

Attached is our response to the questions that came up at our hearing on Monday.

1. For Package #120 (WQSI replacement) - is DEQ working through the DAS State Gate process?

Yes. IT projects that exceed \$1 million in total cost (e.g., software and hardware, configuration, staffing, ongoing maintenance, etc.) are required to go through the Stage Gate process. DEQ's WQSI project exceeds this amount.

DEQ is in the process of developing a "High-Level Project Plan and Requirements" document. As depicted in the flow chart on the link below, this is the first document that must be submitted to and approved by DAS through the Stage Endorsement process.

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/Stage_Gate_Review.pdf

2. What positions are in the revised package #128?

The revised package contains the following positions. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the full Position Descriptions.

Permit Writing Specialists (NRS4; locations TBD; 2 new positions)

Improve permit quality and support the goal of reducing the permit backlog by focusing two new positions on permit writing and permit quality review.

- Permit writing (1.5 FTE): Existing permitting staff are responsible for a number of day-to-day tasks associated with implementing the program in addition to permit writing (e.g., inspections, enforcement, technical assistance, complaint response, etc.). Having permit writers dedicated to permit writing will help focus efforts on the production of permits while retaining the other essential implementation tasks in the regional offices.
- Quality assurance (0.5 FTE): Review permits to evaluate for consistency and quality, and provide feedback to permit writing staff to ensure continual improvement toward those goals.

Statewide Groundwater Policy Analyst (NRS4 Hydro; Headquarters; restoration)

Provides leadership for policy development and interagency alignment on groundwater protection and data management for statewide groundwater resources, and for DEQ's implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Senior TMDL/NPS Specialist (NRS4; Eastern Region; restoration)

Develops and oversees implementation of TMDLs in NE Oregon, including TMDL implementation in John Day and Umatilla River basins - two of the largest basins in the state. Works with federal, state and local governments, watershed councils, businesses and landowners to ensure those with roles and responsibilities for reducing nonpoint source pollution do so in an effective and timely manner.

Water Quality Specialist (NRS2; Laboratory; new position (*no change from original POP*):

Provides training and technical assistance for watershed groups collecting water quality data, including sampling plan development, data collection methods, and data management and

reporting. Evaluate water monitoring data for quality and compare against water quality standards and other environmental benchmarks to report on water quality status and trends.

Package also includes \$100,000 one-time and \$20,000 permanent capital outlay for laboratory equipment, a \$250,000 special payment for INR to develop a data management portal and \$300,000 for contracts for development of a registry and quantification tools. [No change from original POP.]

3. Clean Water Partnership (DEQ Packages 121, 126 and 128)

Senator Dembrow requested information about the clean water partnership. He would like to better understand how the various policy packages found in several agencies' requests work together. We have shared this request with the Governor's Natural Resources Office. You will soon be receiving correspondence from the GNRO that provides this information.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Greg
Gregory K. Aldrich, AICP
Policy and Analysis Manager
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
503.229.6345
971.563.3883 (cell)
aldrich.greg@deq.state.or.us