

Fiscal Highlights

Department of Environmental Quality Significant Changes - Brian Wikle

Executive Director

Amanda Smith, Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), announced that she will step down effective May 22, 2015 following six years of service to the State of Utah in that position. Governor Gary Herbert nominated Alan Matheson, his current Environmental Advisor, to head the agency. Mr. Matheson's appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Reorganization

Senate Bill 244, Department of Environmental Quality Modifications, enacted in the 2015 General Session consolidated the Division of Radiation Control (DRC) and the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (DSHW) into the new Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control (DWMRC) effective FY 2016. Senate Bill 3, the final appropriations act of the session, transferred all FY 2016 appropriations from DRC and DSHW to the new division. As shown in the following figure, S.B. 3 split appropriations to the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control between two appropriation units that mirror the discontinued divisions.

S.B. 3		Enrolled Copy
1291	ITEM 165 To Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Waste	
1292	Management	
1293	From General Fund	769,900
1294	From General Fund, One-time	3,900
1295	From Federal Funds	1,365,000
1296	From Dedicated Credits Revenue	1,533,300
1297	From General Fund Restricted - Environmental Quality	5,893,600
1298	From General Fund Restricted - Used Oil Collection Administration	781,200
1299	From Waste Tire Recycling Fund	142,900
1300	From Revenue Transfers - Within Agency	(255,600)
1301	From Beginning Nonlapsing Appropriation Balances	425,000
1302	Schedule of Programs:	
1303	Solid and Hazardous Waste	6,871,400
1304	Radiation Control	3,787,800
1305	To implement the provisions of <i>Department of</i>	
1306	<i>Environmental Quality Modifications</i> (Senate Bill 244, 2015	
1307	General Session).	

If this arrangement was to continue, the agency would need to prepare budgets for both appropriation units. To improve efficiency of budgeting, the agency intends to transfer all funding for DWMRC to a single appropriation unit at the start of FY 2016, and it will request that beginning in the FY 2017 budget cycle appropriations be made to a single appropriation unit for the division.

DEQ expects that the consolidation will improve efficiency by reducing duplicate processes and positions that existed independently in DRC and DSHW. Work units and employees of the discontinued divisions will be integrated leading to cost savings.

Two positions will be eliminated in the X-ray inspection program within DWMRC. Reductions will be accomplished through retirements and reassignment of retained x-ray inspection staff to open positions in the division. In anticipation of the reduction in x-ray inspection staff, the Legislature reduced ongoing General Fund appropriations to DEQ by \$243,400.

Air quality funding changes

The Legislature appropriated \$2.97 million for efforts to improve air quality as follows:

- \$2.0 million for facilities for alternative fuel vehicles (ongoing);
- \$700,000 for grants to encourage individuals and entities to convert engines to cleaner fuels (one-time);
- \$200,000 for air quality research (one-time); and,
- \$70,000 for modeling emissions from solid fuel burning devices (one-time).