

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

Here a simple statement of the adopted mission of the agency should be provided, along with the entity or person(s) who adopted the mission statement and when it was adopted.

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality is to enhance the quality of life in Oklahoma and protect the health of its citizens by protecting, preserving and restoring the water, land and air of the state, thus fostering a clean, attractive, healthy, prosperous and sustainable environment.

When the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality was created in 1993, the transition team, consisting of management and staff, wrote the first agency mission statement. The statement has been modified over the years to reflect additional responsibilities and goals of the agency.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Here the name, title and contact information for the lead administrative person should be listed.

**Scott Thompson
DEQ Executive Director
(405) 702-7100 phone
(405) 702-7101 fax
Scott.Thompson@deq.ok.gov**

GOVERNANCE:

Here a brief description of the agency's governance structure should be provided. Is the agency headed by a Governor appointee? An appointee of an independent board? Who selects the board, and who are the current members of the board.

Does the Board have any committees or subgroups? If so, please provide a detailed listing of the subgroups and their areas of focus.

The Environmental Quality Board is composed of thirteen members who are knowledgeable of the environment and natural resources and the preservation of these resources. Members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board has statutory responsibility to:

- **appoint and fix the compensation of the Executive Director**
- **be the rule-making body for the Department**
- **review and approve the Budget Request of the Department**
- **assist the Department in conducting periodic reviews related to goals and objectives,**

- **provide a public forum for receiving input and disseminating information to the public.**

The current members of the Board are as follows: Tracy Hammon, James “Jimmy” Kinder, Steve Mason, John Wendling, Jerry Johnston, Mike Cassidy, Jan Kunze, David Griesel, Anthony “Tony” Dark, Billy G. Sims, and Tim Munson. There are two vacancies.

Other governance groups for the agency specialize in areas of statutory responsibilities.

- **Air Quality Advisory Council**
- **Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Council**
- **Radiation Management Advisory Council**
- **Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel**
- **Solid Waste Management Advisory Council**
- **Water Quality Management Advisory Council**

The responsibility of the councils is to conduct rulemaking hearings and provide rulemaking recommendations to the Board.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Please provide copies of the minutes for any Commission/Board meetings the agency has had since July 1, 2012 in electronic format (Only in PDF format) Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed?

Clicking the hyperlinks below will provide minutes in PDF format.

[August 21, 2012 Environmental Quality Board Meeting Minutes](#)
[November 7, 2012 Environmental Quality Board Meeting Minutes](#)
[February 22, 2013 Environmental Quality Board Meeting Minutes](#)
[August 20, 2013 Environmental Quality Board Meeting Minutes](#)
[September 19, 2013 Environmental Quality Board Meeting Minutes](#)

The Board has no attendance requirements; however, 7 of 13 members must be present for a quorum.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Please provide a listing of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency in the last twelve months. Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that prompted the modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden.

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

Several modernization steps taken by DEQ in 2013 are a part of the ongoing effort by DEQ to establish and expand opportunities for on-line or electronic submittals by regulated entities. For example:

- **Water and Wastewater Operator Certification licenses can now be renewed on-line rather than on paper. Approximately 11,000 of these licenses are issued each year. DEQ was able to eliminate one position that was responsible for processing renewals.**
- **DEQ's Air Quality Division is in the process of converting air quality permits to an electronic permitting system. The first phase of this process is underway and should be available for use by the regulated community in the early part of 2014. This will save industry and the Division significant time and cost.**
- **DEQ completed the first phase of electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) submittals for wastewater discharge permit holders. Once totally implemented, permit holders will be able to submit DMRs electronically rather than on paper.**

Additionally, the Permitting Section of DEQ's Air Quality Division developed a simplified-process "permit by rule" for the oil and gas industry. This saves both time and money for oil and gas companies that qualify and choose to use this type of permit. The overall cost of the more involved general permit for construction and operation is \$1,000, while the same cost for the permit by rule is \$350. In 2013 this saved DEQ customers \$603,100 and the Air Quality Division 7500 man-hours, without compromising environmental protection

Also, the Air Quality Division has recently produced several video tutorials to assist customers in calculating their annual emission inventories. They can be accessed on the DEQ web page at <https://applications.deq.ok.gov/redbud/LoginAEIUser.aspx>.

The State Environmental Laboratory Services Division of DEQ is implementing electronic web-based reporting of customer reports for work conducted for Public Water Supplies, contractual clients, and private citizens, improving turnaround times on laboratory results.

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere?

None of these scenarios are applicable to our agency.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? In other states? Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency?

DEQ functions are regulatory in nature. Therefore, it is difficult or impossible to privatize these functions. Administering the federal programs for which DEQ has responsibility requires agency staff to perform inspections, enforcement and permitting activities. Additionally, privatizing regulatory activities would jeopardize fee payer supported delegation of federal programs to the agency. DEQ has modified its regulatory process involving on-site sewage which allows individuals to become certified to perform inspections of certain systems that are not covered by any federal program. Additionally, DEQ hires contractors to perform certain remediation activities.