

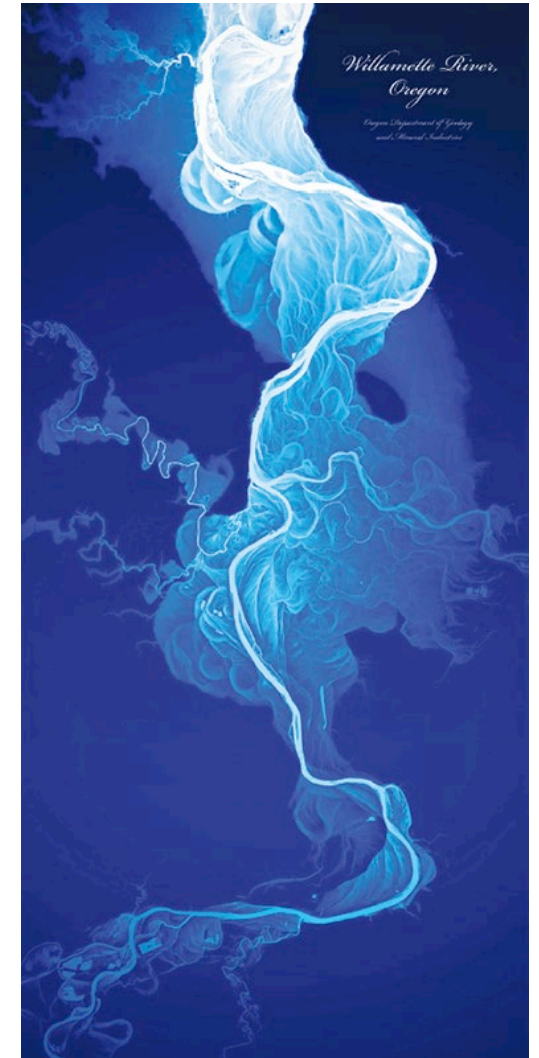
EQC Status Update

NPDES Individual Permitting Program

Oregon DEQ Water Quality Permitting

July 11, 2025

EQC Meeting



Topics for Discussion



- Permit progress
- Importance of current permits
- Permitting process overview
- Permit development
- Consent judgement
- Status updates
- Coming up

Columbia Boulevard Treatment Plant, Portland

Clean Water Act Permits: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

- NPDES permits allow discharge of pollutants to surface water
- Oregon was delegated authority to implement the NPDES program in 1973

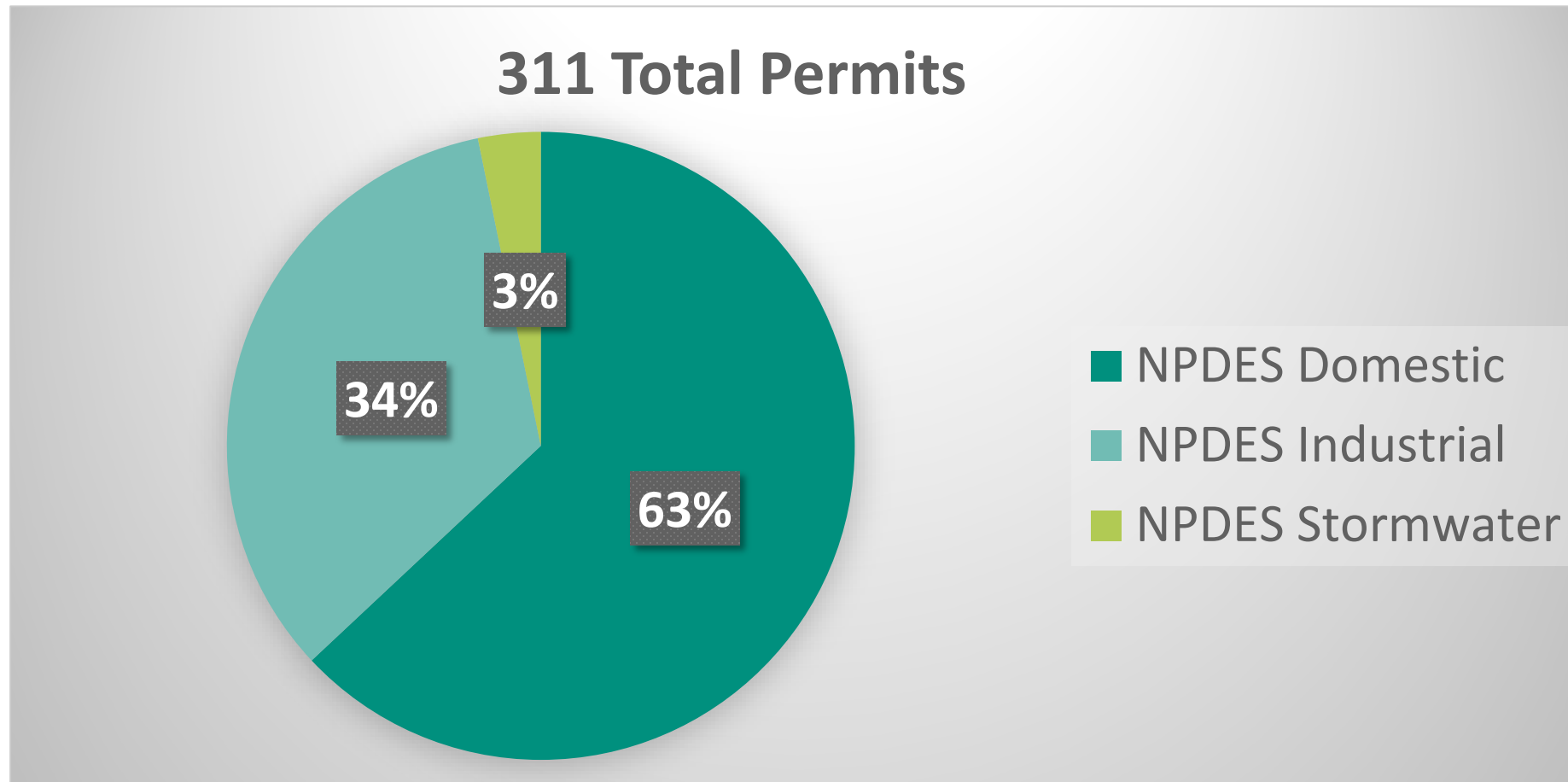
General Permits

- Similar discharges
- Generally smaller
- Specific requirements for large groups of applicants
- For example: industrial or construction stormwater

Individual Permits

- Site-specific criteria
- Industrial and domestic (POTW)
- Technology and water quality-based effluent limits
- Implement Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
- State and federal requirements

NPDES Permits by Type (as of June 25, 2025)



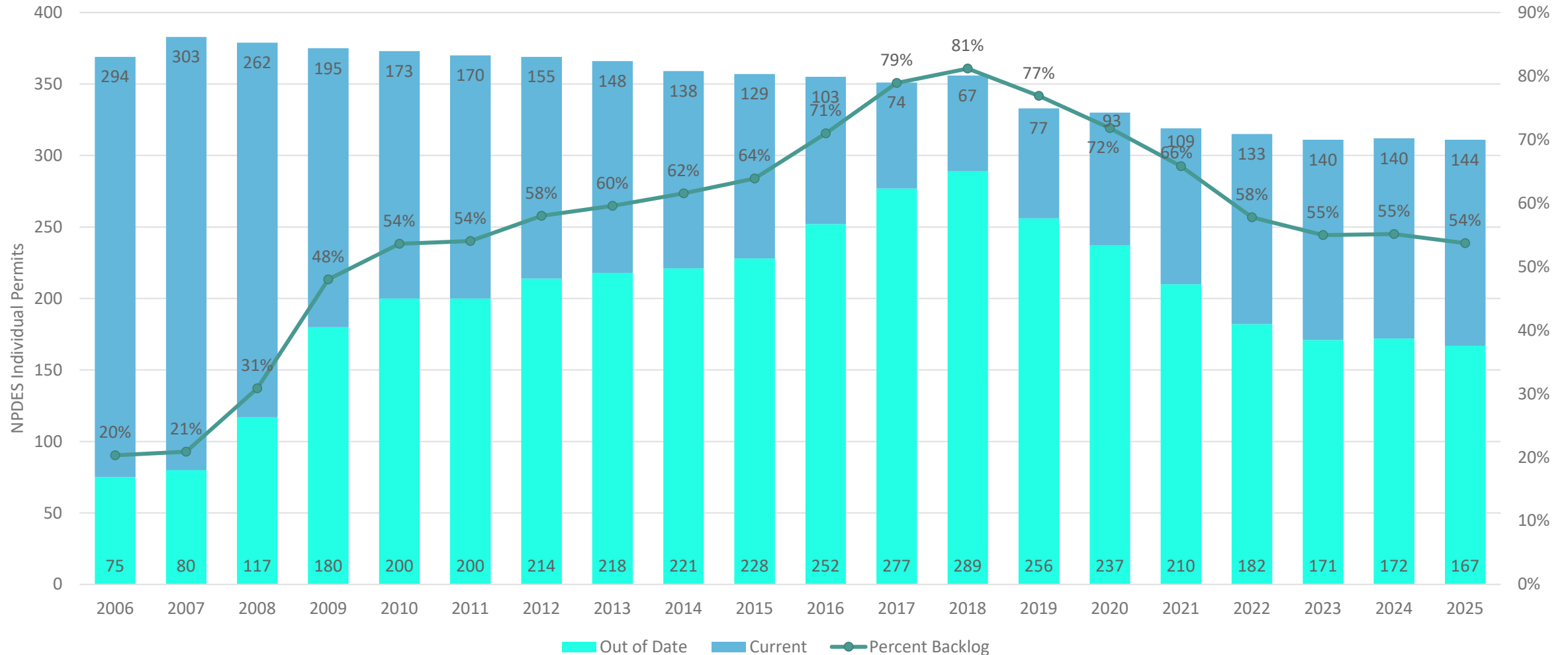
Importance of Current Permits

- Monitoring requirements and limits reflect current standards and guidelines
- Changes in effluent limits are incremental
- Prepare for complex compliance issues
- Recent data represents current performance
- Permit reflects current operations
- Permits can be updated to support facility planning and upgrades

Water Quality Permitting Program Goals

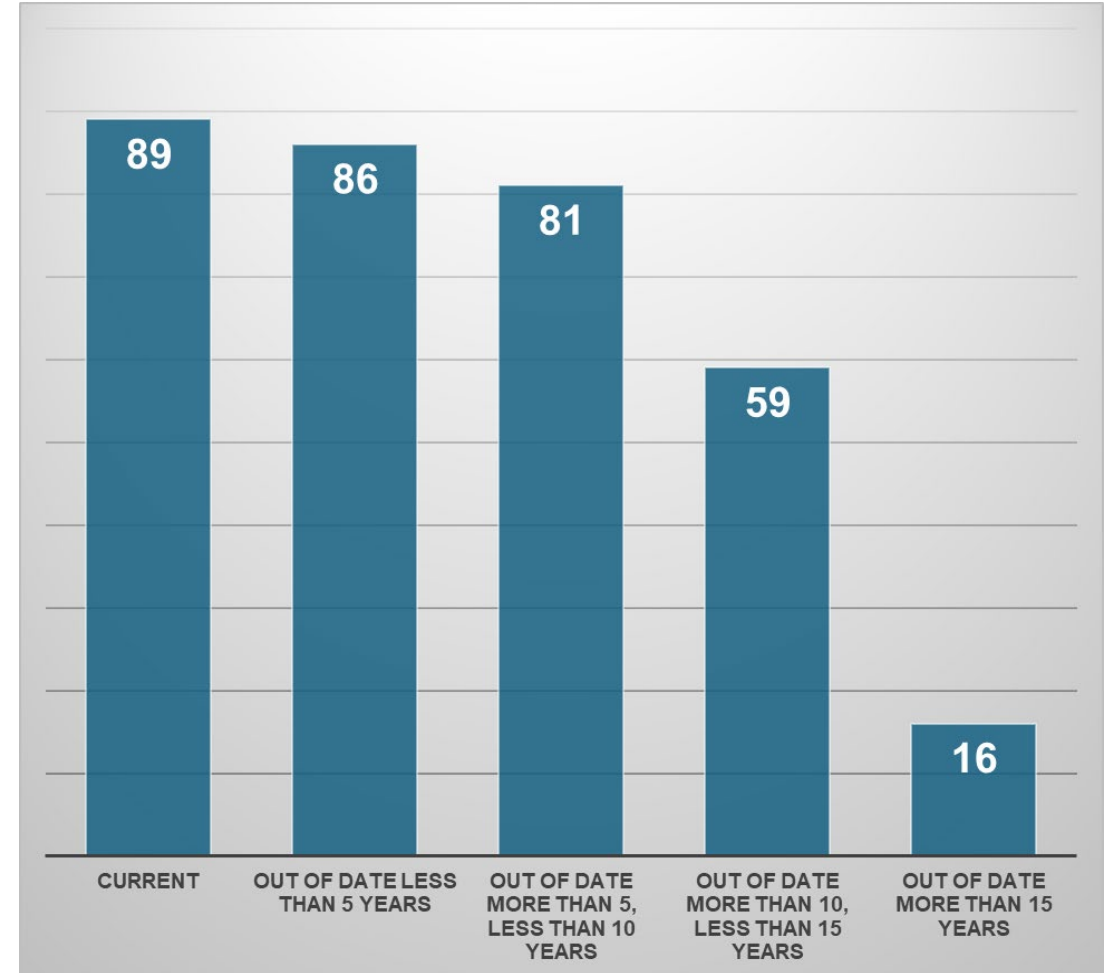
- Program goals for NPDES Individual permits
 - Current permits – greater than 90%
 - Planning
 - Standardization
 - Data availability
 - On time
 - Continuous improvement – planning, metrics, and reporting

Oregon NPDES Individual Permit Backlog: 2006 to Present



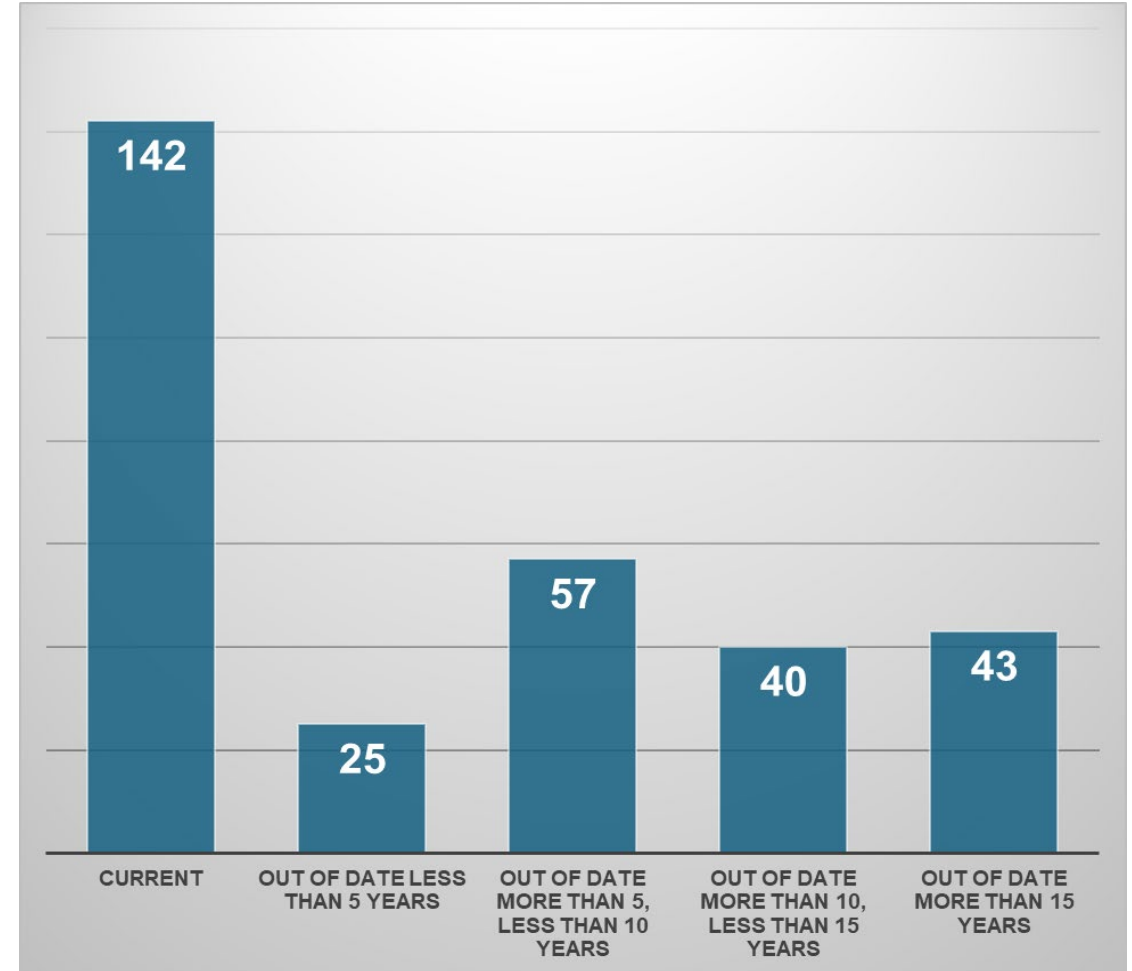
2020 Status of NPDES Individual Permits

- As of Aug. 12, 2020:
 - 89 permits current
 - 86 permits out of date less than 5 years
 - 81 permits out of date more than 5, less than 10 years
 - 59 permits out of date more than 10, less than 15 years
 - 16 permits out of date more than 15 years

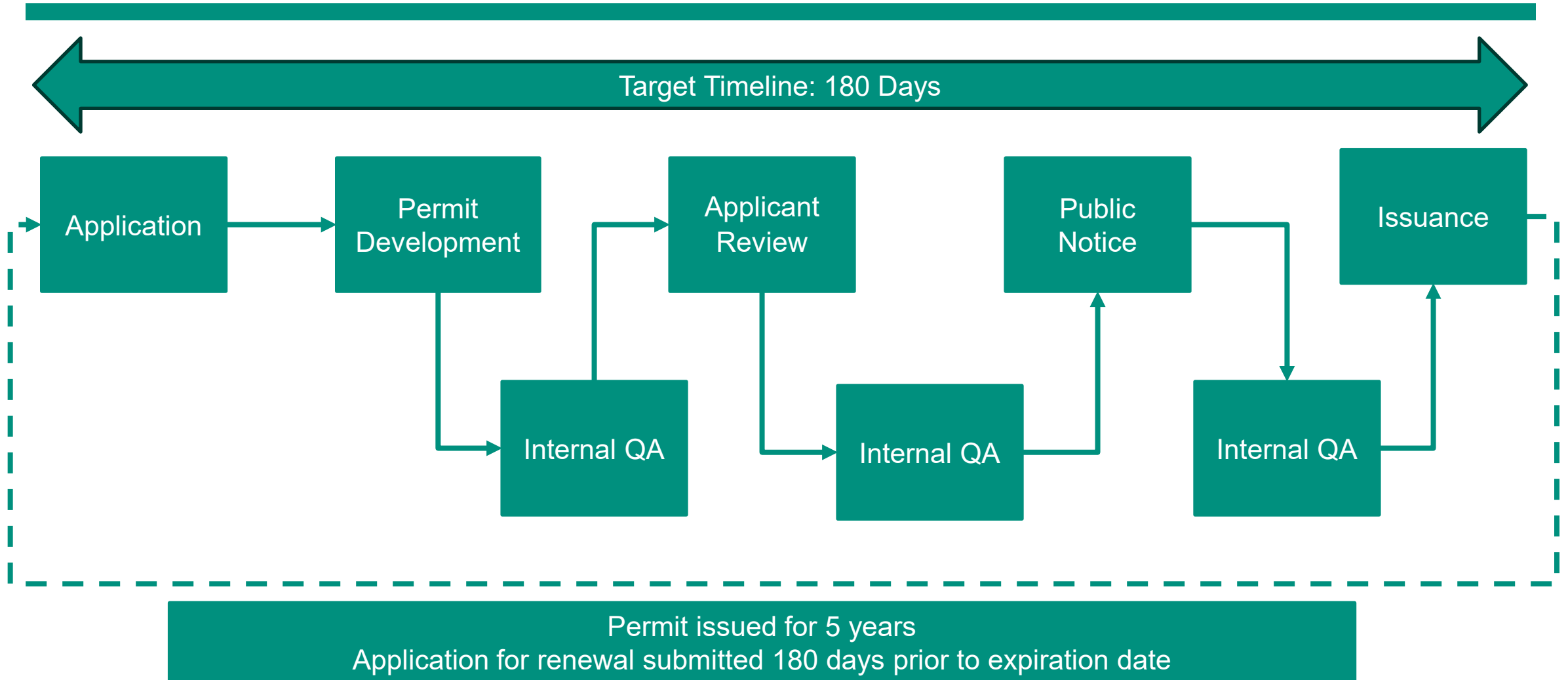


Current Status of NPDES Individual Permits

- As of June 16, 2025:
 - 142 permits current
 - 25 permits out of date less than 5 years
 - 57 permits out of date more than 5, less than 10 years
 - 40 permits out of date more than 10, less than 15 years
 - 43 permits out of date more than 15 years



NPDES Permit Issuance Process Flow



Water Quality Based Limits

- Basin Standards
 - State design criteria
 - OAR 340-041-0101 through -350
 - These can be site or regional specific
- Water Quality Standards
 - 2022 Integrated Report and impairment listings
 - 2024 submitted for approval
 - Implemented in new and renewed permits
- Waste Load Allocation (from TMDL)
 - Various pollutants for impaired water bodies
 - Statewide focus on temperature TMDL updates
 - Implemented in new and renewed permits after approval

Permit Development

- Process includes front-loaded subject matter expert (SME) reviews
 - Permit writers are required to review complex topics with SME's
 - SME reviews are approved prior to QA and back-end processes (QA, applicant review, public notice)
- All permits receive internal quality approval prior to back-end processes
- Permit issuance is a priority for the agency → “Issue permits” top-down communication
 - Your DEQ Online is a competing priority while the program works on testing

Permit Development – Challenges

1. Multiple vacancies from 2021 to 2024

- Team of 10 permit writers
- Hired and trained 9 out of 10 permit writers

2. Permitting culture shift – internal and external

- Centralized permit development produces consistent application of CWA and OARs for all NPDES permits
- Standardization of permit development through updated internal management directives, quality assurance check points, direct support guidance

3. Technology

- Your DEQ Online
- Cyberattack

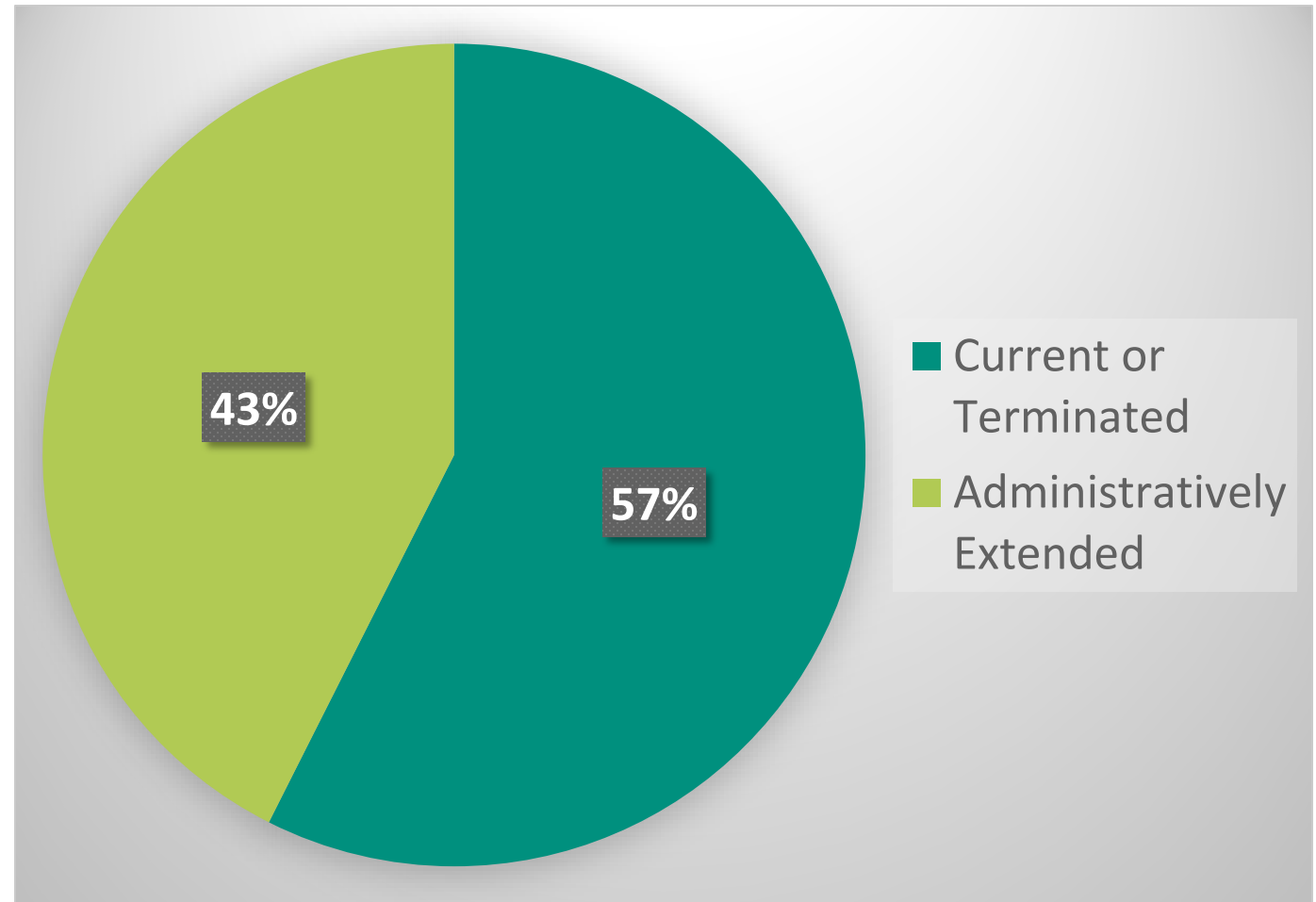
Consent Judgement (Final Date Nov. 18, 2018)

- Continued focus and integration
- Completed tasks
 - Various administrative – general permit issuance
- [Annual WQ Report on Individual NPDES Permits](#) sent to EQC on Jan. 1
- Backlogged permits

Milestone	Percent Complete	Status
2 years	10%	Complete
4 years	25%	Complete
6 years	40%	Complete
8 years	75%	
10 years	100%	

Consent Judgment Permits

- Backlog settlement: 148 permits
- Milestone: 75% complete by November 2026
- As of June 16, 2025: 85/148 complete (57% complete)



NPDES Individual Permit Issuance Plans

- On Oct. 1 of each year, DEQ publishes a permit issuance plan that identifies the permits targeted for development during the next year and for the next five years
- Work plan developed internally
 - Rollover permits
 - Permits soon to expire
 - Regionally priorities
 - Geography
 - Resource availability
- Final [NPDEQ Individual Permit Issuance Plan](#) posted in October
- [NPDES and WPCF General Permit Issuance Plan](#)

Coming Up

- [Your DEQ Online](#) – water quality permitting launched May 12, 2025
 - WPCF onsite permits, NPDES individual and general, WPCF individual and general
- Individual permit issuance plan – Oct. 1
- Updated 5-year permit issuance plan – Oct. 1

Questions?



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