the latest 8-hour ozone standard (75 ppb) and is proposing to revise this standard in the year 2015. Many of the ozone precursor emission thresholds listed in the NSPS and the compliance methods described therein duplicate Wyoming's oil and gas Best Available Control Technology (BACT) guidance that has been in use for years in the Upper Green River Basin's (UGRB) ozone nonattainment area. Wyoming continues to be a leader in controlling emissions of NO_x and VOC, the precursors to the formation of ozone.

AQD continues to aggressively work to address the ozone nonattainment area in the UGRB. Much of the progress that has been made is well ahead of federal deadlines. The UGRB was officially designated as "marginal" nonattainment on July 20, 2012. This set the regulatory timeline to attain the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) by December 31, 2015. Leading up to the 2012 designation, AQD was already putting VOC and NO_x reduction strategies in place as early as 2008 through guidance and a cooperative effort with the public and the oil and gas industry. This strategy has provided for a balanced approach to protecting the environment through lowering

emissions, while allowing for responsible oil and gas development consistent with the Governor's Energy Strategy.

AQD continues to work hard to provide good customer service and keep pace with the tremendous growth of the energy industry as well as the associated increase of air pollution. For example, permits are still being processed efficiently. In order to become even more efficient, both the New Source Review (NSR) and Title V Operating permit programs performed a kaizen analysis in 2012. There has been an increase in ambient monitoring in both the number of stations deployed and the pollutants measured statewide. The amount of data that needs to be managed from these monitors and the emissions inventory that is reported to the Division from industry has grown substantially. AQD is developing the IMPACT system, which is an information management, permitting, and electronic report submission system. IMPACT is being designed to help manage the facility information needed to efficiently issue permits, track compliance, and manage emissions data reported by industry. Lastly, AQD presence in the field has continued to increase. The Compliance Monitoring Strategy (CMS), which represents the number of inspections the Division commits to annually with the EPA, has continued to grow. The CMS is comprised of major (Title V) and minor sources. The Division continues to meet or exceed this commitment annually.

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

The AQD responsibilities is in a support role, when necessary. Sometimes the site remediation technique(s) to be employed can result in emissions of air pollutants to the atmosphere, such as with an air stripper. Depending on the type and quantity of these air emissions, an air quality permit may be required. Otherwise, no authorization of activities or oversight by the AQD is typically needed.

The AQD coordinated with the DEQ S&HWD 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 of VOCs and certain HAPs.

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

The AQD strives to monitor, collect, and evaluate data statewide so that compliance with the EPA mandated National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) is attained. One way this is done is through the operation of a statewide ambient air monitoring network, that operates according to EPA federal reference methods to assure data is collected accurately and consistently. The monitoring network has been developed and modified through time according to the Division's Network Assessment that is reviewed at least every five years. The review is part of the ongoing partnership with the EPA to ensure adequate ambient air monitoring data in Wyoming is collected.

Another way air data is collected is through the Emission Inventory reporting program. This data is reported to the AQD by industrial and commercial sources statewide and in accordance with the conditions in their air permit or other federal and state requirements. Statewide, the emission inventory is collected annually for major sources of emissions and every three years for minor sources. In the

Upper Green River Basin (UGRB) ozone nonattainment area, the emission inventory is collected annually for all sources of emissions.

- *Data collected from the ambient monitoring network and the emission inventory programs will be quality assured and uploaded into DEQ and EPA's data systems in a timely manner and in accordance with the DEQ-EPA Performance Partnership Agreement. Much of this data is also available on the DEQ website and is accessible by the public.*
- *NAAQS compliance will be assessed to ensure attainment status is maintained. For areas in nonattainment, work will focus on bringing the area back into attainment.*

Ambient Monitoring

Throughout FY14, the 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 consideration of available staff and fiscal resources as well as monitoring priorities. Network changes during FY14 include: relocation of two mobile monitors (Big Piney to Sinclair, Rock Springs to Lovell), decommissioning Wyoming Range, Big Piney transition to a long-term station, decommissioning Cloud Peak, and planning to add a long-term Converse County station. Ambient monitoring data for 114 AQD ambient monitors was quality assured and submitted to EPA in a timely fashion by the Monitoring Section in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations and the DEQ-EPA Performance Partnership Agreement. In addition, the 2013 AQD Data Certification was completed in May 2014 and the 2014 AQD Network Plan was completed prior to July 2014 in accordance with the DEQ-EPA Performance Partnership Agreement. During FY14, the look and feel of AQD monitoring website (www.wyvisnet.com) and underlying structure were enhanced, which resulted in a more modern and reliable website to view near real-time and historical air quality data around Wyoming. The ambient monitoring reflects compliance with all ambient air quality standards with the exception of ozone in the Upper Green River Basin Ozone Nonattainment Area.

Emissions Inventory

Throughout FY14, the Emissions Inventory Section completed quality assurance and emissions inventory entry for all inventory formats (major, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), minor, oil and gas, 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. A Query Wizard was developed and came online at the end of FY14, to allow users to obtain quality assured actual emissions inventory data without the need to submit a formal information request to the AQD.

Compliance&Enforcement

The compliance section does not have a role in setting up state-wide monitors; it does collect, scrutinize, and assess ambient air quality and emissions data. The compliance section does also have a monitoring program: the engine emission testing program. Last year the engine testing staff monitored 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. To protect the environment and public health and to ensure adherence with environmental standards and requirements, the Division carefully followed up on the results of Reference Method tests. If the emission testing did not comply with the permit limitations, AQD exercised compliance assistance and enforcement measures to return the facility to compliance. 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.

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

AQD continues to look for ways improve the air permitting process in both the New Source Review (NSR) and the Title V Operating programs. This is important so that the rate of permit issuance can keep pace with the demand for air permits, especially from the energy industry. There are a number of ways that AQD strives to do this. The first is to incorporate any streamlining efforts that became apparent from the aforementioned Kaizen events. The second is to complete timely regulatory and guidance revisions so that energy development can move forward. And third, continue with the development and implementation of the IMPACT project to incorporate certain processing aspects of the permit application and permit drafting/issuance steps into this new electronic system.

- *The Response Teams is targeting completion of revisions to the BACT Guidance and the Ozone Strategy by October 2013.*
- *The IMPACT system is currently being developed utilizing a contractor and staff input. The target date to develop baseline functionality is June 2014. Additional features will be developed after June 2014 to retire legacy data systems.*

Ozone Strategy

An Upper Green River Basin (UGRB) Ozone Strategy dated March 11, 2013 described DEQ's overall ozone reduction strategy and evolved to an **UGRB Ozone Strategy** dated September 24, 2013. The strategy continued to evolve to an **UGRB Ozone Strategy** dated April 22, 2014 and continued through September 2014. The completion elements from the Ozone Strategy are all important in continuing to build the foundation to bring the UGRB back into ozone attainment. For example, the updated Oil & Gas Best Available Control Technology (BACT) Guidance for the UGRB nonattainment area is directed at lowering allowable emissions rates, with stricter emission control requirements for new and modified facilities located in the UGRB.

IMPACT

IMPACT development continued on schedule such that the expectations and goals set in January 2013 were met by the end of June 2014. System development and associated data migrations are complete through IMPACT 4.5, which includes features for every program in the AQD with high level descriptors as follows: New Source Review Permitting, Title V Permitting, Compliance/Enforcement, and Emissions Inventory. All of these features include portal functionality with e-signature capabilities as well as internal and external workflow. Development continues but at a much slower pace in FY15. Internal and external implementation will take place in FY15.

As of the end of FY14, the total permit actions that have been completed equals 1509. 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 developed, and has been in the implementation phase as of September 3, 2014. The first permit waiver was issued electronically, including e-signature, on October 28, 2014. The Title V (operating) permit module is in the final stages of development and is anticipated to be ready for implementation prior to the end of FY2015.

Goal 4 to AQD – To ensure adherence with environmental standards and other requirements.

The AQD has an inspection and compliance program with staff located in five District Offices statewide. Facility site inspections are conducted to promote compliance with permit conditions and regulatory requirements. Much of the program's success depends on both planned (announced and unannounced) site inspections as well as self-reported findings by the industry. AQD strives to perform site inspections consistently and write the corresponding inspection reports in a timely manner. This has proven to be an effective way to assess compliance without visiting every facility each year. Open and timely communication with the facility is the key to an effective inspection program.

If a site inspection or review of facility reported data reveals noncompliance, the Division has enforcement tools to implement to help get the facility back into compliance. Here too, the Division strives to be timely, consistent, and certain with its enforcement actions.

Coordination with other state agencies and our federal partners is an important part of this objective. The AQD is well engaged in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities. We attend meetings and comment on proposed Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Resource Management Plans (RMP), impact mitigation strategies, and Records of Decision (ROD). This is especially important for energy development projects on federal land, overseen by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

- *Each year the AQD submits a CMS to EPA. The CMS outlines the facilities to be inspected by the AQD staff during the upcoming federal fiscal year. AQD will meet or exceed the expectations set forth in the CMS.*
- *AQD will participate in periodic update meetings with the Governor's staff on new energy projects and the latest developments of each EIS in Wyoming.*

Planning

Throughout FY14, the 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.

Compliance&Enforcement

The compliance program performed 1,023 site inspections during FY2014. Compliance staff also conducted hundreds of reconnaissance inspections and complaint investigations during the last fiscal year. The purpose of the inspections is to protect the environment by observing the facility permit(s), plant operation and maintenance, air pollution control devices, emissions records, and pertinent environmental documentation for the facility. Compliance staff also work with facilities to protect the environment and to ensure 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 compliance program also utilizes informal and formal enforcement to protect the environment and to ensure adherence with environmental standards and other requirements. Informal enforcement (e.g., Letters of Violation) alert companies to potential areas of non-compliance. 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 frequently a supplemental environmental project. Formal enforcement does serve as a motivational factor in promoting compliance with the regulations. Formal enforcement not only encourages companies to return to compliance as quickly as possible, but it has also produced a much more proactive approach among companies to remain in compliance (e.g., self-audits, leak detection and repair, dust control action plans). AQD/Compliance issued 51 (and settled 56) NOV Letters during FY 2014.

Goal 5 to AQD – To develop a clear, concise, and consistent regulatory framework.

As directed by the Office of the Governor, each agency is asked to review existing rules to determine if rules applicable to their respective agencies can be reduced by one-third in number and one-third in length. In addition to the Governor's directive, AQD is always challenged with the task of keeping pace with EPA's new rules and regulations. AQD will continue to pursue this task in addition to the challenge of drafting our regulations so they are easier to understand and organized better for the user.

- *AQD will complete the review of its regulations for streamlining opportunities by the end of 2013.*
- *AQD will complete State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittals to the EPA in a timely manner.*

SIP & Rule Development

The rule reduction task was completed on September 12, 2013. The SIP and Rule Development Section continues to review Air Quality regulations for reduction and/or streamlining opportunities. Multiple chapters of the WAQSR are currently under review for adoption. These revisions consist of annual updates and minor revisions. Despite these anticipated changes, the total page count of WAQSR has not changed from the count submitted in September 2013.

A total of five (5) SIPs were submitted in a timely manner to EPA from January 1, 2014 to October 15, 2014. Once the rule package is officially adopted by the State, two (2) additional SIPs will be submitted to EPA for approval. The AQD will then request delegation of the New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for regulations adopted by reference from the 2013 Code of Federal Regulations.

Goal 6 to AQD - To develop and maintain an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

AQD is committed to developing and maintaining a well-educated staff that can effectively manage the technical challenges in air quality. Staff development takes time and other resources, so it is imperative to create a work environment that retains staff long enough for the Division to benefit now and long term. This is true from both the technical and managerial perspectives.

- *Annually and to coincide with the employee goal setting, the AQD supervisors will meet with staff to revise their employee development plan.*
- *AQD management will meet with other Division managers to discuss and develop a program that provides mentoring opportunities across the Agency.*

The AQD continues to look for ways to provide for and improve professional development opportunities for staff. As a first step, an evaluation of the AQD program managers was completed in May 2014 by CMA Consultants. The results showed the AQD program managers have strong skills and work well together. Because there is

always room for improvement, the representatives from CMA made suggestions to each employee on potential areas to strive to improve.

The mentoring program has been developing slowly due in part to the high vacancy rate in the AQD (9.4%), with nearly half of all AQD positions being vacant at least once in FY13/14. Significant time is spent recruiting and training new staff to fill vacancies while maintaining work demands.

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

AQD continues to closely track and manage resources to be as efficient as possible. Work priorities can change rapidly, so AQD management staff must communicate on a regular basis to react to these priorities.

- *During each biennium fiscal planning period, AQD will be able to provide program priorities and cost estimates by the prescribed times so that the Agency is timely with its budget requests.*

The AQD has seen a high vacancy rate this entire year in certain program areas. Because of this fact, the work load in these programs was reprioritized and some responsibilities have been redistributed to ensure the impact to the Division was minimized. In addition, some vacancies have been re-evaluated based on the current duties of the position. At the same time, the AQD has examined overall program work load and has adjusted staff resources to the busier areas when possible. Most of the time these staff resource shifts have occurred through vacancy reassignments.

Water Quality Division

The purpose of the Water Quality Division (WQD) is to ensure the proper disposal of wastewaters, ensure the proper design of water and wastewater treatment facilities, monitor and evaluate the quality of surface and groundwater, and oversee and facilitate the clean-up of water quality impaired surface and groundwater. The WQD meets these purposes through the operation of four (4) distinct sections:

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 903 active individual WYPDES permits and there are 1,821 active authorizations to discharge under "general" WYPDES permits, both down slightly from last year due to fall off in CBM production.

The Groundwater Section includes the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program which permits the discharge of wastewater effluents into subsurface geologic formations and aquifers. These permits contain limits on the quality of the discharge based on aquifer or formation conditions and standards, and establish self-monitoring and reporting requirements for the permittees. There are currently 161 active individual UIC permits and there are 552 active authorizations to discharge under "general" UIC permits

In addition to the UIC program, the Groundwater Section is responsible for cleanup of legacy groundwater contaminated sites such as Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), including Atlas Missile Sites in southeast Wyoming, the former Casper Army Airfield, and the Pole Mountain Target and Maneuver Area west of Cheyenne, among others. The Section is also DEQ's lead on the continuing investigation of complaints regarding drinking water quality in the Pavillion, WY area.

The Water/Wastewater Section permits the construction of water and wastewater treatment facilities to design criteria established by the division. The Water and Wastewater Section issued 450 permits during FY2014; 16 permit applications were denied, given an adverse recommendation, returned, or withdrawn by the applicant. 6 (1.4%) permitting actions exceeded the 60 day target for permit issuance; 98.6% of the actions for permits issued in FY2014 occurred within 60 days or less. On the average, permits were issued within 50 days, with each in-house action taking an average of 19 days.

In addition to construction permitting, this section also licenses water and wastewater system operators to insure their technical competency. The operator certification program (OpCert) is having continued success with its database, and now has approximately 70% of operators logged into the database. The number of operators logged in should be at 100% in the next year. Database functionality for district engineers in regards to new water treatment facilities and facility configurations was improved. An audit of operator training used to renew licenses was completed for the first time in 2014 and resulted in the loss of one certification out of 48 audited.

Finally, this section is responsible for the management of the federal program for funding of construction of water and wastewater systems via the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The Wyoming Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs provide assistance to communities to help 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.

Over the life of the programs, the Clean Water program has made 161 loans for more than \$415M in awards and currently has more than \$102M available. The Drinking Water program has made 161 loans for more \$214M in awards and currently has more than \$88M 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 needs include \$213M for wastewater treatment/point source projects, \$269M for drinking water projects and \$264M for nonpoint source projects that the State Revolving Fund programs could assist.

Both programs continued to receive federal capitalization grants with an increase of 5.0% in drinking water and 5.1% in clean water compared to last year. 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.

In FY2014, the amount of Clean Water SRF funds distributed was \$15,054,376; the amount of Safe Drinking Water funds disbursed was \$15,840,051.

The Watershed Protection Section monitors and evaluates the ambient quality of Wyoming surface waters, identifies which surface waters may be impaired, and evaluates the cause of those impairments through the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). This section is also responsible for the distribution and management of approximately \$800,000/yr. in federal "319" money which is granted to local agencies and organizations for water quality improvement projects such as constructed wetlands below storm sewer outlets or conservation practices to improve grazing management. This section is also responsible for the establishment and review of the state's surface water quality standards, implementing the surface water quality monitoring program, as well as for the certification of US Army Corps of Engineers "404" permits for dredge and fill activities.

Challenges of Division Permitting

The WYPDES Section will face short term challenges in implementing its new permit fee collection procedure that requires permittees to pay permit fees prior to issuance of a permit. The UIC program continues to be challenged with EPA concerns relating to aquifer exemptions for Class I injection wells for disposal of commercial oilfield waste, in-situ mine waste, and industrial wastes. The heightened interest in commercial oilfield waste disposal wells will likely translate into an increase in permitting, inspection and compliance work for UIC program staff. The UIC program will also be challenged to develop and submit a primacy application to EPA for Class VI carbon sequestration wells.

Inspection and Compliance

Longer term, the WYPDES Section will be challenged to oversee and arrange for the reclamation of on-channel coal bed methane (CBM) impoundments. The Water/Wastewater Section will be challenged to explore opportunities to establish appropriate ensure that exposure to liability for costs associated with reclamation and cleanup of un-bonded pits is minimized or eliminated. Within the Groundwater Section, the UIC permitting program lacks an Inspection and Compliance (I&C) unit such as exists in the WYPDES program. For this reason inspection and compliance in the UIC program is handled by the UIC permitting staff. This is not an ideal situation and will continue to be evaluated

to determine what, if any, programmatic changes can be made to make the process as efficient and effective as possible.

Monitoring and Corrective Action

WQD participates with the USGS in a limited groundwater monitoring program. However, there is no comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program for groundwater equivalent to that for surface waters. The Watershed Section continues to be challenged with increasing demands on the analysis of water quality samples by the division's lab and investigating ways to increase efficiencies in the services provided by the lab. In the context of corrective action, the Federal Facilities program will be challenged with obtaining additional funding (under its cooperative agreement with the US Department of Defense) to contract for professional services in order to assist with an increased workload associated with investigation and cleanup of formerly used defense sites (e.g. Atlas Missile sites).

Achievements of Division

WQD is proud of its accomplishments and achievements over the past 2 years. WQD has developed and implemented a new WYPDES permit fee collection process that will require the permit fee to be submitted with the permit application. In addition, WQD has issued timely permits and achieved an exemplary compliance rate. WQD has also developed and implemented a time savings IT project which will allow WQD to increase its workload efficiency.

Goal 1 to WQD - To investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites.

WQD will design and develop a new work process for the reclamation of CBM on-channel impoundments associated with the downturn in CBM development.

- *By July 1, 2014, WQD will develop new workflow/process diagrams, associated task descriptions, and staff (and inter-agency) responsibilities for monitoring, tracking, oversight, and reclamation of both bonded pits, and those where bonds have been forfeited.*

WQD staff participated in working group meetings with representatives of other state agencies and the Governor's Office in the development and implementation of a plan to address the plugging/abandonment of orphaned oil and gas production wells and CBM discharge impoundments. As part of that effort, WQD compiled an inventory of CBM discharge impoundments and operators/permittees and developed an informational packet for private landowners describing the process that WQD will implement as part of its plan for reclamation of abandoned CBM impoundments. A public meeting was held in Gillette, WY during the spring of 2014 to explain those procedures to those in attendance, and to answer questions. WQD terminated the discharge permits held by two of the larger operators with CBM discharge impoundments and has begun the administrative process to forfeit the financial surety instruments to the state to cover the costs of reclamation.

- *By July 1, 2014, WQD will complete the next cooperative agreement with sufficient funding obligated for contractor assistance.*

On June 24, 2014 WQD's contractor provided the division with its report engineering review and analysis of work completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers on the investigation and characterization of TCE contamination in soils and groundwater associated with Missile Site 4 located west of Cheyenne. The title of the report is "Technical Memorandum on the Review of Versar/RMC's Final Pre-Design Report to the USACE". The new cooperative agreement between DEQ and the Corps effective July 1, 2014 has budgeted funding for outside contractor assistance in the amount of \$15,000 for Missile Site 3, \$20,000 for Missile Site 4, and \$5,000 for Missile Site 5.

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

In accordance with the Governor's Energy Strategy Initiative #6C, WQD will develop a Unified Groundwater Data Management System for the DEQ to provide for efficient data management and data analysis.

- *WQD will initiate project design and development during 2013 through 2015 and anticipate project completion in July of 2015.*

The unified groundwater data management system (RBDMS) project kick-off meeting was held with the Contractor on September 22, 2014. A Pilot-scale RBDMS Environmental Data Warehouse application incorporating groundwater data from WQD's UIC database (GEM) was released for testing on October 28, 2014. Upon completion the data warehouse will also include groundwater quality monitoring data from DEQ's Storage Tank Program, DEQ/USGS' Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Program, CBM impoundment compliance monitoring, and the Pinedale Anticline. Due to delays in completing the Scope of Work and contract, the estimated Project completion date has been moved back to October 2015.

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

WQD will provide consistent training and guidance regarding permit content requirements and the most efficient means of compiling such requirements. WQD will work to reduce the multiple volumes of hard copy materials being submitted, and the space needed to inventory and archive.

- *Working with a contractor, WQD will complete both WYPDES and UIC e-permitting functionality by July 1, 2015.*

The initial "kick-off" meeting for the WYPDES e-permitting Project was held in November 2013. During this meeting, the final project team, scope of work and proposed schedule were discussed. The Development Phase for this project involved creating the electronic forms associated with WYPDES Point Source General Permits and Storm

Water Permits and developing a mechanism for the data to be transferred, from the forms, to the WYPDES database. The Development Phase was completed by March 2014. There were then several different releases of the e-permitting system; each release had new and increasingly more comprehensive functionality. For each release, DEQ conducted user acceptance testing to ensure the system was correctly working. The User Acceptance Testing Phase of the project was the most time consuming and challenging part of the project. This phase was finally completed in September 2014. In October, we then released the system to several external users who provided feedback on the system. The system was then put into production the week of November 10, 2014. Although the system is in production, the permittees are not immediately using the system. The final project phase (Roll Out Phase) involves releasing the system to our permittees. During the Roll Out Phase, we will provide additional training to DEQ staff on the system. It is expected the system will be fully available to the permittees by June, 2016.

- *WQD will complete both Class I and Class V revised permit application forms/guidance by Jan 1, 2015.*

UIC Program staff have completed development of a revised Class I permit application form and guideline and has begun development of revisions to the Class V permit application forms and guidelines. Once in place, the new forms and guidelines will assist permit applicants with completing permit application more efficiently and reduce the amount of time required by staff to complete the review of those applications. WQD will continue to accept one hard copy of the application and an electronic copy in lieu of requiring multiple hard copies.

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

WQD will apply rules and regulations fairly and consistently across the state in all programs and across all sectors of the regulated community.

- *WQD will complete this bonding level assessment and cost evaluations by Jan 1, 2015.*

WQD contracted with a professional consultant to evaluate pit characteristics and develop reclamation and cleanup cost estimates for un-bonded commercial oilfield waste disposal pits. The contractor's final report is on track for completion on December 1, 2014. The final report will serve as a basis for evaluating the adequacy of financial assurance currently provided to the state for those facilities required to provide it.

Goal 5 to WQD – To develop a clear, concise and consistent regulatory framework.

As directed by the Office of the Governor, each agency is asked to review existing rules to determine if rules applicable to their respective agencies can be reduced by one-third in number and one-third in length. In addition to the agency rules, WQD will work toward updating and streamlining regulatory agreements with state and federal agencies.

- *The results of WQD's rules evaluation will be reported to the Water and Waste Advisory Board during its September 2013 meeting, and reported, collectively with all DEQ Divisions, to the Governor's office.*

Results of WQD's rule reduction evaluation were provided to both the Water and Waste Advisory Board and the Governor's Office.

- *Analysis of existing MOAs with EPA and existing MOAs/MOUs with LQD and with sister state agencies to be concluded by September 30, 2014, including recommended revisions, if necessary. Proposed revisions to be developed and provided to those agencies by December 31, 2014. By June 30, 2015 and working with US EPA and state agencies, negotiate final revised MOAs and MOUs to the extent practicable and necessary.*

WQD worked with the Land Quality Division (LQD) in drafting recommended updates and revisions to the existing Memorandum of Understanding regarding roles and responsibilities in accordance with current rules and regulations. WQD also worked with the Solid and Hazardous Waste Division in development of a draft MOA with the federal Bureau of Land Management to consider eliminating duplicate bonding requirements for Class I waste disposal wells and to develop a consistent approach for the reporting and cleanup of unpermitted spills or discharges on federal lands.

- *Guidance document to be developed, printed, distributed to county commissions and planning agencies, and available online by 09/30/14.*

The Water and Wastewater Section completed its guideline detailing the process and procedures that developers, local governments, and the DEQ should follow for the timely submission and review of applications for new subdivision developments and their proposed water supply and wastewater disposal methods. The guideline is available on the division's webpage and methods to implement a public education/outreach effort are currently under review.

Goal 6 to WQD - To develop and maintain an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

WQD will strive to increase employee job satisfaction in order to increase performance.

- *WQD will develop a training plan and incentives for Director's approval by July 1, 2014.*

The division continues to encourage and offer opportunities for staff to complete training in their areas of work and interest. A suggested incentive plan is currently under development.

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

WQD will devote resources to areas where they are most needed and manage the business of the agency in the most efficient manner possible.

- *WQD will complete audit report by Jan 1, 2015.*

WQD's Watershed Section Manager completed a comprehensive, informal review and audit of the division lab's procedures, staffing and equipment needs. This year the division made significant investment to replace aging and obsolete equipment in order to reduce equipment down tiwn and improve efficiency. Staff also attended formal training on requirements and standards for certification of labs. The division is continuing to explore options for contracting with a specialized consultant familiar with lab operations to perform a more formal audit to evaluate lab efficiency and identify options for improving efficiency.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Division

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Division (SHWD) regulates the storage, treatment, and disposal of municipal solid waste, industrial waste, and hazardous waste to ensure that these activities do not harm the public or damage the environment. SHWD also oversees environmental remediation projects and regulates certain storage tanks that store and dispense petroleum products throughout the State. The primary programs are discussed below:

Storage Tank Program (STP)

Tanks regulated by the STP include most underground storage tanks and only those aboveground storage tanks that sell fuel to the public. Currently there are 1,962 active tanks requiring inspection by the STP. The STP ensures tank owners/operators operate, maintain, install, and modify regulated tanks in accordance with the regulations, which helps to minimize the potential for future releases from the tanks. The STP also offers tank owners/operators a cost-effective means to meet federal requirements for cleanup and financial assurance. Without the program, tank owners would be responsible for cleanup or securing private insurance which can be difficult to obtain and costly. Cleanup and insurance costs could result in smaller gas stations going out-of-business.

Hazardous Waste

SHWD is responsible for permitting hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal activities under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C. SHWD is also responsible for coordination of corrective action for hazardous wastes. Currently, there are nine (9) hazardous waste facilities in the Hazardous Waste Corrective Action program. Corrective action is required to address releases from units or areas where wastes were treated, stored, or disposed at these facilities. The corrective action process at these large facilities is complex, often taking several years to complete. The Hazardous Waste Program also oversees corrective action at twelve (12) other sites under administrative orders.

Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP)

The VRP encourages Wyoming facilities to conduct environmental restoration of sites that experienced environmental degradation as a result of historic facility operations and new releases. Under this program, the Volunteer has the option to voluntarily clean-up the affected properties cooperatively with the DEQ in lieu of more stringent enforcement actions. The Brownfields Assistance Program is a sub-program of the VRP, designed to provide additional incentives to local governments to develop and put idle, unused and potentially contaminated properties back into productive reuse.

Orphan Sites Remediation Program

Orphan sites are those where historical activities have resulted in contamination but there is no identified financially viable party responsible for remediating the site.

Solid Waste Program

The Solid Waste Program has the responsibility for regulation of industrial landfills and waste transfer, treatment, and storage facilities; improving state-wide waste diversion; recycling and beneficial use; providing planning assistance to local governments; and collaborating with state and local organizations to improve waste management in Wyoming. Currently there are 410 permitted solid waste facilities in the State.

Inspection and Compliance Program

The Inspection and Compliance Program (I&C) supports the Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Programs by performing inspection of facilities and completing enforcement when necessary.

SHWD is faced with the challenge of implementing the new integrated solid waste planning program, the groundwater monitoring grant program, the “cease and transfer” program, and the remediation program for municipal landfills program. Established by the legislature, these new programs for municipal solid waste facilities will require a strong focus to insure that these programs are developed and implemented efficiently and cost-effectively. SHWD ensures that program requirements are met to preserve primacy of the delegated programs, as applicable.

Achievements

While SHWD is presented with several challenges, SHWD is proud to say that it has many significant achievements over the course of the past few years. For example, the STP along with Montana had the highest compliance percentage in the country during 2013. Wyoming’s compliance rate was 96% compared with EPA’s goal of reaching 68% nationwide by 2015. This is due to the highly effective procedures put in place by the STP’s compliance section. The Storage Tank Program also completed 637 tank inspections during FY13, which is 33% of the active tank inventory. All tanks must be inspected at least once every 3 years to meet EPA mandates.

Since the inception of the STP, 1,606 contaminated sites have been identified. To date, 1,067 sites (66%) have been remediated to site-specific soil cleanup standards and EPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in groundwater. Currently there are 397 sites (25%) under active remediation in 56 projects. Remedial action has not yet been initiated at 142 sites (9%). Sites continue to be added to the inventory as new releases occur or previously unknown sites are identified. However, due to an effective compliance program, the number of new sites added in recent years has been very low.

With regard to the Solid Waste Program, numerous reports have been provided to the Governor and the Legislature to identify municipal solid waste landfill remediation priorities. To date, Solid Waste has completed the initial assessment of groundwater at municipal landfills; completed the integrated waste management planning program; completed the statewide waste diversion/recycling program; and developed and adopted lifetime permits for municipal solid waste facilities in response to a change in the statutes.

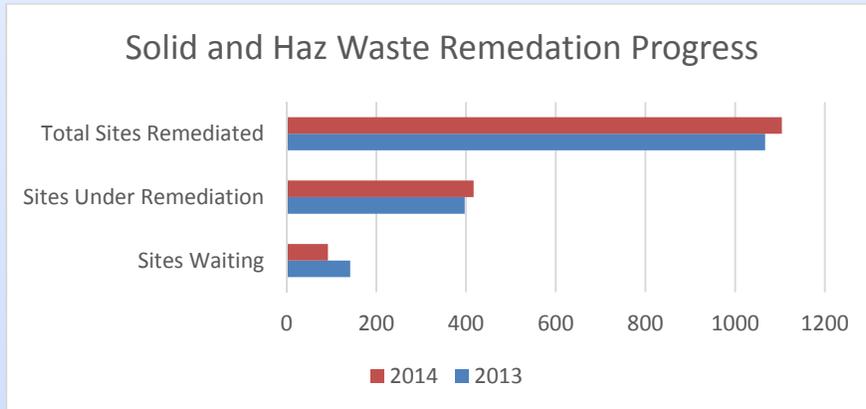
Goal 1 to SHWD – To investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites.

SHWD through its programs will continue its efforts to remediate the contamination at sites where releases have occurred.

- *The STP will track the number of sites under active remediation, the reduction of sites waiting to go into a project, and the number of sites that have been fully remediated and closed out.*

STP is continuously tracking the sites under active remediation. As of June 30, 2014, the number of sites under active remediation was 417 (up from 397 at the end of FY13); the number of sites waiting to go into project was 92 (down from 142 at the end of FY13),

and the number of sites that were fully remediated was 1,104 (up from 1,067 at the end of FY13). This goal is being met.



- *The Solid Waste Program will begin implementation of the “cease and transfer” program using funds awarded by the State Loan and Investment Board by the end of fiscal year 2014. The initial implementation of the municipal landfill remediation program will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2014 including the development of all required rules and regulations.*

In 2014, DEQ began implementing the programs by working with Office of State Lands and Investment to develop regulations for the cease and transfer program. DEQ also developed rules for the landfill remediation program which were finalized in May of 2014. In May of 2014, the cease and transfer program reviewed 10 applications under the cease and transfer program and recommended funding of \$1,068,750 for one project that was deemed eligible.

In the 2014 legislative session, House Bill 001 restricted SHWD’s ability to begin use funds for the landfill remediation program until a priority list was approved by the legislature. SHWD has worked with the legislature to develop a priority list and will work with operators to enter written agreements with SHWD to become eligible for the program in 2015.

- *The Hazardous Waste Program will track the number of permits issued and number of VRP sites completed by the end of fiscal year 2015. It is anticipated that one permit will be issued and 15 VRP sites will be completed.*

One HW permit was re-issued in 2014. Corrective actions were completed at 11 sites (3 administrative orders, 6 VRP and 2 Brownfields).

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

All programs under SHWD collect environmental data as part of program operations. The data collected is primarily groundwater but soil and other data are collected where necessary. This data is primarily collected by consultants engaged on specific projects and activities.

- *SHWD will have implemented appropriate IT improvements by the end of fiscal year 2015 that will improve the ease of entering and managing environmental data.*

In 2014, SHWD made great strides toward meeting this goal. SHWD met with consultants and entered into contracts to develop a framework for a new environmental data management database. SHWD continues to meet with consultants to discuss the program needs.

The STP's major accomplishments in this area include:

- 1. Full migration of the STP GIS from the consultant's servers to WDEQ's servers. The GIS is now fully supported by WDEQ and not the consultant, which is saving the state money.**
- 2. Implementation of the inspection tablet feature. It is estimated that once the inspectors are familiar with the system, we will reduce inspection and report preparation time by about one-third.**
- 3. All enhancements to the Tanks database were completed to enable us to better track data requested by both DEQ and EPA.**

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

SHWD addresses this goal through permitting where required, inspection and enforcement, state-funded cleanup at STP sites, and voluntary actions. Federally delegated programs, such as under RCRA, must adopt regulations and standards no less stringent than federal law. SHWD fully complies with that requirement but works with the regulated community to explain the requirements and expedite permitting where appropriate and possible.

- *The goal will be measured by the number of STP sites put into a remediation project during the year, the number of sites that went into O&M during the year, and the number that were closed during the year.*

During the year, 20 Storage Tank Program sites were put into a remediation project, 71 were put into operation and maintenance, and 30 were closed.

- *Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste will measure performance based on the timeliness of issuing permits within statutory and regulatory requirements.*

One HW permit was re-issued in 2014. Deadline for review of the 2nd revised permit application was missed by approximately 30 days. Collaborative meetings were held for revisions to the application to help ensure a complete and technically application was submitted.

- *The goal will be measured by the number of sites entered into the VRP or issued an Order, the investigation initiated or completed, and remedies evaluated, selected and completed. The*

goal for the Orphan Site Program will be measured by the number of sites where investigations and remedies are initiated and completed.

12 new VRP sites were initiated; 129 sites (9 Hazardous Wastes, 12 Administrative Order and Consent, 99 Voluntary Remediation Program) had investigation completed, remedies evaluated or remedies selected; 11 sites had remedy completed (3 AOC, 6 VRP, 2 Brownfields). Investigations were initiated at 7 medium priority orphan site; no remedies were completed.

- *Inspection and Compliance (I&C) will compile any feedback received from responsible parties on potential economic development impacts from enforcement cases, and provide to Administrator for review and decision on revisions to current and future enforcement actions.*

I&C has not received any feedback from responsible parties regarding economic development impacts.

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

SHWD has a strong inspection and compliance program focused on ensuring compliance with permit requirements and adherence to environmental standards. The STP has one of the highest compliance rates of all tank programs nationwide, which demonstrates the success of the STP compliance program.

- *SHWD will track the number of inspections conducted and enforcement actions taken. SHWD will further track most common violations, compliance by general industry/waste activity sectors (mines, petroleum refineries, vehicle maintenance facilities, etc.) and enforcement case settlement values to detect trends and develop/apply resolutions. STP will track owner notifications.*

SHWD conducted 165 inspections through June 30, 2014. These inspections covered a variety of industries ranging from petroleum refineries to vehicle service stations. Out of these inspections, SHWD found that 95% of facilities inspected were in compliance with the regulations. Through June 30, 2014, SHWD initiated 5 formal enforcement actions. The most common violations noted were for failure to properly label used oil containers and violations of spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans.

The STP continued its inspection program, completing 323 EPA-required compliance inspections. The STP continued its notification program, which helps Wyoming maintain one of the highest compliance rates in the country as measured by EPA. As of June 30, 2014, Wyoming's Significant Operation Compliance (SOC-3) (a measure of how well operators are complying with UST corrosion protection and UST leak detection requirements) was 94%. This tied Wyoming for the 3rd highest compliance rate in the country and is well above EPA's goal of 68%.

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

As directed by the Office of the Governor, each agency is asked to review existing rules to determine if rules applicable to their respective agencies can be reduced by one-third in number and one-third in length.

- *All regulations will be reviewed for potential revisions by the end of fiscal year 2014. All regulations that are identified for revision will be revised during fiscal year 2015.*

In 2013, SHWD began revisions to the HWRRs from Chapters 1-14 to a single Chapter 1 using Incorporation by Reference. Chapter 1 was drafted, outreach to industry and environmental stakeholders conducted, and approved by WWAB in July 2014. Public notice and comment held October 10 to December 10, 2014 for January 2015 EQC meeting. The STP completed a review of Chapters 17 and 19. We have eliminated redundancy, eliminated duplication, and made the rules easier to read and understand. The complete strikethrough/underline and clean versions were made by June 30, 2014. We have reduced the number of chapters by 1 and the number of pages by 58. The rules have not been put through the rulemaking process because EPA is finalizing proposed changes to the federal tank rules. Those changes, when promulgated, will need to be made to our rules.

- *The permitting roadmap will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2014.*

Due to the resources devoted to the implementation of the cease and transfer and landfill remediation program, SHWD was not able to complete this goal. SHWD will carry this goal forward and strive to complete it in 2015.

- *The MOA between EPA and the STP will be updated during fiscal year 2014.*

The MOA with EPA was not updated. The STP began working with EPA in October 2013 to develop a proposed draft. The EPA will likely not finalize the MOU until differences between Wyoming and EPA regarding EPA's Reservation Boundary decision are fully resolved. Meeting this goal is out of our control.

- *Work with EPA Region 8 to modify the 2012 MOA and 2001 MOU if changes to address current issues and/or requirements are identified.*

EPA R8 and DEQ agreed to minor revisions to the 2012 MOA in FY13. Currently in DOJ review.

- *Work with EPA Region 8 to modify 2002 MOA if changes to address current issues and/or requirements are identified.*

No needed revisions to 2001 MOU were identified.

Goal 6 to SHWD - To develop and maintain an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

SHWD recognizes that staff is the key to SHWD programs ability to be effective and successful. It will be important to ensure that staff secures appropriate training to improve professionally and be more effective in their programs.

- *SHWD will measure this by staff attending training when funds are available. Training completed in the following order to best use fund resources: required training, needed training, and wanted training. Equitable distribution of training opportunities amongst all staff is considered when approving training programs. This will be measured by evaluating work load distribution and filling vacant positions in programs and offices based on projected workloads for the division and discussion between Program Managers and the Administrator. SHWD will be measured this by completing PMIs on time and using the PMIs as planning and development tools.*

All staff took appropriate training when funding was available.

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

SHWD will manage all programs to ensure the most cost-effective application of available funds and the most effective use of staff resources. The implementation of the two new programs (cease and transfer and the municipal solid waste remediation program) will be managed in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible to ensure that the funds that are made available are used wisely and accomplish the greatest amount of remediation as possible.

SHWD will implement the regulation requirements of the cease and transfer and landfill remediation programs will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2014.

In 2014, DEQ began implementing the programs by working with Office of State Lands and Investment to develop regulations for the cease and transfer program. DEQ also developed rules for the landfill remediation program which were finalized in May of 2014. In May of 2014, the cease and transfer program reviewed 10 applications under the cease and transfer program and recommended funding of \$1,068,750 for one project that was deemed eligible.

In the 2014 legislative session, House Bill 001 restricted SHWD's ability to begin use funds for the landfill remediation program until a priority list was approved by the legislature. SHWD has worked with the legislature to develop a priority list and will work with operators to enter written agreements with SHWD to become eligible for the program in 2015.

- *SHWD will measure STP's on-going update of cash flow projections based on monthly cost tracking and system shut down to complete remediation projects as quickly and efficiently as possible. New projects are started as soon as funds are available. Project costs are revised annually.*

STP has continued to administer the Corrective Action Account in a cost-effective manner. A cash flow projection spreadsheet is maintained and updated as cash flow changes so new projects can be started as soon as possible. Project costs are tracked monthly and future costs are revised at the end of the fiscal year based on the past fiscal year's data. Operation and maintenance data are reviewed as soon as reports are available and systems are shut down as soon as possible to minimize electricity and other operational costs.

- *The Orphan Site Remediation Program will implement an orphan site strategy and once implemented, will evaluate the budget balances and available site data monthly and adjust work priorities accordingly. The Brownfields Assistance Program will work with grant recipients and the EPA Brownfields Program on an as-needed basis to facilitate federal funding options and evaluate state Brownfields budget balances monthly and provide assistance to at least one community per fiscal year.*

The orphan site strategy was finalized in early 2013. Budget balances are evaluated and adjusted monthly based on work completed. Investigation was initiated at 7 medium priority sites in FY14. In FY14, the Brownfields program supported and worked with Cheyenne, Sheridan and Evanston on EPA assessment grants. State Brownfields funds are evaluated monthly based on work completed. Assistance was provided to the Yttrium Plant in Laramie, Carbon County Museum and Skyline Acres site in Carbon County.

Land Quality Division

The Land Quality Division (LQD) regulates surface mining operations, regulates surface operations on underground mines, ensures successful reclamation following mining to the post mining land use, and establishes reclamation bond amounts and holds reclamation bonds on mine operations. LQD is responsible for ensuring that mining is conducted to meet all state and environmental standards as established in the Environmental Quality Act (EQA). LQD is also responsible for ensuring that mining is conducted to protect the safety and welfare of the citizens of the state and that the impact on the environment is minimized. LQD currently regulates 844 mine operations, including 34 coal mines. Oversight of these operations requires review of 844 annual reports, and 1230 inspections.

Mining activities require a permit to operate. Permit types range from simple one-page documents for a fifteen acre gravel pit to complex 20-volume coal permits for over 50,000 acres. LQD has two programs; coal and non-coal. Under the provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, LQD has primacy over the coal program in Wyoming. Therefore, rules for the coal program are consistent with federal rules and the EQA. Rules for the non-coal program are based on the EQA. Permits provide information on all activities associated with mining including exploration, mining, and reclamation commitments. LQD is responsible for reviewing and processing all permit applications to ensure compliance with environmental standards established through the EQA and LQD rules.

On average, approximately 475 permit actions are approved annually. These permit actions include approval of new permits, modifications of existing permits, including amendments of coal permits to allow for the addition of land to the existing permit. Approximately 25% of these permit actions are new permit actions, ranging from a very simple License to Explore, to more complex coal or uranium mine permits. The remaining 75% are permit actions associated with maintaining existing permits, which may be simple one-day approvals or major revisions which require public notice and comment.

Inspections are conducted by LQD staff to ensure consistency with permit commitments and compliance with the EQA and LQD Rules. The frequency of inspections ranges from monthly for the coal program to annual inspections for small, less active mine operations.

LQD bonding program is also a significant task, requiring the review of bond instruments and the responsibility of the technical staff is to ensure the bond amount is correct. LQD currently holds 1,055 individual bond instruments for a total value of \$3,158,758,526. In addition to the permit actions listed above, LQD approves annual renewal of many of these bond instruments, and changes in bond amounts that occur through the annual report review process.

Challenges of Division

LQD is faced with the challenge of developing long-term technical systems for capturing and managing vast amounts of permitting and environmental data associated with mining operations. Over the years, system platforms and state requirements have changed, and adjusting to these changes, all the while capturing new data, will continue to be a challenge. To manage this challenge, LQD has developed an electronic permitting process, which includes components for electronic inspection reports, electronic permitting, workflow, electronic records management, and a database. Electronic permitting enables applicants to submit online permits, permit revisions, and other permit actions that will facilitate faster and easier submittals, and more efficient and effective reviews by LQD and other agencies.

LQD must also deal with the challenge of losing a high percentage of senior technical staff due to retirements, and loss of considerable institutional knowledge. Recruiting and training new staff to fill these positions will be a continual, sustained challenge. However, this natural attrition provides opportunities to re-evaluate position utilization, and move/reclassify a position as the current circumstances merit.

Achievements of Division

LQD is proud of its many accomplishments in managing the development and reclamation of the coal resources in Wyoming. Wyoming coal mining accounts for approximately 40% of the nation's coal production; the sheer size and dynamic nature of coal operations in Wyoming present a challenge. LQD continues to administer a rigorous Title V SMCRA Coal program regulating this industry, even considering the formidable challenges of increasing coal production, increasing permit sizes, and increasing disturbance acres. The LQD program includes commitments to review and approve permit actions, conducting inspections, ensuring that operators are in compliance with permit commitments and regulations, and addressing required program amendments.

The LQD is also proud of its inspection efforts. For coal mines, LQD is required to inspect all active coal mines monthly. Each active coal mine is inspected twelve times per year, with eight monthly/partial inspections and four quarterly/complete inspections. Inactive coal mines are inspected quarterly, with no monthly inspection requirements. LQD inspected 22 active mines and 12 inactive mines, totaling 288 coal mine inspections last year, and met all OSM requirements for mine and records inspection. For non-coal mines, the LQD performed 449 inspections across the State.

Many mine operators also must obtain some type of approval from one or several federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Office of Surface Mining (OSM, coal only), and/or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). As a consequence, the LQD has developed MOUs and working agreements with all of these agencies, and participates in quarterly phone calls. These interactions result in better coordination among the agencies and improved regulatory efficiency.

Goal 1 to LQD - To investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites.

LQD will develop a systematic approach to remediating and restoring sites associated with forfeited mining activities.

- *In achieving this strategy, LQD will: (1) update the forfeited site list quarterly; (2) understand the scope and source of capital investment (in addition to the forfeited bond value); (3) identify the necessary human resources to prioritize this work, from not only the perspective of the Land Quality Division, but potentially from the perspective of multiple DEQ divisions; (4) group and prioritize work across the state into appropriate contract scopes; (5) initiate processes for soliciting contracting for necessary design and construction services; and (6) complete the remedial construction work.*

Within each District of LQD, forfeited sites are evaluated and remediated, on an as-needed basis. A list of these sites is maintained and updated, as each District reclaims a site.

In addition to the specific Performance Measure identified for this goal, LQD is continually evaluating mining and reclamation to ensure that the operators are contemporaneously reclaiming the disturbed sites. 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 possibly un-approved disturbances.

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.

Another way that LQD endeavors to investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites is by coordinating with WQD on spill inspections and managing surface discharges at insitu uranium mines, and managing soil salvage on well fields to prevent soil loss and vegetation reestablishment.

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

LQD is committed to completing an extensive IT project that is planned to convert permits to electronic formats.

- *LQD's IT initiatives will be deployed by June 30, 2014.*

The Strategy and Performance Measures associated with this Goal are specific to LQD's IT initiatives, which 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, 2014, with minor developmental changes and system maintenance to occur subsequently.

In addition to the specific Strategy and Performance Measure, the LQD is routinely involved in other data management efforts. For example, the LQD manages an Access database that stores hydrological monitoring data collected by the permitted coal mines in the state. Data are currently submitted by 29 coal mines in each mine's annual report. The database currently contains data from 4,313 monitoring wells, 696 surface water stations, and 45 precipitation monitoring stations. The database is primarily used for Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessments of coal mine permit actions, which are a responsibility under the LQD Coal Rules and Regulations. The LQD works with other divisions of DEQ to share this database, or other groundwater and surface water data

sets. LQD specifically partners with the WQD to support its efforts to tie multiple similar, but separately located, databases together.

Another example of LQD's daily data management efforts is exemplified with our evolving GIS capability, which empowers LQD's inspectors to easily collect a variety of data, and to manage it through maps and databases. The LQD maintains a GIS spatial dataset that shows the locations of all active sites permitted by the LQD in the state. The data are used to support an interactive webmap to show the point locations of all active mine permits, including regular and small mine permits, limited mine operations and research and development license locations. Polygons have also been created to represent LQD coal permit boundaries, along with some non-coal mine boundaries. These are updated periodically, and made useful in an electronic format (ArcGIS shapefiles) to the public. The webviewer is available to the public via a link on the WDEQ/LQD website.

Another example of how the LQD manages environmental data is by reviewing and evaluating the monitoring and baseline data submitted by the operators in their Annual Reports and Bond Release Packages and other reporting instruments. This ensures that the mines are operating in an environmentally thorough and conscientious way.

A very specific and noteworthy accomplishment that has been developed over the course of years, and continues to be developed, 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 Wyoming regulatory authority in collecting required information for 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. The LQD was a leading force behind completing the geodatabase. The time needed to prepare an inspection report was reduced by approximately 50%. The Geodatabase also helped to improve the planning of inspection goals and reduced preparation time for the next inspection. Compliance information stored in the geodatabase has also improved communication between the regulator, operator, state and federal agencies. The tracking of all required field information over the 21,000 acres of disturbed area was much easier and faster to achieve using the Geodatabase. Additionally, the accuracy and consistency of the recorded features was a valuable tool in identifying and describing maintenance items such as erosion repair areas. Each feature has its own specific information choices which were chosen to track associated compliance status for the feature. This facilitated data entry and provided consistency in the regulatory framework. The Compliance Inspection Geodatabase accelerated the process of compliance assessment by documenting the locations and circumstances of incidents. The cooperative efforts between the operator and the LQD resulted in the creation of an electronic geodatabase to track bond release reclamation

verification criteria and assess compliance with regulatory requirements and permit commitments. This pioneering geodatabase is the first spatially supported database developed in Wyoming for mined land reclamation bond release and inspection purposes.

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

LQD will accomplish Wyoming Energy Strategy Initiative 4H, Agreement Status to Give Wyoming Regulatory Authority over Radioactive Materials. In 2013, the legislature passed House Enrolled Act 100 directed that a feasibility study be conducted to determine the feasibility for the state of Wyoming to become an agreement state under the Atomic Energy Act for licensing of source materials and their recovery, and standards for radiation protection. Agreement State status would allow the State of Wyoming regulatory authority over radioactive materials and could eliminate dual jurisdiction with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The DEQ, in conjunction with the Attorney General's office and the Governor's office, will manage the study.

LQD will accomplish Wyoming Energy Strategy Initiative 5D Uranium Reporting Guidelines. This initiative, specific to the in-situ and surface mine uranium industry, is intended to develop a reporting and permit maintenance "roadmap" of reporting activities, "post-permit issuance", to determine the monthly, quarterly, annual, or otherwise required data report from industry to DEQ, NRC, BLM, EPA and other state or federal entities.

- *LQD will complete the feasibility study and present it to the Minerals Committee by December 1, 2013.*
- *LQD will complete the Feasibility Study by December 1, 2013. Upon completion of this study, inefficiencies will be identified to determine what is required to be reported to DEQ versus other regulatory authorities. With the roadmap identification of duplicative reporting, the ability for operators to streamline reporting requirements would occur.*

The Feasibility Study was completed in November 2013, and presented to the Minerals Committee at their December 2013 meeting. The Legislature continues to discuss the potential for Wyoming to become an NRC Agreement State. Should Wyoming decide to proceed, then Initiative 5D may not be necessary, or it may be rewritten or considered from a different perspective.

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

LQD is proud of its inspection program and will continue to strive for excellence in the inspections of mines throughout Wyoming.

- *LQD will track the number of inspections conducted monthly at coal and non-coal mines.*

From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, LQD performed approximately 288 inspections on the coal mines across Wyoming, and performed approximately 449 inspections on non-coal mines across Wyoming.



From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, LQD issued one Notice of Violation to a coal mine, and issued 13 Notices of Violation to non-coal mines.

Aside from ensuring adherence with environmental standards and other requirements through inspections and enforcements, the strong working relationships between industry and LQD’s permit coordinators facilitates rigorous attention to environmental compliance. In this way, options for mitigating environmental damages or permit deficiencies are discussed and agreed upon. Often times, these discussions involved WQD, AQD, BLM, and perhaps a private surface owner. Issues are generally resolved in the field in a manner that satisfies respective requirements or interests.

In addition to the Strategy and Performance Measure specifically identified with this goal, LQD ensured adherence with environmental standards on a daily basis. One way of accomplishing this is encouraging collaboration between staff across the state to aid in consistent understanding and application of rules, statutes, and guidelines. Also, weekly supervisor’s conference calls encourage consistent approach between district staff. Staff is routinely researching available literature on environmental issues to aid in rewriting guidance documents, or to apply best management practices to permit documents.

This is exemplified again by the LQD staff and the various LQD/Industry Workgroups working diligently to improve guidelines to make them more user-friendly and eliminate information that isn't required for successful mining and reclamation operations. Another example of ensuring adherence to coal rules and regulations is exemplified by the LQD completing three Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessments of coal mining permit actions in FY 2014.

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

As directed by the Office of the Governor, each agency is asked to review existing rules to determine if rules applicable to their respective agencies can be reduced by one-third in number and one-third in length.

- *LQD will complete its review and the results of such evaluation will be reported to the Land Quality Advisory Board during its August 2013 meeting, and subsequently reported, collectively with all DEQ Divisions, to the Governor's office.*
- *In cooperation with Energy and Natural Resources Subcabinet Agencies, other local, state and federal government partners as needed, private groups and individuals with demonstrated expertise, LQD will assist with completion of Initiative 4A.*

DEQ reported its findings to the Governor's office on October 14, 2013, and summarized that DEQ could reduce its rules by 22 chapters, (19%), which is equivalent to approximately 1,732 pages (47%). LQD Rules cannot accommodate further reduction; the majority of the proposed reduction comes from WQD and SHWD.

Wyoming's Energy Strategy, Initiative 4A, is being led by the Governor's office with other Energy and Natural Resources Subcabinet Agencies, other local, state and federal government partners as needed, and private groups and individuals with demonstrated expertise providing input as necessary. Currently, Initiative 4A is approximately 50% complete. As background, The State of Wyoming has a number of Memorandums of Understanding and agreements between state agencies, federal partners, and non-governmental organizations. There is a need to inventory these agreements to better understand the state's involvement with other entities and update or create new agreements to address any identified gaps in state primacy. It is important for the State of Wyoming to be the primary regulator of energy, environment and natural resources in the state, leading the way with innovative policy and efficient implementation.

In addition to the specific Strategies and Performance Measures identified for this Goal, LQD routinely performs in other ways that supports development of a clear, concise and consistent regulatory framework. By way of example, LQD is constantly updating its Guidelines and reference documents. Since 2012, the 15 guidelines have been updated:

- 1. Guideline 4 – In Situ Mining, revised several times since 2012**
- 2. Guideline 8 – Hydrology, last revised 2/7/14**
- 3. Guideline 12 – Standardized Reclamation Performance Bond Cost Calculation Methods, revised annually**
- 4. Guideline 12A – Standardized Reclamation Performance Bond Calculation Methods for Noncoal Small Mining Operations, revised annually**
- 5. Guideline 16 – License to Explore for Noncoal Minerals by Dozing, revised several times in last 2 years**
- 6. Guideline 19 – Noncoal Recreational Prospecting in Wyoming (Panning, Dredging and Sluicing)**
- 7. Guideline 24 – Pre-application Process for Permit Applications, Amendment and Revisions, last revised 3/14/13**

8. Coal SOP 1.12 – Addressing Public Nuisance Issues in Mine Permit Applications, last revised 6/6/13
9. Coal SOP 3.3 – Professional Certification of Impoundments and Roads, last revised 1/24/12
10. Noncoal SOP 1.3 – Noncoal Permit Transfer, last revised 2/25/14
11. Noncoal SOP 1.4 – Procedures for Public Notices, last revised 2/25/14
12. Limited Mining Operations General Application Instruction Memo and Application Materials – numerous revisions to forms and guidance documents to mirror legislative changes in 2013
13. Small Mine Handbook – last revised 7/3/13
14. Hard Rock Mining Handbook – last revised 7/16/12
15. Noncoal Public Notice formats revised 3/14/13

LQD is constantly updating its Rules also. Since 2012, the five rules were updated:

1. Noncoal Chapters 8, 9 and 10 – revisions to these chapters were initiated to address plugging and abandonment of drill holes, and update practices related to small mines and limited mining operations, filed with SOS on 12/17/2012
2. Noncoal Chapters 9 and 10 – revisions were made to mirror legislative changes regarding small mines and limited mining operations, filed with SOS on 11/20/2013
3. Coal Chapters 1, 2, 4, 11, 12 and 16 – revisions were made to address deficiencies noted by OSM, filed with SOS 12/17/2012 and submitted to OSM as formal amendment in January 2013
4. Noncoal Chapter 11 – In situ mining, revision were initiated to address EPA concern regarding aquifer exemptions and also to reflect current practices, filed with SOS on 11/20/2013
5. Coal Chapters 1, 2, 6, 12 and 16 – revisions made to further address OSM concerns related to ownership and control, valid existing rights, permit transfers and blasting. Heard by Advisory Board 2/14 and scheduled to be heard by EQC in July 2014.

LQD is currently working on updates to the following documents:

1. Coal Chapter 18 – In Situ Coal Chapter, initial phases, may involve Chapters 1 and 10 as well.
2. Guideline 1 – Topsoil
3. Guidelines on Bond Release (Guidelines 20, 21, 22, 23 and 25) – Documents being revised by Coal Workgroup.
4. Guideline 4 – In situ mining,
5. Coal Annual Report Format

Goal 6 to LQD - To develop and maintain an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

LQD will continue rigorous position justification assessments, by evaluating the need for, or classification of, that position in its current capacity, as positions become available from attrition, or as staffing needs change based on industry trends. Through proper assessment for regulatory need for

mining industries statewide relative to staffing expertise and availability, decisions can be made to where and how to fully utilize available human resources.

- *LQD will make adjustments based on the on-going assessment to accommodate a surge in demand in a particular area.*

On a continual basis, LQD adjusts staffing levels, position classifications, position locations, and workload distribution to accommodate the dynamic mining industries that we regulate.

In addition to this continual assessment of available human resources balanced with industry regulatory needs, LQD conducts its work in ways that promotes an outcome oriented workforce. One example of this is encouraging LQD staff to participate in the development and testing of the various components of LQD IT Initiatives. This same collaborative approach is used, with the intent of facilitating early buy-in and ground level understanding of updates to guidance documents, rules, policies, etc. This is often achieved by highly encouraging active participation in WorkGroups, and other venues, to exchanging ideas and communicate at a higher level, both internally and externally.

Another example of how LQD encourages an outcome oriented cultures is by allowing permit coordinators and staff some flexibility in working with their operators to achieve results, given the often unique circumstances from one permit to another.

Another example is providing LQD staff the opportunity for training to help advance technical skill. Recent advances in the evaluation of staff performance through the Performance Management Initiative has improved the staff's understanding of expectations and fostered a culture that has improved productivity and promotes responsiveness.

To foster a culture centered around successful outcomes, in addition to staff being encouraged to take advantage of professional development, often times LQD's staff is requested to share their expertise on national level. By way of example, LQD staff has taught national-level classes through the Office of Surface Mining on erosion and sediment control, soils and revegetation, and blasting. OSM continually requests LQD staff assistance with these and other classes, which indicates that LQD's staff is considered the leading experts in their respective fields, nationally.

LQD Staff also takes initiative to create its own training programs, in order to share expertise internally and externally, and foster a sense of teamwork. Examples of collaborative nature are: the reclamation bond calculation workshops that were conducted for all three LQD district offices and also for the Coal Workgroup; the Uranium Workgroup orchestrated a well cementing class, with well service industry experts invited to present technical concepts to both LQD staff and uranium industry representatives; a high-level groundwater geochemistry workshop was orchestrated between LQD, industry and consultants, in anticipation of a unique permit to mine application which would involve a high degree of technical understanding relative to geochemistry; CMA successfully assisted LQD's D1 and D2 office with issues relative to

change management, communication and collaboration and building trust. These are just a few examples; many more occur routinely.

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

LQD will manage its program to ensure the most cost-effective application of funds and the most effective use of staff resources.

- *LQD will manage the program in accordance with its approved budget.*

The LQD continues to operate within its budgetary constraints, and makes adjustments in expenditures as necessary to accomplish this. The LQD Administrator meets monthly with DEQ Accounting staff to measure progress, using several spreadsheets used to track the funding sources and their drawdown over the course of the fiscal year and biennium.

In addition to the more obvious strategy and performance measure associated with the goal of managing LQD's financial resources, each District Supervisor is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that the human resources and skill sets are appropriately balanced with the dynamic nature of regulating various mining industries.

This is often achieved by presenting challenges to staff, and encouraging creativity in managing LQD resources. For instance, D2 collaborated to perform coal inspections at mines in close proximity for each other on alternating months to reduce staff field time, windshield time and wear and tear on vehicles. This also gave staff the opportunity to visit other mines and work with different operators. Another example of prudent use of resources is exemplified by field offices collecting binders and heavy mail and sending with staff already commuting to Cheyenne, or given to Cheyenne staff on their return, which saves the on USPS or FedEx charges. Another example is keeping vehicles longer than the 5 year life to use the vehicles at a reduced cost. Staff also makes an effort to establish inspection schedules to maximize the number of inspections while minimizing the number of trips to complete the required inspections of all facilities;

Regular and frequent meetings of LQD's supervisory staff have improved consistency and timely manner that are supported with quality data and thorough analysis.

In this same way, regular and frequent discussions between staff from LQD's three district offices is aimed at operational consistency and providing operators with clear and consistent permitting and operational guidance, to prevent confusion and inequity.

Industrial Siting Division

The purpose of the Industrial Siting Division (ISD) is to provide a mechanism to assess and mitigate adverse effects of major industrial facilities on the social, economic and environmental conditions of communities in Wyoming. This purpose is accomplished by coordinating the timely processing of permits for the construction of large industrial facilities. Permit applications are reviewed for completeness and evaluated to ensure that impacts from the project are identified and properly mitigated. ISD represents the State's interest at the contested case hearing for projects and provides recommendations to the Industrial Siting Council (Council) for specific permit conditions as well as the advisability of the issuance or denial of permits.

The Industrial Siting process also establishes closure of other local and state government requirements (with the exception of the Public Service Commission and the DEQ.) This allows projects to have certainty that no additional permits will be required after the Council has issued a permit. The process also establishes a distribution ratio amongst affected local governments for impact assistance funds.

In addition to the permitting of large industrial facilities, ISD is also responsible for monitoring the construction of permitted facilities to determine if construction is taking place in compliance with the permit issued by the Council.

Challenges of Division

The biggest challenge facing ISD is coordinating its limited workforce with the demand for permits on an unknown timetable. ISD consists of one Administrator and two Principal Economists. ISD has little control over when projects will file applications. This makes it difficult to provide sufficient time for ISD to accomplish its duties or reviewing the first application before the next application is submitted. ISD anticipates the submission of four applications within the next year and expects that there will be two to three modifications to existing permits that will require considerable attention from the staff.

Achievements of Division

While ISD is faced with challenges in its permitting program, it has achieved significant results. ISD is proud of its track record for the review and processing of applications. The statutorily prescribed time limit from application submittal to written decision of the Council is 135 days. Since 2006, ISD has averaged 101 days. ISD is also proud of its public outreach and engagement with stakeholders. ISD maintains a constant dialog with industry, consultants, environmental organizations, county and local officials and other state and federal agencies.

Goal 1 to ISD - To investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites.

ISD is not directly responsible for remediation and restoration of industrial facilities. However, permits for wind generation facilities require reclamation plans and bonds to assure that disturbed areas will be properly reclaimed. ISD's reclamation requirements are independent from those established by other divisions of DEQ.

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

Staying informed on potential projects is crucial to the success of the Division. In the pursuit of this objective, the Division must develop and maintain relationships with the regulated industry as well as other state and federal agencies.

- *ISD will schedule and hold four Renewable Energy Coordination Committee meetings and two informational meetings with County Commissioners in the area of proposed projects in 2014.*

ISD scheduled and held four Renewable Energy Coordination Committee meetings: September 19, 2013, November 14, 2013, March 27, 2014, and July 1, 2014. The meeting consisted of representatives of the Governor’s Office, USF&W, USFS, WGF, WIA, and ISD.

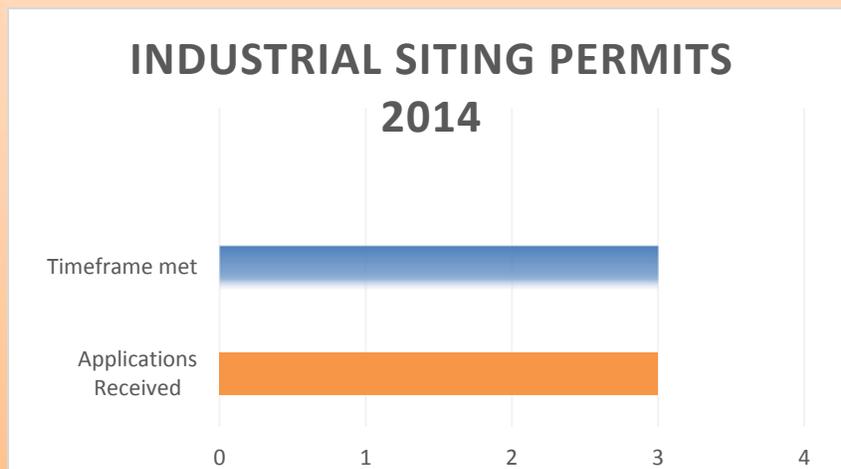
ISD presented at the Platte and Crook County Commissioners meetings. The Division provided information on the Industrial Siting process and the importance of participation.

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

ISD is committed to timely processing permits which will allow projects to begin construction on schedule and encourage economic development in Wyoming.

- *ISD will process 100% of applications within the statutory timeframe.*

ISD has performed 100% of the application received within the statutory timeframe. In fiscal year 2014, ISD had 3 applications submitted and all were processed within the regulatory timeframe (135 days). Those applications included: Wyoming Wind and Power LLC, Simplot Phosphates LLC, and Power Company of Wyoming LLC.



- *ISD will complete the permitting timeline by December, 2014.*

The time frame for each statutory obligation identified in the Act for ISD's process was documented in a flow chart. In January 2014, staff developed an excel sheet that detailed the ISD Application process. A link to the timeline is posted on the ISD home page at: <http://deq.state.wy.us/isd/>

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

ISD is committed to monitoring facilities to assure that the facilities are constructed and operated in accordance with the conditions of its permit. ISD performs this task by requiring quarterly reports during the construction period and other updates after construction is completed to assure that all conditions are addressed.

- *ISD will monitor 100% of facilities in construction to assure compliance and timely present this information to the Council quarterly in 2014.*

ISD reviewed the quarterly and annual reports for six construction permits five of which are active and one, which is scheduled to start constructing within the next year. Thus, staff reviewed 20 quarterly report and 5 annual reports, commutated with each Permittee, and took necessary compliance measures. The Division documented its compliance actions for these permits in the Division's Quarterly Construction Status Report and presented its report to the Council at each Council meeting.

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

As directed by the Office of the Governor, each agency is asked to review existing rules to determine if rules applicable to their respective agencies can be reduced by one-third in number and one-third in length.

- *ISD will initiate and complete its rulemaking process by the end of 2014.*

In July 2013, the Division continued with revisions to its rules to incorporate changes that occurred to the Industrial Siting Act, which became effective July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012. In addition, revisions were necessary to address the request of the Governor's Office to streamline agency rules in a memo date April 9, 2013. The Division public noticed the revisions on October 11, 2013, noticed interested parties on October 14, 2013, held an open house for oral comments on October 29, 2013, completed a Response to Comments Document in December 2013, and a complete Rule Package for the Council in January 2014. Approval of the new rules was received on March 7, 2014.

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

ISD recognizes that staff is the key to the program’s ability to be effective and successful. It will be important to ensure that staff secures appropriate training to improve professionally and be more effective in their programs.

- *Staff will attend two appropriate training programs through 2014.*

ISD met this goal. Staff attended two appropriate trainings in 2014.

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

ISD will manage its program to ensure the most cost-effective application of funds and the most effective use of staff resources.

- *ISD will manage the program in accordance with its approved budget.*

ISD has managed the program in accordance with its approved budget

Abandoned Mine Land Division

The Wyoming Abandoned Mine Land Division (AML) is responsible for reclaiming and remediating lands disturbed by historic mining activities prior to the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in 1977 (SMCRA). Reclamation includes, but is not limited to, reclaiming open pits and shafts, addressing mine subsidence features, mine fire impacts, and watersheds impacted by the historic mining. Important elements of the reclamation activities are the re-vegetation of those disturbed sites and creation of stable landforms, which will return the land to the previous land use and re-establish appropriate habitat for wildlife. Another important activity conducted by AML is mitigating the impacts from historic underground coal mining in communities in the state.

AML also administers the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program. The subsidence insurance program offers insurance to homeowners and businesses in communities impacted by historic underground coal mining to repair damage that may result from mine related subsidence. The insurance is an option available to homeowners and businesses for a reasonable fee. This program operates strictly as an insurance program.

Challenges of Division

AML has experienced significant variations in funding over the years. AML is funded through the Office of Surface Mining from funds collected through a mine reclamation fee assessed on each ton of coal produced. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act includes a provision that each state, including Wyoming, would receive an amount equal to 50% of the mine reclamation fee collected in that state. Historically, Congress did not appropriate the full 50% funding resulting in reduced reclamation resources for Wyoming. In 2007, SMCRA was amended to return the funding to the full 50% state share resulting in a significant increase in funding for Wyoming. In 2012, Congress further amended SMCRA to limit AML reclamation funding for Wyoming to a maximum of \$15 million per year. This significantly reduced the funding available for reclamation in Wyoming. The Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 raised the cap for FY 2014 to \$28 million and for FY 2015 to \$75 million. A determination by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in March 2014 indicated that the funding for FY 2015 would actually only be \$53.8 million. This is an indication that the level of funding for Wyoming will continue to be uncertain into the future. The wide swings in funding have made long-term reclamation planning difficult. The Wyoming AML program has recently adjusted the project planning schedule to reflect the reduction in funding through the next ten (10) years.

Achievements of Division

Since the initiation of AML reclamation activities in Wyoming in 1983, reclamation activities have included restoration of approximately 27,240 acres of degraded and unproductive abandoned mine land to beneficial use as wildlife habitat and rangeland. Much of this acreage had been former sage grouse range, impacted by past large mining operations. Additionally 1,125 open mine shafts, 993 open mine portals, and 589 other mine openings have been closed, and over 704,777 linear feet of dangerous highwalls have been remediated. Since its inception, AML has restored over 150 miles of

impaired streams, and 2,006 acres of lands surrounding streams have been repaired. In the report year alone, AML reclaimed approximately 469 acres of unproductive abandoned mine lands, closed 28 mine openings, and reduced 3,657 linear feet of dangerous highwalls, and restored 5.8 miles of impaired streams and 16 acres of streamlands.

In addition to closing conventional dangerous mine hazards, AML has also worked continuously on fire abatement in abandoned coal mines and related areas. Underground mine workings are burning in several locations in the state, and coal slack fires are also periodically reported. These pose dangers to the general public both directly from an immediate risk of being burned by burning material on the surface to the potential that a mine or coal slack fire for can start a range fire with considerable destructive potential. AML has addressed fires on approximately 150 acres of affected lands. During the report period fire abatement was accomplished on four fire sites.

AML has also worked closely with other state agencies such as the Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and with federal agencies such as the BLM and the Forest Service to preserve important resources, and establish appropriate seed mixes for sensitive wildlife species, such as sage grouse. AML has reclaimed considerable acreage in Hanna and Shirley Basin during earlier reclamation efforts. For example, during the 1990s, AML reclaimed approximately 1,943 acres of abandoned mine disturbance in Shirley Basin, which is now in the center of designated Sage Grouse Core Area. AML's efforts in the Gas Hills region have reclaimed and revegetated approximately 3,341 acres with native species, bringing that area back into productive habitat. During calendar year 2013 AML revegetated approximately 484 acres, of which approximately 146 acres were within Sage Grouse Core Area. Efforts will continue to be made to further refine and improve this process.

In recent years, AML has implemented a geomorphic design into the reclamation of areas with surface disturbance. This process seeks to match the surrounding undisturbed landform and create areas that will capture snow, control erosion and result in more successful re-vegetation of those sites. This process has been further refined and modified to achieve significant success on the ground.

AML has also mitigated the impacts of historic underground coal mining in communities across the state. The mitigation has been primarily through grouting of the shallow voids that existed under the communities. Grouting involves the injection under low pressure of a cement grout into the shallow voids to reduce the potential for future mine subsidence that could impact structures or infrastructure. Historically, grouting activities have been conducted in Communities such as Buffalo, Glenrock, Rock Springs, Superior and Kemmerer. To date, it is estimated that approximately 16,559 holes have been drilled to inject approximately 439,630 cubic yards of grout to mitigate subsidence potential in underground coal mines.

AML contracts with consultants to perform field work, design and construction management for reclamation projects. Reclamation construction is competitively bid. All construction contracts include the 5% in-state bidder's preference resulting in a strong contracting opportunity for Wyoming

contractors. These reclamation activities have resulted in work for contractors, jobs for Wyoming residents and economic benefit to Wyoming communities. To date, it is estimated that Wyoming AML has awarded 208 consulting contracts and 980 reclamation contracts.

Goal 1 to AML - To investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites.

AML will continue to pursue the goal of reclaiming historic mining activities with the following strategies.

- *AML will measure its success by the numbers of hazards abated and the number of acres restored to beneficial use. Metrics would include such items as the numbers of open shafts or portals closed, linear feet of dangerous highwalls reduced, and miles of stream channels restored, as well as estimates of acres of disturbed lands returned to beneficial use.*

During the report year, AML continued work on site assessment, pre-design work, design work, and actual reclamation actions on multi-site Engineering Contracts for 13 coal and 12 non-coal project groups. These projects included Priority 1 and Priority 2 high hazard features as well as Priority 3 environmental degradation problems. AML addressed five locations within the City of Rock Springs via grouting projects to remediate subsidence potential to critical infrastructure such as roads and waterlines, and a County building.

Abandoned Mine Hazards Addressed by AML During FY14 Report Year

HAZARD TYPE	AMLIS PRIORITY	ACRES	LINEAR FEET	COUNT	MILES
Underground Mine Fire	2	7.3			
Surface Burning (coal slack fire)	2	0.8			
Open Pits	2	0.2			
Industrial/Residential Waste	2	0.1			
Dangerous Slide	2	55.0			
Dangerous Piles and Embankments	2	133.0			
Clogged Stream Lands	2	16.0			
Dangerous Highwall	2		3,657.0		
Open Shaft	2			13.0	
Open Portals	2			12.0	
Hazardous Water Body	2			1.0	

Hazardous Equipment/Facilities	2			5.0	
Clogged Streams	2				5.8
Slump (surface failure)	3	34.8			
Spoil	3	184.9			
Subsidence	3	28.5			
Gob (mineral waste material)	3	9.2			
Haul Road	3	0.1			
Highwall (Priority 3)	3	0.0			
Mine Openings	3			3.0	
Equipment/Facilities	3			2.0	
Area Features Acres Revegetated*		469.9			

* Note: At a reclamation site, more acreage is normally revegetated than the Area Feature acreage amount.

AML strives to partner with land management agencies and other interested parties in identifying reclamation work to be done, and in identifying new sites that need to be added to the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory Database. Agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) periodically identify sites requiring reclamation and remediation of abandoned mine hazards. The Medicine Bow National Forest has coordinated reclamation of their high priority sites with AML for over a decade, and several of the sites reclaimed during the report period were on lands under their administration. USFS has identified several new sites upon which they would like to cooperate with AML for reclamation. Additionally, AML has a cooperative agreement with the BLM State Office, which is a cost share agreement providing additional reclamation funding for certain sites on lands administered by BLM. On May 7, 2014, AML and BLM met to discuss and prioritize abandoned mine sites on BLM lands. BLM also identified over 50 miles of old fencing around past AML reclamation that they would like removed. This fencing is in older AML reclamation in the Gas Hills that is adjacent to Sage Grouse Core Area, and also is an area that provides important habitat for pronghorn, mule deer, and other species. Abandoned fencing can be a hazard to all wildlife, and therefore removal will enhance AML's habitat restoration efforts in this area. Removal will start in FY 15.

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

Objective: AML will strive to improve the surface water, groundwater and vegetation impacted by past mining activities through sampling and post reclamation monitoring.

- *AML will track project completions in the federal Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System Database (AMLIS)*
- *AML will close out the post-reclamation monitoring for a project and ensure the recordation of Certificates of Completion in the appropriate county courthouse certifying the project is complete and accepted*

AML has an extensive water monitoring network in and around Rock Springs, with 107 wells and 13 surface water monitoring sites. These installations monitor water levels and selected water quality parameters. Four dewatering installations protect areas in the City from rising groundwater infiltration; these are also monitored. Data from these monitoring installations is shared with the DEQ-WQD Bitter/Killpecker Creeks TMDL Study. In the Shirley Basin Uranium District, AML monitors 32 sites for groundwater and surface water parameters. Another 21 monitoring sites have been established in the Gas Hills Uranium District, primarily for monitoring groundwater recovery and quality around AML reclamation areas. AML also performs cooperative monitoring of 20 installations around the old American Nuclear Corporation Tailings facility, delivering the data to LQD.

AML entered completion data for 52 reclamation actions into the federal AMLIS database, recording completion data for multiple problems for most sites. The table above lists the problem types addressed by these completion entries.

AML monitored 57 prior reclamation projects to determine if they were stable or required remedial action. The monitoring report recommended certification of 41 sites of those monitored.

Control of noxious weeds was undertaken at five AML reclamation sites to ensure success of the native vegetation planted at the sites.

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

AML is committed to work with other state agencies and federal land managers to ensure that the appropriate environmental standards are being applied to abandoned mine land reclamation. In

keeping with the Governor's Energy Strategy, AML also works with developers and utility companies that are proposing projects in areas where past mining may have occurred.

- *All inquiries will be addressed and documented.*

During the report period, AML responded to information requests from a variety of organizations and individuals. These included a data request from Gerhart Cole, Inc. on the Reliance Utility Corridor pipeline alignment, a request from Wyoming Office of Homeland Security for abandoned mine locations, U.S. Department of Energy for multiple information requests on abandoned uranium mines in Wyoming, several LQD requests for reclamation information on prior permit locations, OSM on long-eared bat use of abandoned mines in Wyoming, a graduate student studying abandoned mines requested Wyoming data, two private individuals requested historic information and reclamation records on a recently purchased property, a request from Simplot for any data on an area involved in a facility expansion, and a private environmental firm requested location data for abandoned mines.

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

AML is committed to following all environmental and permitting requirements during reclamation activities. AML also works closely with the WGFD to ensure that the most appropriate wildlife safeguards are in place such as seasonal stipulations. This coordination also includes work with other state agencies and federal land managers on reclamation and re-vegetation standards and requirements. AML also works closely with SHPO to ensure that all cultural and historic standards are identified, and that significant cultural properties are properly protected.

- *AML will continue to perform NEPA compliance analyses on all projects and to consult with appropriate federal agencies, SHPO, and WGFD on threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, crucial wildlife habitat, wetlands and floodplains, and cultural resources, as well as consulting with the Tribes on issues of Native American concern. Where necessary the AML projects will incorporate appropriate mitigation actions.*

In keeping with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, AML completed 20 Categorical Exclusion NEPA documents and four Environmental Assessments during the report period. This effort entailed completing cultural resource evaluations, wildlife and plant surveys and evaluations, and compiling other environmental data for the completed assessment documents. AML strives to avoid adverse environmental impacts while accomplishing abandoned mine reclamation goals.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, AML conducted 27 consultations with SHPO on effects on cultural resources anticipated by AML projects. Some of these consultations covered multiple sites, others covered single site locations.

AML strives to avoid adverse effect to significant cultural resources, and where possible protects and stabilizes such resources during the course of reclamation work. In particular during the Lionkol drainage restoration project, a significant prehistoric site was identified within the area of impact from the project. AML worked through its Engineers, and with advice from their cultural consultant to develop a plan to not only avoid the site, but to build a drainage scheme that would add protective material over the site and direct surface water flow away from the eroding resource to provide longer-term protection. At the Carissa Gold Mine and Mill, AML collaborated with South Pass City Historic Site (SPC) to stabilize hazardous abandoned mine and mill facilities and remove public safety hazards while maintaining safe access to the site for SPC historic site tours and interpretation. Thus the mine and mill hazards were abated, but the historic property was not adversely affected, and escorted public visitation can be allowed.

AML consulted with WGFD on effects of reclamation actions on 19 sites that are within Sage Grouse Core Area to ensure adverse effects will be avoided during AML reclamation work.

In compliance with the DEQ-WQD Stormwater Program, AML maintained 23 Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits on active or recently completed large reclamation sites. Stormwater control structures and infrastructure are maintained during construction and afterwards on these sites until the sites are determined to be stable and sufficiently revegetated.

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

As directed by the Office of the Governor, each agency is asked to review existing rules to determine if rules applicable to their respective agencies can be reduced by one-third in number and one-third in length.

- *AML will complete its review of its regulations by the end of 2013.*

Wyoming AML tracked several federal regulations that were being developed by the Office of Surface Mining. These included the stream protection rule and the coal combustion ash rule. Both of those have the potential of impacting AML program activities. Neither rule has been completed as of this reporting period so the impacts on Wyoming AML program activities are still unknown. No federal regulations currently under development appear to have impact on Wyoming AML regulations. The AML Administrator and/or AML staff attended two national meetings of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs and two meetings of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. All proposed federal regulations with possible impacts on AML programs were presented and discussed at those meetings.

Goal 6 to AML - To develop and maintain an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

AML strives to maintain a work environment that is positive and encourages attention on the positive outcomes of each staff member and every project.

- *AML will hold one annual staff meeting each year.*

Wyoming AML held two staff meetings during fiscal year 2014. The annual staff meeting was held on August 13 and 14, 2013. It was held in Lander Wyoming. The meeting was attended by representatives of DEQ Administration to discuss funds tracking and other project accounting items. Federal agencies attending were the Bureau of Land Management and the Casper office of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). AML and BLM discussed the success of recent coordination efforts between the two programs. Also discussed was the progress under the Cooperative Agreement between BLM and AML. OSM discussed recent events and changes within OSM and the most recent annual performance review report for the Wyoming AML program. All parties attending toured the Day Loma uranium reclamation project and the active reclamation underway.

Wyoming AML also held a staff meeting for all project managers on May 14, 2014 in Lander, Wyoming. The meeting was held to reassign work to existing staff due to the departure of two Project Managers to retirement, and to discuss changes to the contracting process and the professional solicitation process. The meeting also provided the project managers the opportunity to provide project updates to all project managers.

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

AML is committed closely managing projects and all contracts to ensure that the funding is used in the most cost-effective manner thereby allowing the available funding to achieve the maximum benefit for Wyoming.

- *AML will continue to monitor the workloads of AML Project Managers and future funding levels to ensure resources are being utilized effectively and efficiently to address the most hazardous sites first.*

Wyoming AML staff continued to work closely with DEQ Administration to track contracts, funds and payments. Special attention was paid to the 07 OSM grant. AML staff worked to ensure that all project payments were processed and all funds expended by the end of the fiscal year. This resulted in maximized benefit of the 07 OSM grant funds to Wyoming reclamation.

During fiscal year 2014 AML had a retirement of one of the project managers. The Administrator and Program Manager reviewed the AML workload, projected funding and projected activities to determine if the position should be retained. The review resulted in the conclusion that the position was still needed by AML to have adequate staffing to manage work in progress and in planning.

Administration Division

The Administration Division performs or secures, in support of the Director's Office and all of the DEQ's divisions, administrative services to assist the DEQ programs, activities, and personnel. Administration also provides financial management support, supplies personnel support to ensure effective management of human resources while protecting the employee rights and safety, coordinates emergency response actions for the agency, supplies information technology support, establishes internal policies, coordinates information requests and press releases through the public information office, manages the DEQ's inventory, promotes operational efficiency, and provides timely and adequate information, direction, and other assistance required to fulfill the DEQ's purpose.

The Office of Outreach is also part of the Administration Division. This section provides information, assistance and anon-regulatory channel of communication between the DEQ and the businesses we serve through the Information Technology Coordinator. This section also provides information to minimize environmental impacts through a combination of pollution prevention opportunities.

The final part of Administration is the Emergency Response Coordinator and serves on the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC); EPA's Region 8 Regional Response Team, and the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) Radiological Response Team.

Challenges of Division

The primary challenge facing Administration is the ongoing changes in federal grant requirements and funding levels. The change in federal grant requirements impacts DEQ's fiscal structure and often requires changes in state budgeting policies and procedures. Finally, Administration is also challenged by the rapid changes to Federal and State Human Resource laws, regulations, and policies.

Achievements of Division

The Administration Program manages federal grants, as well as AML pass through projects; and has fiscal contract management responsibility for over 400 contracts at any given time, processing over 5,000 contract payment requests each year. The program processes over 30,000 fiscal documents per year and maintains an inventory of agency assets exceeding \$2.5 million dollars.

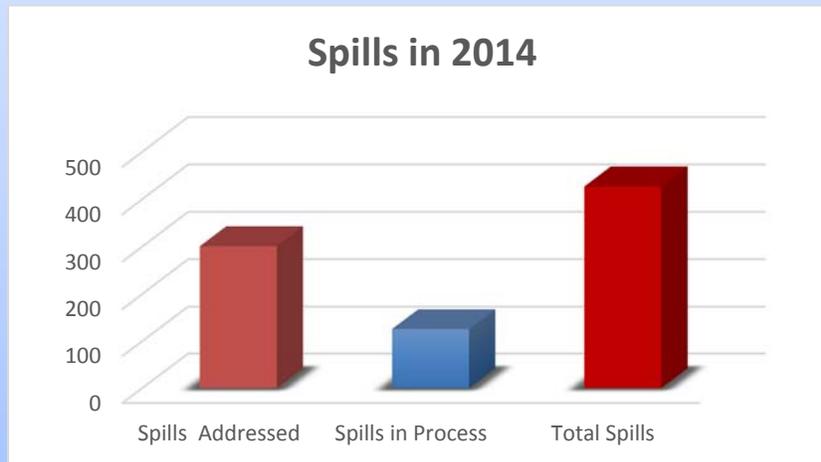
The Emergency Response Program Coordinator receives and processes approximately 500 spill reports per year and serves on Homeland Security's Rapid Response Team, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC); EPA's Region 8 Regional Response Team, and the Governor's Radiological Response Team. The Outreach Section, contacts 500+ business/biennium providing environmental information and education.

Goal 1 to ADM - To investigate, remediate and restore contaminated and disturbed sites.

It is Administration's goal to respond to spill reports in an expedient manner and refer them to the appropriate Division for further remediation if necessary. Administration also tracks spill reports to assure cleanup and resolution is reached.

- *Administration will track the number of spills referred and resolved verses referred and unresolved. The spill database will be used to show unresolved spills.*

Administration has developed and implemented an IT spill tracking system 2.0. All spills are being tracked from time of report to resolution. Administration received 427 spill reports in 2014 which were reviewed and referred to the appropriate DEQ division. Of these spills, 301 have been addressed, properly remediated and resolved. The remaining 126 referred spills are in the process of being addressed and are being tracked by Administration to insure proper resolution.



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

Administration’s monitoring responsibilities involve monitoring of spill reports, as described above, to assure that the spill is adequately addressed. Administration will continue to monitor these reports.

Currently all reported spills have been resolved or are in the process of being addressed, see above. The majority of spills reported are resolved and remediated within 10 days of receipt of the initial report.

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

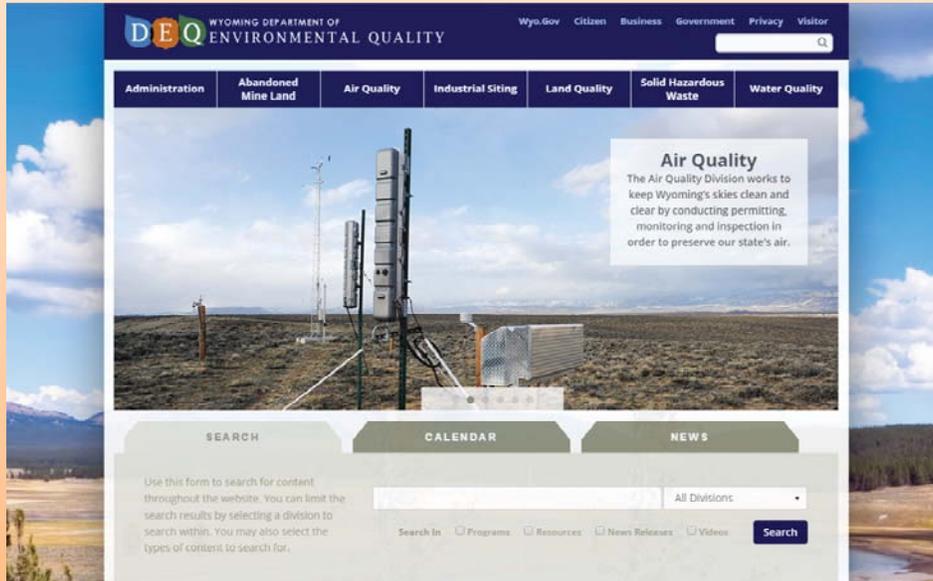
Administration is committed to answer questions and disseminate environmental standards to the public via its Outreach program.

- *Administration will annually develop the written Outreach Plan.*

DEQ’s P2 plan was developed/updated for 2014 and has was submitted to EPA for funding. EPA declined funding the request. DEQ has proceeded with its P2 activities and program using limited resources from each division.

- *Administration will complete the update of the DEQ website by the end of 2014.*

DEQ has contracted to develop and implement a new DEQ web page. This website will include media that will inform the public of DEQ's role and database links to insure information to the public. The new website is expected to go live in December 2014.



Goal 6 to ADM - To develop and maintain an outcome oriented workforce and culture.

Administration is committed to communicate benefits and opportunities to staff, and emphasize appropriate staff training and development.

- *Administration will send a monthly newsletter to staff members in order to better educate about benefits and other development opportunities.*

Administration intends to produce a newsletter starting January 2015.

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

Administration is committed to ensuring fiscal compliance with state and federal audit principles.

- *Administration will track its progress through audit exceptions.*

A complete manual on accounting controls was developed, summited and approved by the State Auditor. Administration is not aware of any audit exceptions in 2014.

Department of Environmental Quality

