

Department of Environmental Quality
Groundwater Discharge Program Report for Fiscal Year 2014

This report is being submitted by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to fulfill the reporting requirement contained in the 2004 PA 90 (Act 90) amendment to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, by adding Section 3124(5). Section 3124(5) states:

By March 1 annually, the department shall prepare and submit to the governor, the legislature, the chair of the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary responsibility for issues related to natural resources and the environment, and the chairs of the subcommittees of the senate and house appropriations committees with primary responsibility for appropriations to the department a report that details the activities during the previous fiscal year in administering the department's groundwater discharge program that were funded by the groundwater discharge permit fund. This report shall include, at a minimum, all of the following as they relate to the department:

(a) The number of full-time equated positions performing groundwater permitting, compliance, and enforcement activities.

(b) The number of applications received by the department, reported as the number of applications determined to be administratively incomplete and the number determined to be administratively complete.

(c) The number of applications for groundwater permits determined to be administratively complete for which a final action was taken by the department. The number of final actions shall be reported as the number of applications approved, the number of applications denied, and the number of applications withdrawn by the applicant.

(d) The percentage and number of applications determined to be administratively complete for which a final decision was made within the statutory time frame.

(e) The number of inspections conducted at groundwater facilities.

(f) The number of violation letters sent.

(g) The number of contested case hearings and civil actions initiated and completed, the number of voluntary consent orders and administrative orders entered or issued, and the amount of fines and penalties collected through such actions or orders.

(h) For each enforcement action that includes a penalty, a description of what corrective actions was required by the enforcement action.

(i) The number of groundwater complaints received, investigated, resolved, and not resolved by the department.

(j) The amount of revenue in the groundwater discharge permit fund at the end of the fiscal year.

The activities discussed in this report represent the fiscal year (FY) 2014 activities performed in administering the DEQ's Groundwater Discharge Program that were funded by the Groundwater Discharge Permit Fund. The activities identified correspond to those required in Act 90.

Activity (a):

<u>Subactivity</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Compliance	4,011	1.9
Enforcement	349	0.2
Permit Issuance	<u>13,080</u>	<u>6.3</u>
Total	17,440	8.4

These figures are based on charges against the groundwater fees only. There were an additional 12.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in FY 2014 in the Groundwater Discharge Program that were not funded by the groundwater fees.

Activity (b):

Total applications received:	269
New use applications received:	49
Applications returned as administratively incomplete:	0

Activity (c):

Permits issued:	161
New use permits issued:	43
Applications denied:	0
Applications withdrawn:	5

After the DEQ successfully completed a 5-year program to eliminate the backlog of expired groundwater discharge permits by FY 2010, a low permit backlog of 72 was maintained. We will be working in FY 2015 to ensure that this low backlog is reduced.

Activity (d):

Percentage and number issued within 180 days:	63%; 101 of 161
Percentage and number of new use permits within 180 days:	77%; 33 of 43

Activity (e):

Number of inspections conducted at groundwater facilities:

Compliance evaluation (detailed) inspections:	179
Reconnaissance (general) inspections:	179
Termination and close-out inspections:	3

Activity (f):

Number of groundwater violation letters sent: 16

Activity (g):

Civil actions initiated: 0

Civil actions completed: 0

Number of contested case hearings initiated and resolved: 0

Voluntary Agreements: 0

Total fines and penalties collected: \$0

Activity (h):

Corrective actions required by an enforcement order: 0

Activity (i):

Number of groundwater complaints:

Received: 6

Investigated: 6

Resolved: 6

Unresolved: 0

Activity (j):

Amount of revenue in the Groundwater Discharge Permit Fund at the end of FY 2014: \$1,156,900.

(There were no funded vacancies during FY 2014)