State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality   Memorandum

Date: October 8, 2010

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item E, Strategic directions: Information technology planning
October 20-22, 2010, EQC meeting

**Purpose
of item**

This information item will provide the commission a status report on
DEQ's current information technology abilities and services, plans for the
future and what the agency needs to do to improve its information systems
and technology services. This item is also intended to provide background
information for the November 2010 EQC retreat.

**Why this is
important**

At the February 2010 EQC meeting, commissioners requested a future
information item regarding DEQ's current information technology abilities
and services. At that time, at the request of the Executive Management
Team, the agency's Information Technology and Business Systems
Development sections had been developing ideas for improving the
agency's information technology and services, particularly focusing on
reducing the number of individual technology applications consuming
available resources. DEQ has put those ideas into a long-range information
technology vision, with a focus on the 2011-13 and 2013-15 biennia. The
vision document, not yet finalized, presents DEQ's goals for improving its
information technology services to both internal and external customers.
The plan will also help DEQ prioritize its resources to support the agency's
most important information technology projects.

DEQ has neither consistently nor systematically made information
technology investments or decisions in a way that considers the agency's
technology priorities. The lack of planning resulted in individual division
and program needs, and the desire to respond to stakeholder requests
driving the agency's IT investments and projects. As a result, DEQ has
many stand-alone, piecemeal systems and very few standardized business
processes. Recognizing the problems of our past practices, DEQ is creating
an overall information technology vision and a framework achieving this
vision. Our new path will allow DEQ to develop an integrated information
technology program based on agency priorities that will better serve both
internal and external customers and make better use of limited resources.

The agency has exciting ideas and plans for the information technology

future. DEQ's vision is driven by some key elements:

- Standardizing information technology tools and applications
- Setting forth a long-term vision to better serve customers, the public, staff and EQC
- For projects scheduled for 2011-13, DEQ will need to mostly use existing resources
- For projects slated for 2013-15, DEQ will need to carefully balance needs, using the best mix of existing resources and possible budget requests for new resources

Attachments   None

Approved:

Division: _____

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