



Water Quality Fee Increase Rulemaking 2024

Fiscal Rules Advisory Committee Meeting
Feb. 15, 2024

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Today's Agenda

Time	Topic
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, logistics, agenda review
9:05 a.m.	Introductions
9:15 a.m.	Rulemaking overview presentation
9:35 a.m.	Review of fees, inclusion of additional programs and discussion
10:40 a.m.	Racial Equity Statement
10:45 a.m.	Public Input Period
11 a.m.	Adjourn meeting

Advisory Committee Membership

Name	Title	Affiliation
Lisette Hamer-Richardson	O&M Installer	Affordable Septic Systems
Mark Landauer	Lobbyist	Special Districts Association of Oregon
Jerry Linder	Executive Director	Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Peggy Lynch	Natural Resources Coordinator	League of Women Voters of Oregon
Jenny MacKrell	Senior Permit Technician	Klamath County
Sharla Moffett	Senior Policy Director	Oregon Business and Industry
Thomas Puttman	President and CEO	Puttman Infrastructure, Inc.
Jeremiah Sonne	Water Quality Specialist	Port of Portland
Jackie White	Director of Regulatory and Technical Affairs	Northwest Pulp and Paper Association



Rulemaking Timeline



Meeting Purpose

This rule advisory committee is here to:

- Review the draft fee increase proposal and
- Review and evaluate the accompanying fiscal and economic impact statement.

Underground Injection Control (UIC)

- Protect freshwater aquifers from contamination due to UIC use, assisting municipalities, businesses and residences statewide.
- Last fee increase was 2019, 7% administrative. Prior to 2019, rule authorization fee did not increase for 12 years.
- 2.4 FTE Statewide



Contact: derek.sandoz@deq.oregon.gov

Wastewater Operator Certification Program

- In Oregon, any wastewater plant that treats human sewage must have at least one DEQ certified operator on the shift.
- This statute affects about 400 public and private wastewater systems.
- DEQ's program is 100% fee-funded
- 2 FTEs provide the service for ~1400 operators.
- Last fee increase: 60% in 2013

Contact: Kimi.Grzyb@deq.oregon.gov



401 Water Quality Certification

- Issue state water quality certifications for projects that require a federal license or permit that may result in a discharge to waters of the US.
- Reviews applications from municipalities, state agencies, businesses and residences.
- In 2013 DEQ has instituted a 401 water quality certification fee structure with five tier fee options.
- 4.5 FTE



Contact: Haley.Teach@deq.oregon.gov

Water Quality Permitting

- The Water Quality Permitting Program maintains, enhances and protects Oregon's waters from the discharge of pollutants through use of permitting process.
- This program has been a part of the annual 3% WQ fee increase for the last several years
- 87 FTE



Contact: jason.simpson@deq.oregon.gov

Onsite Wastewater Management

- Oversight of statewide septic system program
- Licenses sewage disposal services
- Directly manage septic service permits
- Last fee increase was 3% percent in 2017
- 14 FTE



Contact: Randall.trox@deq.oregon.gov

Proposed Fees

3% increase applies to:

- Underground Injection Control Permits, Application Fees, Annual Fees, and Surcharges. OAR 340-045-0075
- 401 Dredge and Fill Water Quality Certification Program Support OAR 340-048-0055
- Wastewater Operator Certification Program OAR 340-049-0065
- Water Quality Permitting Program OAR 340-71-0140 and OAR 340-045-0075

17% increase applies to:

Onsite Wastewater Management Septic Program OAR 340-071-0800

Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Will the rule have a fiscal impact?
2. What will the extent of that impact be?
3. Will the rule have a significant adverse impact on small businesses?
4. If the draft rules will have a significant adverse impact on small businesses, provide recommendations about how DEQ can comply with ORS 183.540 to reduce the rule's economic impact on those businesses.

Racial Equity

[Adoption of the proposed rule would affect wastewater permitting fees statewide - across various sectors, public and private. Since the fee increase will apply equally across all permit categories and tiers, and there are no expected changes to practical implementation of the permitting program activities as a result of this rule adoption, there is no expected impact on racial equity in the state...] *Continued, next slide*

Racial Equity

[...Increasing the fees, as proposed, will help maintain program services critical to protecting public health and the environment (such as permit compliance assurance, inspections and enforcement) which may be particularly important in BIPOC or historically underserved communities.]

Thank You

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