


State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: Jan. 12, 2017

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Richard Whitman, Director 

Subject: Agenda item P, Informational item: DEQ's information technology infrastructure
Jan. 17-19, 2017, EQC meeting

Purpose of item DEQ will discuss the state of the agency's information technology infrastructure, its progress to date regarding the implantation of major system updates and next steps for improving business processes and the role that technology will play in supporting this effort.

Background DEQ has underinvested in its infrastructure for the past decade and has not applied lifecycle standards to its information technology business applications. This resulted in, among other things, DEQ relying on technologies that were no longer supported by vendors, not being in compliance with IT security requirements, and not being in compliance with federal e-reporting standards.

To address this, DEQ is updating its IT Resource Management Plan to begin outlining the details of the current status of IT infrastructure, systems, staffing and direction for improving these areas. Based on this plan and the Strategic Business Plan for the agency, specific action plans will be drafted in alignment with the business to improve the overall information technology presence within the agency.

A separate effort involves standardizing and streamlining business processes and securing an environmental data management system that can store, process and display data from DEQ programs. This will enable the agency to achieve a number of goals including better supporting permitting and compliance activities, achieve compliance with EPA reporting requirements and improving public access to records. It will also support traditional business functions of invoicing and online payments. DEQ is working closely with the State's Chief Information Office to meet the various Stage Gate requirements. The project timeline, subject to meeting the Stage Gate requirements, is to have a vendor selected by the end of 2017.

EQC involvement This item is in response to previous commissioner requests. DEQ staff will provide updates on the IT infrastructure improvements at each regular commission meeting.

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