

DEQ-UPHL Operational Plan

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Legislature directed the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Utah Department of Health (DHHS) to develop a comprehensive plan for:

1. The most cost-effective mechanisms to procure high volume environmental chemistry analyses.
2. Structure for the development of new laboratory methods that are not commercially available but would benefit the public interest.
3. An optimal governance structure.
4. A plan to internally fund future equipment purchases.

Cost-effective operational mechanisms

The following are most likely to procure high-volume environmental chemistry analyses:

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1. Cost accounting assessment
2. Complementation by financial analysis
3. Resource utilization analysis
4. Market validation
5. New fee structure
6. RFP bid submission

Cost-effective operational mechanisms

DEQ

1. Identification of interest of commercial laboratories in Utah
2. Open competitive RFP
3. **UPHL provided the only qualified bid response**

Cost-effective operational mechanism

Implementation

MOU development to
govern work
beginning July 1, 2023

Structure for development of new methods

New laboratory methods
that are not commercially
available but would benefit
the public interest:

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1. Leverage abilities
across UPHL sections
2. Eliminating silos
3. Assessment of Needs

Successes

1. COVID wastewater
monitoring
2. Working with DEQ on
quality assessment
project

Create an optimal governance structure

Governance structure to oversee state environmental testing resources

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1. Laser focus on customer service and quality
2. Transparency
3. Open communication

DEQ and UPHL

1. Monthly leadership meetings
2. Ad-hoc meetings
3. Dashboard solutions

Plan to internally fund equipment purchases

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1. Fee structure contains incremental use cost
2. Non-lapsing authority

Risk

1. **Volatility of non-lapsing accounts**
2. Exposure to cost increases (e.g. targeted salary increases and delayed fee increases)