



# Water Quality Fee Increase Rulemaking 2025

Fiscal Rules Advisory Committee Meeting

Feb. 25, 2025

Virtual Zoom Meeting

# Today's Agenda

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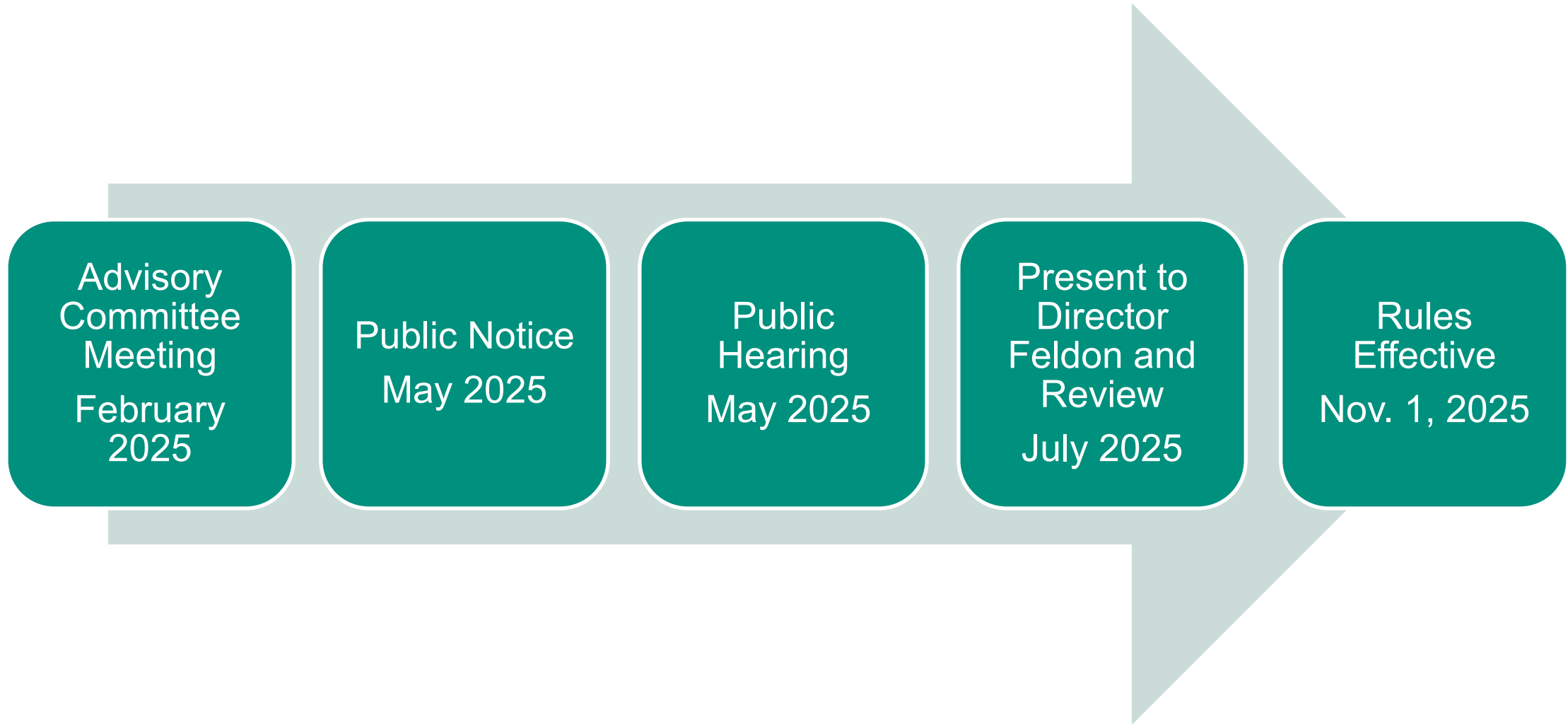
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, logistics, agenda review
9:05 a.m.	Introductions
9:15 a.m.	Rulemaking overview presentation
9:35 a.m.	Review of fees and discussion
10:40 a.m.	Racial Equity Statement
10:45 a.m.	Public Input Period
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn meeting

# Advisory Committee Membership

Name	Title	Affiliation
Jason Green	Executive Director	Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Jared Kistner	Environmental Technician	Port of Portland
Lisette Hamer-Richardson	O&M Installer	Affordable Septic Systems/O2WA (Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association)
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
Levi Tickner	Treatment Plant Operator	City of Joseph
Jackie White	Director of Regulatory and Technical Affairs	Northwest Pulp and Paper Association

# Rulemaking Timeline

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# Meeting Purpose

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This Rules Advisory Committee:

- Serves to represent the interests of persons and communities likely to be affected by the rule.
- Reviews the draft fee increase proposal.
- Reviews and evaluates the accompanying fiscal and economic impact statement.



# Underground Injection Control

Protects freshwater aquifers from contamination due to UIC use: assisting municipalities, businesses and residences statewide.

- Last fee increase was 2024.
- In 2019, administrative fees were increased 7%. Prior to 2019, rule authorization fee did not increase for 12 years.
- Sustained by 2.4 Full Time Employees



Contact: [derek.sandoz@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:derek.sandoz@deq.oregon.gov)

# Wastewater Operator Certification Program

- In Oregon, any wastewater plant that processes domestic sewage must have at least one DEQ certified operator on duty.
- This statute affects ~400 public and private wastewater systems.
- Program is 100% fee-funded.
- ~1400 certified operators.
- Last fee increase: 3% in 2024; prior to that: 60% in 2013.
- Sustained by 2 Full Time Employees



Contact: [kimi.grzyb@deq.oregon.gov](mailto: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, federal agencies, state agencies, businesses & residences.
- In 2013 DEQ instituted a 401 water quality certification fee structure with five-tiered fee options.
- Sustained by 4 Full Time Employees



Contact: [haley.teach@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:haley.teach@deq.oregon.gov)



# Water Quality Permitting

The WQ Permitting Program maintains, enhances and protects Oregon's waters by regulating pollutant discharge through the permitting process.

- The program develops and implements:
  - 311 NPDES Individual permits
  - 197 WPCF Individual permits
  - 963 General permit registrants
- This program has been a part of the annual 3% WQ fee increase for the last several years
- Sustained by 87 Full Time Employees



Contact: [jason.simpson@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:jason.simpson@deq.oregon.gov)

# Onsite Wastewater Management

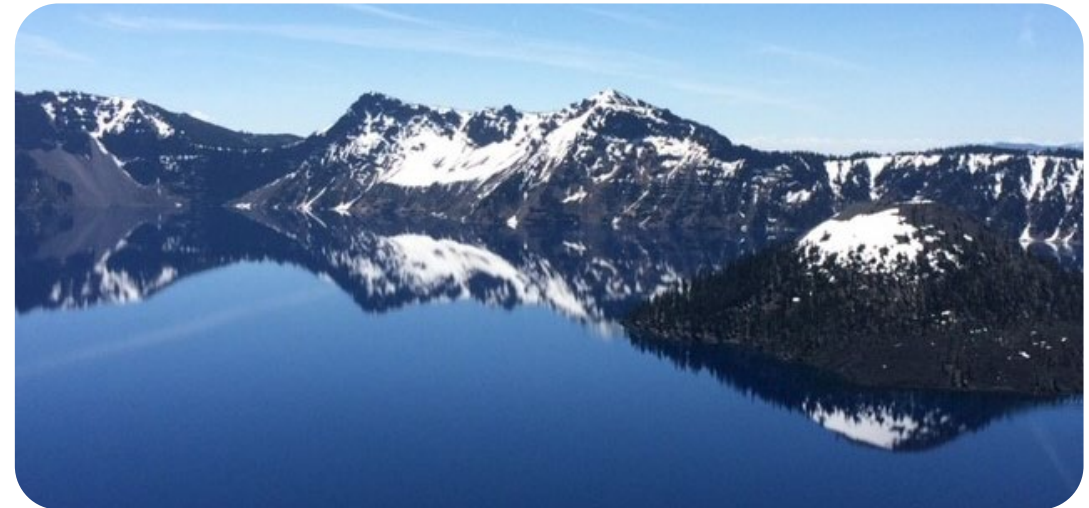
- Oversight of statewide septic system program
- Licenses sewage disposal services
- Directly manages septic service permits
- Last fee increase was 17% percent in 2024
  - 14% of the increase for new positions
  - 3% of the increase towards offsetting increased operating costs and expenditures
- Sustained by 14 Full Time Employees



Contact: [randall.trox@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:randall.trox@deq.oregon.gov)

# 3% Proposed Fee Increase

- Underground Injection Control Permits, Application Fees, Annual Fees, and Surcharges. OAR 340-045-0075
- Wastewater Operator Certification Program OAR 340-049-0065
- 401 Dredge and Fill Water Quality Certification Program Support OAR 340-048-0055
- WQ Permitting Program OAR 340-071-0140 and OAR 340-045-0075
- Onsite Wastewater Management Septic Program OAR 340-071-0800



# Fiscal Impact Statement

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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

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

## **Rebecca Bodnar**

Water Quality Permit and Program  
Development Manager

971-269-5363

[rebecca.bodnar@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:rebecca.bodnar@deq.oregon.gov)

## **Jason Simpson**

Policy Analyst

503-995-4054

[jason.simpson@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:jason.simpson@deq.oregon.gov)



# Title VI and alternative formats

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Contact: 800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us)