

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.

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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: John Wendling, Jan Kunze, Tracy Hammon, James “Jimmy” Kinder, Steve Mason, Jerry Johnston, David Griesel, Billy G. Sims, Tim Munson, Shannon Ferrell, Daniel Blankenship, Cheryl Vaught, and Loretta Turner.

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.

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.

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?

DEQ modernization and efficiency efforts include:

- 1. Creation of the Office of External Affairs** – An Office of External Affairs (OEA) has been established and staffed by individuals with decades of combined technical, environmental, regulatory and business experience. This unit is instrumental in providing information to businesses considering locating or expanding in Oklahoma. DEQ routinely convenes “permit assistance teams” from all the DEQ divisions that have a regulatory role associated with the nature of the prospective business. Beyond that, OEA offers a “one-stop shop” to members of the regulated community and the general public who have permitting and technical questions. Additionally, a principal goal of the Office is to make connections with key parties and perform as an ombudsman to give those whom DEQ regulates a clear path of review, and to facilitate interdivisional communication on technical issues.

2. **Video Tutorials to Assist Sample Collection** - The DEQ State Environmental Laboratory produced several video tutorials to assist public and private customers with sample collection and submittal. Plans are underway to add to this resource library throughout FY 15 and beyond. All such videos are available through the SELSD webpage.
3. **On-Line Reporting Tools** - DEQ developed two on-line tools for use by over 50,000 facilities required to file hazardous chemical reports under federal law. The tools allow the facilities to verify their annual reports to DEQ, and include a map to ensure accurate locational information. DEQ conducted 15 reporting assistance workshops around the state to help filers with reporting and conducted 51 days of training for local emergency responders.
4. **Streamlined Permitting** - DEQ developed and implemented air quality emission permits by rule for some types of oil and gas facilities that allowed the staff to issue necessary permits about 4½ times faster than had been the case - thus saving both the agency and the industry substantial time and cost without compromising protection of public health and the environment.

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 is 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.