

Agency Mission: To be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon’s air, water and land.

KPM #2 OBM #10a	PERMIT TIMELINESS: Percentage of air contaminant discharge permits issued within the target period.	Measure since: 1992
Goal	IMPROVE OREGON'S AIR AND WATER.	
Oregon Context	KPM #2 is also Oregon Benchmark #10a. It links to: (1) Oregon’s Statewide Planning Goal 6: Air, water, and land resources quality (OAR 660-015-00 (06)); (2) Oregon Shines Goal 1: Quality jobs for all Oregonians, and (3) Oregon Shines Goal 3: Healthy, Sustainable surroundings.	
Data source	DEQ Air Quality Permit Tracking database.	
Owner	DEQ Air Quality Program. Margaret Oliphant, (503) 229-5687	

1. OUR STRATEGY

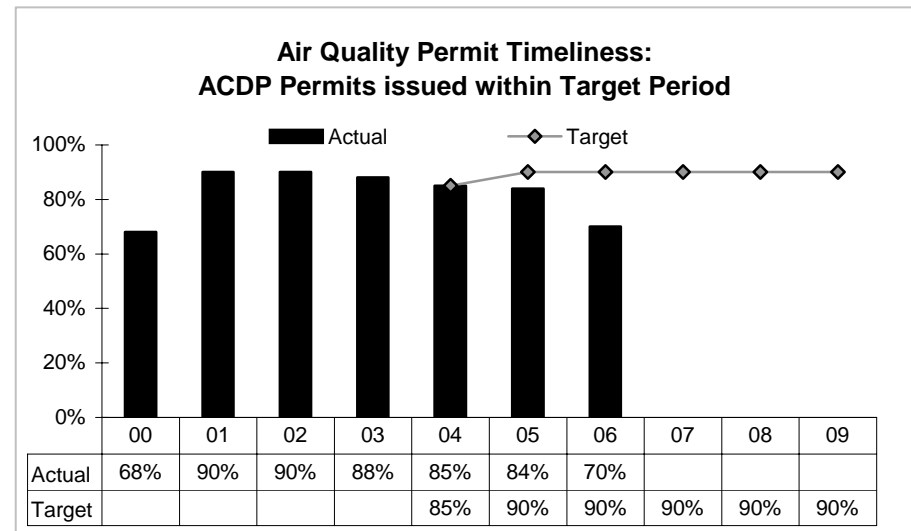
DEQ will continue to prioritize air quality permitting resources based on the applicable target period for several categories of Air Contaminant Discharge Permit (ACDP) applications, in order to ensure that permits are issued in a timely manner.

2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

The target sets a high standard for issuing permits in a timely manner. Businesses need quick turn around times on permits to construct, expand or modify their operations. High percentages of permits issued in a timely manner indicate an efficient permitting program.

3. HOW WE ARE DOING

DEQ streamlined the ACDP process, which significantly decreased permit processing time. Accordingly, in 2001 DEQ shortened the target period for timely processing from an average of 167 days to an average of 69 days. Even with a shorter permit processing time, DEQ was able to exceed the timeliness target. However, beginning in 2005, the percent of on-time permits slipped below the target and in 2006 there was a significant drop in the percentage of timely permits issued.



4. HOW WE COMPARE

There are no formal public or private industry standards for permit issuance, although there is a clear expectation that permits be issued in a timely manner.

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5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

Three major factors contributed to the decline in ACDP permit timeliness: inadequate funding for permitting staff, increased demand for permits and the need for permit writers to assist in development of a new permit tracking system. During the 2005-2007 biennium, funding uncertainties in the ACDP program forced DEQ to take a cautious approach to hiring. As a result, the program has been operating below budgeted staffing levels, which negatively impacted DEQ's ability to issue timely permits. In 2006, total overall permitting activity increased by nearly 20 percent over 2005 levels. The increase disproportionately impacted one of the three DEQ regions. That region saw a 70% increase in permit activity between 2005 and 2006 while operating at 78% of full staffing level. Another significant factor affecting ACDP timeliness in 2006 was the development of a new permit tracking database. Permitting staff spent a significant amount of time helping with database development and testing, as well as training on the new software, leaving less time for timely permit work.

6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

DEQ is working on three approaches to bring ACDP permit timeliness back on target. The agency's 2007-2009 budget includes a restoration policy package and fee increase to fully fund the FTE needed for timely permit processing. Second, the Department will review staffing and permitting activity demands and consider shifts that will facilitate timely permitting. Finally, a second round of permit streamlining is in process and rule changes are proposed for adoption in October 2007. While this effort is focused on reducing compliance costs for permittees, it should also somewhat reduce permit processing time beginning in 2008.

7. ABOUT THE DATA

The reporting cycle is a calendar year. The strength of the data is that records exist on each of the ACDP permit actions taken by DEQ during the year. The primary weakness of the system is that the data's validity depends on accurate entry by multiple individuals. People interested in more details can contact DEQ's Air Quality program.