



Newsletter

Environmental Connection

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Sponsored by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality

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2.2 Percent Cut in FY2011 DEQ Hedges Off Big Hits in General Fund for 2011

Faced with state budget woes, the Department of Environmental Quality was spared big cuts for the upcoming fiscal year 2011, which begins July 1. In the end, DEQ took a 2.2 percent reduction in the General Fund and spared employees from forced furloughs.

To meet state budget shortfalls this year, DEQ, like all state agencies, took a one time 3 percent additional cut. Governor Herbert issued an executive order mandating the cuts to take place through June 30, 2010.

Those cuts included big reductions in travel, eliminating food purchases at meetings, reductions in equipment purchases and other expenses like conference attendance and organizational memberships. DEQ already had imposed a hiring freeze and offered eligible employees early retirement incentives which helped avoid furloughs.

“DEQ had sustained a 24 percent cut in FY09-10. We knew going in we would receive some reduction, but needed to minimize it as much as possible so as not to affect our core functions,” said Executive Director Amanda Smith. “I credit our management team for working with legislators to come up with a budget that in the end we can all live with.”

Once again, there are no pay raises for state workers. The national economic downturn also has forced many state agencies to take a closer look at programs and positions to find ways to become more efficient.

Overall, DEQ receives a small percentage of financing from the General Fund – roughly 20 percent with the remainder of its overall budget funded by a combination of federal funds (40 percent), restricted funds (20 percent) and dedicated credits (20 percent).

Air Quality Engineer Retires after 32 Years

Lynn Menlove has worn many hats in his 32-year career in state government. He's worked as a material technician for the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) before he came to the Division of Air Quality as a permit writer, enforcement officer, inspector and manager of the New Source Review Section.



Lynn Menlove

The 60 year-old Utah native retired in January, ending his career at the Department of Environmental Quality as the senior engineering advisor.

"In the 30-plus years, I've had five jobs," Menlove said. "I've worn a lot of hats."

He was most comfortable, however, working in the field as an enforcement officer in the Air Quality compliance section. "I enjoyed that," he said. "Each permit is different and I think my experience as a permit writer and manager I came to understand the industry."

Menlove graduated from the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 1976. He immediately went to work for UDOT as a materials technician working with the asphalt and concrete plants. That experience helped him earn a spot in air quality where he spent many years in compliance, working with industrial giants like Geneva Steel – seven years after the Clean Air Act was enacted in 1970.

It was different back then, Menlove recalls. Big corporations were reluctant to comply with environmental laws. Industry feared environmental restrictions would put them out of work. "There were public hearings where families of company employees would carry signs, 'Don't take my dad's job,'" Menlove recalled.

In 1982, Menlove worked in permitting until 1991 when he was promoted to manager of the New Source Review Section where he worked until 2000. During that time, the Division of Air Quality was doing 400 permits a year, including upgrades to Kennecott's new smelter.

In order to speed up the process, he was part of a group that streamlined the permits, dividing them up into two groups: major permits or minor permits and getting them in contact with a permitting engineer right away. That way, a small source like a gravel pit needing an air permit

could get it more quickly, without its paperwork buried under a stack of other requests, and all sources were permitted more quickly.

He's had other tasks. He spent a year analyzing data from smokestack tests, making sure the tests were reliable and accurate. He's most proud of his success in getting the Environmental Protection Agency to recognize the impact wild fires and fireworks have on air quality.

"This was a real accomplishment," Menlove said. "It influenced national policy."

Cheryl Heying, director of Air Quality, said Menlove was a 'go-to' guy who got things done, quickly and efficiently.

"He was always willing to step in where needed," she said.

Now he's looking forward to enjoying the outdoors – skiing, bird watching, and cooking dinner for his wife of 12 years, Kate Johnson, whom he met here at DEQ. Johnson is the administrative services manager for the Division of Drinking Water.

"I'm looking forward to the continuing education classes at the U.," Menlove said. He's most pleased with his retirement gift: a gift card to a culinary cooking class.

Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet During April

Utahns will have an opportunity to drop off their unused prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs on April 24 at various locations throughout the state.

"Proper drug disposal is so important for the environment and for our health and safety," said Leah Ann Lamb, assistant director of the Division of Water Quality. "Flushing medicines down the toilet or sink enter the water because some wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to remove them. And, medications could be stolen if they are thrown away in the garbage."

Because proper disposal is so important, the University of Utah Poison Control Center and many others have teamed up with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide "drive-up and drop-off" community collection events for Utah households on April 24, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the following locations:

- **Cottonwood Heights:** Smith's Parking Lot, 3470 Bengal Blvd.
- **Heber City:** Smith's Parking Lot, 550 N. Main St.
- **Herriman:** Smith's Parking Lot, 5560 W. 13400 South
- **Midvale:** Hillcrest High School, 7350 S. 900 East
- **Park City:** Recycle Utah Parking Lot, 1951 Woodbine Way.
- **Price:** Sutherlands Parking Lot, 406 Highway 55.

- **Salt Lake City:** Salt Lake County Government Center, south parking lot, 2001 South State St.

The Utah County SMART coalition is also separately sponsoring community events, the following drop-off dates and locations are:

Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Orem Utah Valley University, northwest parking lot, 1200 W. 800 South
- Provo Walgreens, 1315 N. State St.

Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Orem Walgreens, 850 S. State St.
- Orem Walgreens, 763 N. State St.
- Pleasant Grove Walgreens, 815 W. State Road
- Lehi Walgreens, 102 N. 1200 East
- Saratoga Springs Walgreens, 1410 N. Redwood Road
- Lindon City, Police Department, 100 N. State St.

Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Springville Walgreens, 420 S. Main
- Payson Walgreens, 132 N. Main

For more information on proper disposal, please visit: <http://www.medicationsdisposal.utah.gov/>

Session Ends with Passage of DEQ-sought Bills Item

The 2010 Legislature convened last week with the successful passage of two waste management related bills sought by the Department of Environmental Quality.

HB331, a bill that changes how fees are charged to companies like Clean Harbors and EngerySolutions that dispose of hazardous and low-level radioactive wastes overwhelmingly passed both the House and Senate and now are on the Governor's desk for his signature.

Sponsored by Rep. Rhonda Menlove (R-Garland), the bill was drafted after significant input from Stakeholders and support from a variety of industries and affected entities. The bill is intended to help make solvent the financially strapped Environmental Quality Restricted Account (EQRA) – a fund that pays for oversight of waste management in the state but is faced with a projected \$2 million deficit because of a downturn in waste volumes.

“We are very pleased with the passage of this bill,” said Amanda Smith, executive director of DEQ. “It will help restore a much needed fund to cover waste management oversight.”

Near the end of the session lawmakers passed HB221, which reauthorizes the Hazardous Substances Mitigation Act (used for emergency cleanups) and the Waste Tire Recycling Act for another 10 years. Both were set to expire in 2010.

Other significant environmental-related legislation that passed this session includes:

- HB343, a bill that creates the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council. The Council would consist of 11 members, representing industry, government, conservation and agriculture – all appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. The Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources would coordinate and provide staff support.
- HB120, a bill that increases the coverage limit for underground storage tanks that utilize the Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund (PST) for financial assurances. The bill also increases the amount that can be loaned from the PST Loan Fund for replacement and upgrade of tank systems, and allows third parties impacted by a release from a tank to be reimbursed for expenses associated with hiring a consultant to review the cleanup work.
- SCR6, a resolution that authorizes Mountain View Landfill in Salt Lake to operate as a commercial Class V Landfill and accept asbestos waste.
- SCR7, a resolution that changes the classification of the Central Valley Landfill from Class IV to Class VI, allowing the landfill to operate as a commercial facility.
- HJR5, a joint resolution that encourages motorists to avoid excessive engine idling.
- HJR12, a joint resolution that calls on the Environmental Protection Agency and Congress to avoid any cap-and-trade or other CO2 regulations, pending a full and independent investigation of climate change science.
- HB395, a bill aimed at protecting utilities and energy producers from potential lawsuits claiming damage from greenhouse gas emissions.
- HJR21, a nonbinding resolution calling on Governor Herbert to pull Utah out of the Western Climate Initiative.

There were a couple of employee-related bills that focused on state retirements. SB63, a bill that does not affect current employees, but those hired after July 1, 2011, reduces the 401(k) contributions. For more information on changes to retirement plans or other Human Resources Management-related issues, visit the Employee Gateway.

Governor Herbert has until March 31 to sign the bills into law or veto them. Lawmakers could override any vetoed bills with a two-thirds majority. If no veto, most of the new laws take effect May 11, with the exception of budget bills begin at the start of the fiscal year, July 1.

Stimulus Funds to Improve Ogden River Ogden Celebrates Start of River Restoration Project

Ogden, Utah – In early January, Water Quality officials joined Sen. Bob Bennett and other notable state and local leaders in a ceremonial shoveling of dirt to signal the start of restoring the Ogden River that will be a centerpiece of revitalizing downtown Ogden.



Ogden River Restoration

The Ogden River runs through a blighted portion of downtown Ogden where some boarded up homes have encroached on the river's banks. The project – which received a \$1 million jumpstart in federal stimulus funds – calls for widening the river channel, stabilizing the banks and cleaning up discarded tires, shopping carts and chunks of debris that litter part of the river bed.

Walt Baker, director of Water Quality, said the Water Quality Board set aside \$1 million in stimulus funds out of \$4 million allocated to Utah for “green” projects because it will benefit the local ecosystem while helping residents reconnect with nature and provide a sense of stewardship to “this valuable, precious resource.”

“I hope this project also stimulates economic development,” he said.

John Patterson, Ogden's chief administration officer, is hopeful it will. The city plans to unveil a mixed-use redevelopment project centered around the Ogden River this spring.

“We are very grateful the Water Quality Board provided us with a generous amount of the limited stimulus funds,” he said.

Sen. Bennett praised the project for its public-private partnerships. “Important partners are being formed around this.”

Mike Styler, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, said the project will restore Ogden River to its wild self much like it was during the pioneer days. “It's going to be a little piece of wild Utah in the middle of the city.”

Water Quality Scientist Retires After Notable Career

Water Quality scientist Bill Moellmer was a child of the 60s who earned a Ph.D at Berkeley that led him on a path to improving the waterways of Utah in the 21st century.



Bill Moellmer and Walt Baker

Moellmer, 69, retired on January 28th after 19 years at the Division of Water Quality. He leaves behind a legacy of water quality improvements and scientific advancements, most notably as the chairman of the Science Panel, which established the first-ever tissue based water quality standard for selenium in the Great Salt Lake.

“It’s been a great run,” he told friends, family and colleagues at his retirement party. “I have had a lot of fun. It’s been a great career.”

Walt Baker, director of Water Quality, called Moellmer the “smartest guy in the Division” who has left his mark improving water quality standards in the state.

“Bill is a person who gets things done,” Baker said.

Scientist Mike Reichert echoed similar praises. “He’s a ‘lets do it’ kind of guy,” he said. “Bill and I have been partners sitting side-by-side at the office. He always has a positive attitude. I will miss him.”

During his 19 year career, Moellmer has completed well over 1,000 wasteload allocations deriving permit limits for both municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities in Utah. “He always maintained a professional, cordial working relationship with permittees,” Reichert said.

Leland Meyers of Central Davis Sewer District who serves on the Water Quality Board couldn’t agree more. “Bill’s been a real asset to the Division and to the industry,” he said.

Faye Bell, administrative secretary, recalls the time in 2003 when Moellmer was assigned to oversee protection of the watershed in the Uinta Mountains where the Rainbow Family, a loosely organized clan of flower children and hippies, gathered for a week.

“He ran into all his friends,” she said. “He really was one of the children of the 60s.”