

**Department of Environmental Quality**  
**QUARTELY OREGON PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 2000**

**STATEWIDE MEASURES**

**DEQ1S: Implementation of Recently Revised Water Quality Standards for Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen and Sedimentation**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Participating in EPA-sponsored effort to develop regional criteria for temperature that will be protective of native salmonids, and re-looking at Oregon standard to ensure the same.

Issues:

- DEQ proposed to reissue an NPDES permit for the Blue Heron paper mill in Oregon City. The permit has raised concerns about the interpretation of the temperature standard for point sources. EPA and DEQ are in discussing the temperature standard as it relates to point sources in Oregon. DEQ extended the public comment period for the Blue Heron facility until October 20.

**DEQ2S: Development of 303(D) List and Identification of Priorities for TMDL Development**

Status: On Schedule (303(D) List due April 2002; TMDL prioritization completed)

Accomplishments:

- Federal District Court approved a Consent Decree between EPA and NEDC/NWEA resolving litigation around Oregon's TMDL process and schedule. The Consent Decree essentially reflects the Oregon Plan commitment to establish TMDL's for all waters on the 1998 303(D) list by 2007.

Issues: None

**DEQ3S: Watershed Council Support**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Provided training on monitoring and published monitoring newsletter for watershed councils as part of ongoing technical assistance program.

Issues: None

**DEQ4S: Enhanced 401 Certification for Fill and Removal Operations**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Renewal of O&M permit for Columbia River Miles 103-106.5 involved additional efforts due to public concern about fish issues (i.e., coordination with WA Ecology and public hearing in Astoria).

- New approach on Recent Ross Island and Klamath delta permits resulted in customized condition to address turbidity issues (i.e., differential standard over the course of a year that more closely addresses physiological needs of fish).
- Denied 401 certification for the Corps' Columbia River dredging project due to concerns about water quality and fish.

Issues: None

**DEQ5S: Revise Water Quality Standard for Sediment**

Status: On Hold due to other priorities for triennial review of standards

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ6S: Implement Anti-degradation Water Quality Standard**

Status: On Schedule, implementation plan for point sources will be finalized in December 2000

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ7S: Apply for Instream Water Rights on Streams with TMDLs**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Water quantity will be an issue in the Umatilla TMDL. DEQ and WRD beginning to talk about how to address it for the Umatilla and in general.

Issues: None

**DEQ8S: Review and Revise Water Quality Standards during Triennial Review Process**

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ9S: Implement Water Quality Standards for Biological Criteria, Nutrients, Toxics and pH**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ10S: Develop Water Quality Standards for Wetlands**

Status: On Hold (unfunded, not an agency priority)

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ11S: Revise Water Quality Standards for Nutrients**

Status: Underway, participating in EPA-sponsored effort to develop regional nutrient criteria.

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ12S: Designation of Salmon Critical Habitat as Outstanding Resource Waters**

Status: On Hold (most – if not all – ineligible for ORW due to current DEQ rules that preclude nomination of an ORW if that waterbody is on the 303d list)

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ13S: Implementation of SDWA Source Water Protection Program**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Completed source water assessments for Astoria, Bandon, Canby, Carlton, Clatskanie, Mollala, Port Orford, Ranier, Scappoose and Sutherlin. These assessments identify potential contaminant sources to the drinking water supply and heighten community awareness about water quality risks in their watersheds.

Issues: None

**DEQ14S: Management of Point Sources through NPDES Permits**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Permit issuance plan available on DEQ's website.
- Working with stakeholders to build support for fee increase to increase staffing levels to meet workload needs.

Issues: None

**DEQ15S: Management of Storm Water through NPDES Permits**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- DEQ is talking with EPA, USFWS, and NMFS to explore ways that ESA issues can be addressed in the stormwater permitting process.

Issues: None

**DEQ16S: Revise SRF Loan Criteria to Help Protect Salmon**

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ17S: Implement On-Site Program to Control Nutrient Loads to Surface Waters**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ18S: Implement Groundwater Protection Act to Prevent Adverse Impacts to Salmonid-Bearing Watersheds**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments: Focusing on upper Willamette basin and integrating the effort with other watershed-based activities (e.g., SB1010 plan, TMDL).

Issues: None

### **DEQ19S: Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Completing fieldwork on temperature needs for bull trout (spawning and spring cool down) and spring Chinook (early fall spawning). Will provide more species-specific information to incorporate into temperature standard.

Issues: None

### **DEQ31S: 401 Certification of Grazing Leases on Federal Lands**

Status: Completed [Rules were promulgated a couple years ago as necessitated by a lower court decision and will be repealed by the EQC in December because that decision was overturned.]

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

### **DEQ32S: Evaluate and Require Mitigation for the Impacts of Dams and Hydroelectric Projects on Water Quality during Re-licensing or Reauthorization**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Completed Powerdale project on Hood River (see Measure 29 under Central Basin)
- Providing input on several projects, including Klamath, Pelton-Round Butte, Snake, Deschutes and North Umpqua.

Issues: None

## **COLUMBIA/SNAKE MEASURES**

### **DEQ22S: Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program in Columbia River Estuary**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

### **DEQ23S: Lower Columbia River Estuary Program**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Completed high-resolution habitat mapping of estuary. Currently being analyzed and digitized to be used for identification of critical habitat for protection and restoration.
- Working with bi-state group to discuss leadership issues and objectives related to salmon restoration on Columbia mainstem.

Issues: None

**DEQ26S: Development of TMDLs for Temperature and TDG on Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers**

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

- Draft MOU with EPA, WA, ID due to be signed.
- EPA's workplan for temperature has been completed; DEQ initiating workplan development for Total Dissolved Gas.

Issues: None

**DEQ28S: Gas Abatement Plan for Hydropower Projects on Mainstem Columbia River**

Status: The Corps has lead on this; will become part of DEQ's efforts under Measure #26.

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ30S: Section 401 Review of Hydropower Projects on Snake River**

Status: Underway

Accomplishments: DEQ participating in multidisciplinary collaborative effort convened by Idaho Power to identify Section 401 and relicensing issues (ODFW participating also).

Issues: None

**NORTH COAST MEASURES** (Siuslaw, Mid Coast, North Coast)

**DEQ20S: Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program**

Status: On Schedule

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ21S: Tillamook Bay National Estuary Program**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**SOUTH COAST MEASURES** (Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, Ten Mile, Rogue, S. Coast)

**Other Activities in Support of Oregon Plan**

- South Fork Coquille TMDL went out for public review.

**WILLAMETTE MEASURES** (Upper, Middle, Lower Willamette, Scappoose, Sandy)

**DEQ24S: Implementation of Portland CSO Consent Order**

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

- Denied Portland's request to extend deadline.

Issues: None

**DEQ25S: Implementation of Three Basin Rule in Clackamas, North Santiam and McKenzie River Basins**

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**DEQ27S: Willamette River Basin Project**

Status: On Schedule

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

**CENTRAL MEASURES (Hood, Deschutes, Klamath, Goose And Summer Lakes)**

**DEQ29S: Section 401 Review of Powerdale Project on Hood River**

Status: Completed

Accomplishments:

- Issued 401 certification in May. Included conditions to address temperature and pH issues, and to address salmon/steelhead needs related to ramping rates, screening and adequate flows.

Issues: None

**EASTERN MEASURES (John Day, Umatilla, Grande Ronde, Malheur, Owyhee)**

**Other Activities in Support of Oregon Plan**

- Grande Ronde TMDL approved by EPA (May)
- Umatilla TMDL will be out for public review in October