

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

Office of the Regional Administrator

EPA Environmental Programs in Idaho

**An EPA Report
1983**

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Idaho, like all other States is being urged by EPA to assume more of the statutory authorities that Congress gave State governments for implementing the body of environmental laws enacted in the last 12 years. With varying degrees of emphasis in each of those laws, it was Congress' clear intent for EPA to work with the States in partnership. EPA's purpose is to support State pollution control efforts with Federal grants and technical assistance and to carry out those programs that the State does not take. In Fiscal Year 1983, EPA provided Idaho with almost \$20 million in Federal funds (see Attachment A) to support State environmental efforts.

A key role for EPA is, therefore, to help the State take responsibility for the development, management and enforcement of environmental programs so that they can be tailored to fit the State's needs. Although only 4 of the 9 major programs that EPA can legally delegate have been assumed by Idaho, Idaho is participating in the other program areas through various memorandum of understandings. State involvement in these programs will allow for smooth transitions as Idaho takes more program responsibilities. EPA will be actively encouraging Idaho to take on the primary responsibilities for programs which have not been delegated. EPA's purpose will be to fulfill our mutual Congressional mandate, with the result that Idaho itself will administer environmental programs that will satisfy Federal statutory requirements and be more responsive to local situations in the environmental and geographic climate unique to Idaho.

The following pages describe major issues facing the State and EPA, and provide a listing of the major EPA grant programs which support Idaho's environmental activities. A roster of the top management officials in EPA's Region 10 who can provide more information about any of the issues discussed in this document is provided below.

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IDAHO PRIORITY ISSUES

AIR QUALITY

Delegation of air programs to Idaho

Last year the air program for Idaho was reinstated in the State. This program allows the State such activities as new source permitting, compliance, enforcement, and monitoring. This year, Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare will begin activities that will enable them to assume two Federal Clean Air Act responsibilities that have been administered by EPA: the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program and the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) program.

The PSD program is designed to keep clean air areas clean. It applies to places that, by a wide margin, meet ambient air quality standards to protect human health. Full delegation is expected to be assumed by IDHW by September 1983.

The NSPS program, as its name implies, calls for new sources of air pollution to meet emission standards established by EPA. Delegation of this program to Idaho will require IDHW to enforce those standards. Full delegation is expected to be assumed by IDHW by September 1983.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) in Boise (Ada County)

Northern Ada County continues to experience a serious air quality problem due to carbon monoxide emissions from automobiles.

Local government recently submitted their 1982 Transportation Control Plan which, when implemented, will result in attainment of the Federal carbon monoxide standard by 1987. The single most effective control measure in this plan is the auto emissions inspection and maintenance program to be implemented in Ada County. The emissions test program is scheduled to be in operation by December, 1983. The Plan has been proposed for approval in the February 3rd Federal Register. However, should the inspection and maintenance program not be implemented, the Plan would be disapproved and result in the imposition of sanctions.

Sanctions (1982 Deadline)

The Clean Air Act requires all areas of the country to attain the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than December 31, 1982. In non-attainment areas for carbon monoxide, such as Ada County, and for ozone, the Act allows an extension until 1987. Two areas in Idaho have not yet attained the Federal health standard for particulate matter; these areas are Pocatello and Conda/Soda Springs. The Clean Air Act provides for sanctions of certain Federal funding and a moratorium on construction of new major sources in areas that have not attained the 1982 deadline.

Field Burning

Approximately 30,000 acres of agricultural fields are burned each summer in Northern Idaho. This practice which is limited primarily to fields in grass seed production results in tremendous quantities of smoke. The smoke has been linked with severe visibility reduction, adverse health effects, degradation of overall air quality, and adverse effects on commercial business in the areas, especially the tourist industry.

The State of Idaho has regulations which govern agricultural field burning. The State is currently reviewing the adequacy of existing regulations and their smoke management plan. A study is underway to determine if the acreage burned each year can be reduced. In addition, the State is examining ways to make smoke management more effective. Implementation of possible regulatory revisions and refined smoke management practices will retain a high priority in FY 84.

Residential Wood Combustion - Boise

The increase in wood burning in Boise is of growing concern due to the health impacts and haze associated with resulting particulate emissions. In residential areas, the wood stoves also contribute to the carbon monoxide (CO) loading. (It should also be noted that wood-burning devices produce from 10 to 100 times more particulate pollution per BTU than oil or gas-fired furnaces.) IDHW and EPA are planning to do some short-term monitoring to quantify the extent and seriousness of the particulate problem as well as CO impact and then will propose a control strategy, if necessary. EPA is prepared to provide both technical and monetary support to the IDHW effort.

WATER QUALITY

Waste water discharge permits

EPA issues and administers the NPDES waste water discharge permit program in Idaho. This program, referred to as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System is intended to limit the discharge of pollutants to surface waters. These permits require compliance with national guidelines and State water quality standards.

Because of severe restrictions of EPA resources, this program can be handled more efficiently and effectively with an increased role from IDHW. IDHW personnel deal directly with all of the 400 or so identified dischargers and can be much more effective in promoting construction and proper operation and maintenance of treatment facilities.

It is EPA's hope that Idaho will soon take delegation of the NPDES program. The necessary regulations and legislation changes are scheduled to be drafted by IDHW this year.

Trout Farming

Since Idaho has not assumed the NPDES program, EPA is working directly with the fish farms in the Hagerman Valley. EPA recently issued approximately 60 compliance orders establishing discharge limits and requiring monitoring of the fish farm discharges. EPA has also offered to assist the fish farmers in developing a sample monitoring program. Permits are scheduled for issuance in summer of 1983 using the results of the monitoring program.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT IN IDAHO

The Idaho Legislature has not yet passed enabling legislation allowing the State to assume responsibility for the hazardous waste management program. After consulting with representatives of industry and environmental groups, IDHW had prepared draft legislation which will be considered during the 1983 legislative session. Once legislation is passed, EPA will provide contractors' assistance to IDHW in the development of regulations. IDHW will then adopt final implementing regulations, and submit an application to EPA for authorization to begin running the program in January 1985. IDHW will be applying for final authorization. The time table for applying for interim authorization expires in July, 1983.

Until IDHW is in the position to make such an application, EPA will be encouraging the State of Idaho to continue in the Cooperative Agreement that allows EPA and IDHW to jointly conduct hazardous waste management activities as long as IDHW is making reasonable progress in obtaining final authorization.

ABANDONED OR INACTIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

Three proposed hazardous waste sites in Idaho are being considered for the current updating of the National Priority List. (This lists the priority hazardous waste sites in the United States)

Arrcom Corp., Drexler Enterprises Inc. (Rathdrum, Idaho)

Arrcom sits directly above the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, the designated sole source of water supply serving thousands of people, of which about 6300 are within a 3-mile radius of the site. The site may be contaminating the aquifer with waste chloroform and possibly PCB. Contaminants may also get on food crops via irrigation with contaminated water. A 45,000 gallon storage tank on-site has been and is continuing to leak into the ground. EPA is in the process of issuing a compliance order to Arrcom. If clean-up of the site is not accomplished by this mechanism, then Superfund, the Federal law which provides funding for cleaning-up hazardous waste sites resulting from past practices, may be necessary.

Bunker Hill (Smelterville, Idaho)

Bunker Hill is a lead and zinc mining and smelting complex that operated for over 50 years. It lies in the steep-sided valley of the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. The valley has historically been subject to air and water pollution for the past 50 years. Soils are contaminated with lead. Groundwater and surface water had been severely polluted from past operations.

Recently, there have been some environmental improvements, which are probably due to corrective actions by Bunker Hill. However, there are still concerns in the area.

The firm was recently sold to a consortium of Idaho businessmen. Future environmental control activity will be influenced by decisions, yet to be made by the new owners, as to whether they will resume full-scale operations of the Bunker Hill facility.

Flynn Lumber (Caldwell, Idaho)

Flynn Lumber operated a small pole-dipping operation for about eight months 3 1/2 miles east of Caldwell, above the Boise River Alluvial Aquifer. Tanks on the site contained low concentrations of pentachlorophenol (PCP) which were later spilled on the ground when the tanks were removed.

Soil samples revealed low levels of PCP. The holes from the spilled tanks have now been covered over. Available literature indicates that the PCP should degrade before it can reach the aquifer. For the present time the only action that should be taken is to monitor a nearby well.

EPA Grants to Idaho

CONSTRUCTION GRANTS

\$12.9 million

Construction grants provide 75% of the funding to build municipal sewerage works, which include treatment plants, interceptor sewers, final effluent discharge lines, and sewage collection systems. The Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) administers the program. The \$12.9 million available for Idaho is made up of an \$11.9 million FY 83 allocation plus unobligated FY 82 funds. Projects are scheduled for funding under a priority list established annually by the Department. Post Falls (\$2.4 million), Coeur d'Alene (\$7.6 million), Eagle (\$1.8M), and Boise (\$1.9M) have the highest priority on the current list.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

a) Water Programs Grant (Section 106)

\$421,000

EPA annually awards this grant under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act to assist the Department of Health and Welfare in managing their statewide water pollution control program. State activities partially supported by these funds include planning, permitting, enforcement and water quality monitoring. Water quality problems currently being addressed by the State under this program range from the control of toxic metals from mining operations to the reduction of sediment from timber harvesting.

b) Water Planning Grant [Section 205(j)]

minimum	\$200,000
maximum	\$237,000

A minimum of \$100,000 to a maximum of one percent of Idaho's annual funding to build sewage treatment plants can be directed toward water planning activities under §205(j). This is a new provision of the Clean Water Act. The amounts noted above include both FY 82 and FY 83 funds. These are the only planning funds now potentially available to local water quality agencies, but also are to support statewide planning. The minimum amount will be lost to the State if not used for water planning activities.

c) State Management Assistance Grant [Section 205(g)]

\$477,000 FY-83
472,000 FY-82

A maximum of four percent of Idaho's annual funding to build sewage treatment plants can be used to pay IDHW's expenses in managing the EPA and State sewage treatment plant construction program. These funds are intended to provide the necessary resources for the State to continue managing the program delegated to the State by EPA in 1979.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM SUPERVISION PROGRAM

\$314,700 - FY 83

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

The purpose of the public water system supervision program is to assure safe drinking water for residents and visitors to the State. EPA has developed national drinking water standards. The states are to assure that water systems, which serve the public, comply with these standards and any other requirements which the states choose to implement. For the program to be most effective, it must be preventive in nature.

IDHW accepted responsibility for implementing the national drinking water standards in 1978. Prior to that time, there had been only a relatively small state program. Since 1978, significant improvements have been made in attaining water system compliance with the standards, but further progress is necessary. The State has identified a number of water systems which need improvements, and continued work between the State and the water systems will be required to assure that needed improvements are made.

UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Idaho Department of Water Resources

\$ 66,600 - FY 83

The purpose of the Underground Injection Control program is to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination by the injection of contaminated water. EPA has developed construction and operating requirements to assure that wells which inject waste fluids underground do not contaminate ground water. Any state assuming the Federal program is to assure that injection wells comply with these standards and any other more stringent requirements which the state chooses to implement. The Department of Water Resources has been designated by the Governor as the lead State agency and is coordinating other State agencies' role in the program. The State Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has the major role in oil and gas related injections. The Department of Health and Welfare has jurisdiction over shallow injection wells. Additional State legislation will be necessary, however, for the State to assume the national program. The major area of concern by EPA is that the State's regulations do not have sufficient penalty provisions.

Hazardous Waste Grant

\$179,000

The Division of the Environment in the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare receives an annual EPA grant under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for development and implementation of a hazardous waste regulatory program. The program consists of an inspection program, a tracking system for the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste as well as a permit program for regulating treatment, storage and disposal facilities. During 1983, the State will continue development of their program and assist EPA in implementation of the Federal program.

The clear intent of the Federal Act is authorization of State programs to operate in lieu of the Federal program. Idaho needs enabling legislation to adopt the regulations necessary to apply for authorization. During 1983 a proposed bill will be reintroduced, which, if passed, should provide the State with the necessary authority.

PESTICIDES

	State	EPA
<u>Applicator Certification Grant</u>	\$33,590	\$ 18,800 (No FY 83 funds available to date)

The applicator certification grant was awarded to the Idaho Department of Agriculture. The funding will assist the State in maintaining its testing and licensing program for pesticide applicators. This program is to ensure that persons using restricted use pesticide products are competent in handling and application of highly hazardous pesticides.

<u>Cooperative Enforcement Grant</u>	\$49,689	\$124,767
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The Idaho Department of Agriculture has assumed the primary enforcement responsibility for pesticide use within the State. Under the grant, the State will enforce federal and state laws regarding pesticide use, product manufacturing or sales.

AIR

<u>105 Air Program Grants</u>	\$570,000
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EPA makes a grant to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to assist in funding the operation of the State air pollution control program. This grant must be matched by at least 25 percent non-federal funding.

In addition, EPA has made up to \$370,000 available to Ada County through the Ada Planning Association for the initiation of a mandatory inspection and maintenance (automobile emissions testing) program.

Some of the above figures include "Carryover funds" -- funds awarded to the State in FY 82, but unexpended at the end of the fiscal year. These funds can be used in FY 83 for the continuation of on going projects.

EPA Grants to State Agencies
State of Idaho

	<u>1982 funds awarded</u>	<u>1983 funds available</u>
<u>Department of Health and Welfare</u>		
<u>Consolidated Programs</u>		
Air	300,000	184,500
Water	400,000	421,000
Hazardous Waste	143,623	115,019
Totals	<u>843,623</u>	<u>720,519</u>
<u>Other Grants</u>		
Local Air	24,000	unknown
Underground Injection	64,876	66,600
Public Water System	427,100	314,700
Totals	<u>515,976</u>	<u>381,300</u>
<u>Department of Agriculture</u>		
<u>Pesticides</u>		
Certification	18,800	-0-
Enforcement	129,959	97,032
Totals	<u>148,759</u>	<u>97,032</u>

Construction Grants (as of 1-31-83)

<u>FY 83 Funds</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Obligated</u>	<u>Unobligated Balance</u>
General Funds	9,335,010	-0-	9,335,010
Increase Reserve	862,335	-0-	862,335
State Mgmt. Asst.	476,640	-0-	476,640
Innovative Tech.	59,580	-0-	59,580
Alternative Tech.	417,060	-0-	417,060
Small Communities	476,640	25,338	451,302
Advance Reserve	169,575	-0-	169,575
Water Quality Mgt.	119,160	-0-	119,160
Totals	<u>11,916,000</u>	<u>25,338</u>	<u>11,890,662</u>

(FY 83 funds expire 9-30-84)

<u>FY 82 Funds</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Obligated</u>	<u>Unobligated Balance</u>
General Fund	4,233,316	4,195,575	37,741
Increase Reserve	737,023	737,023	-0-
State Mgmt. Asst.	472,404	472,404	-0-
Innovative Tech.	59,050	156	58,894
Alternative Tech.	315,592	19,374	296,218
Advance Reserve	128,040	-0-	128,040
Water Quality Mgt.	118,101	-0-	118,101
Totals	<u>\$6,063,526</u>	<u>\$5,424,532</u>	<u>\$638,994</u>

(FY 82 funds expire 9-30-83)

FY 72 through FY 81 carryover - \$340,160