

# The Department of Environmental Quality and Local Health Departments Coordination Efforts Annual Status Report

May 1, 2023- October 31, 2023

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PREPARED BY The Department of Environmental Quality



UTAH DEPARTMENT of  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY

# DEQ and LHDs Coordination Efforts Annual Status Report

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During the 2023 General Session, the Utah Legislature passed House Bill 71 (HB71), updating 19-1-201(4). The updated rule requires the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Local Health Department (LHD) Governance Committee to coordinate efforts when DEQ evaluates a policy or rule that affects an LHD. Those efforts will be reported to the Administrative Rules Review and General Oversight Committee before November 1st of each year.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Local Health Department (LHD) Governance Committee consist of:

1. DEQ Executive Director
2. Two representatives of DEQ appointed by the DEQ Executive Director
3. Three Health Officers of local health departments appointed from the Utah Association of Local Health Departments (UALHD) designated by UALHD.

As required in 19-1-201(4)(b), the DEQ-LHD Governance Committee shall evaluate rules and department policies that affect local health departments. When evaluating a rule or policy, the committee must consider the following factors:

1. Compute an estimate of the cost to local health departments to comply with the rule or policy.
2. Specify whether additional funding is provided to local health departments to implement the rule or policy.
3. Advise whether the rule or policy is still needed.

A summary of the DEQ-LHD Governance Committee coordination efforts is listed in Table 1.

## Summary of Coordination Efforts

Policy or Rule	Name of Policy or Rule	Division or Committee	Coordination Efforts	Status	Additional Cost to LHD	Additional Funding Provided	Is rule or policy still needed
Policy	DEQ & LHD Governance Flowchart	DEQ-LHD Governance Committee	The DEQ-LHD Governance Committee worked to develop a communication flowchart between DEQ and LHDs for several months.	Finalized July 1, 2023	None	No	Yes
Rule	On-site Septic Tank Rule 317-4	Division of Water Quality	Staff met in person with LHD specialists to update R317-4, which affected on-site septic tanks.	Finalized August 7, 2023	None	No	Yes
Policy	DEQ & LHD Governance Bylaws Update	DEQ-LHD Governance Committee	The DEQ-LHD Governance Committee worked on updating the committees' bylaws for several months.	Finalized September 26, 2023	None	No	Yes
Policy	Drinking Water Boil Order	Division of Drinking Water	The Director of the Division of Drinking Water met with LHDs to update the drinking water boil order policy.	Finalized October 24, 2023	None	No	Yes
Policy	Local Health Department Minimum Performance Standards with DEQ	DEQ-LHD Governance Committee	The DEQ-LHD Governance Committee created a subcommittee to develop a document for Minimum Performance Standards for the LHDs related to DEQ environmental programs.	In Progress	TBD	TBD	Yes

Policy or Rule	Name of Policy or Rule	Division or Committee	Coordination Efforts	Status	Additional Cost to LHD	Additional Funding Provided	Is rule or policy still needed
Rule	Local Health Department Funding Formula with DEQ as per 19-1-201(1)(c)(iii)	DEQ-LHD Governance Committee	The DEQ-LHD Governance Committee created a subcommittee to develop a funding formula for pass-through funding to local health departments for DEQ environmental programs as outlined in 19-1-201(1)(c)(iii).	In Progress	TBD	TBD	Yes
Rule	Drinking Water Rules R309-100, 105, 110, 115, 515, 540, and 600	Division of Drinking Water	The DEQ-LHD Governance Committee agreed to have the CLEHA chair participate in a Drinking Water Rules workgroup. The workgroup was set up to help guide the drafting of the rules. The draft rules have been sent to stakeholders including LHDs for informal public comments twice. The second informal 30-day public comment period ends November 13, 2023. The rules are anticipated to be adopted in Spring 2024.	In Progress	TBD	TBD	Yes

**Table 1 - DEQ-LHD Governance Committee Coordination Efforts**