

Water Quality Permits for Seafood Processing Wastewater

Oregon DEQ - Water Quality Program

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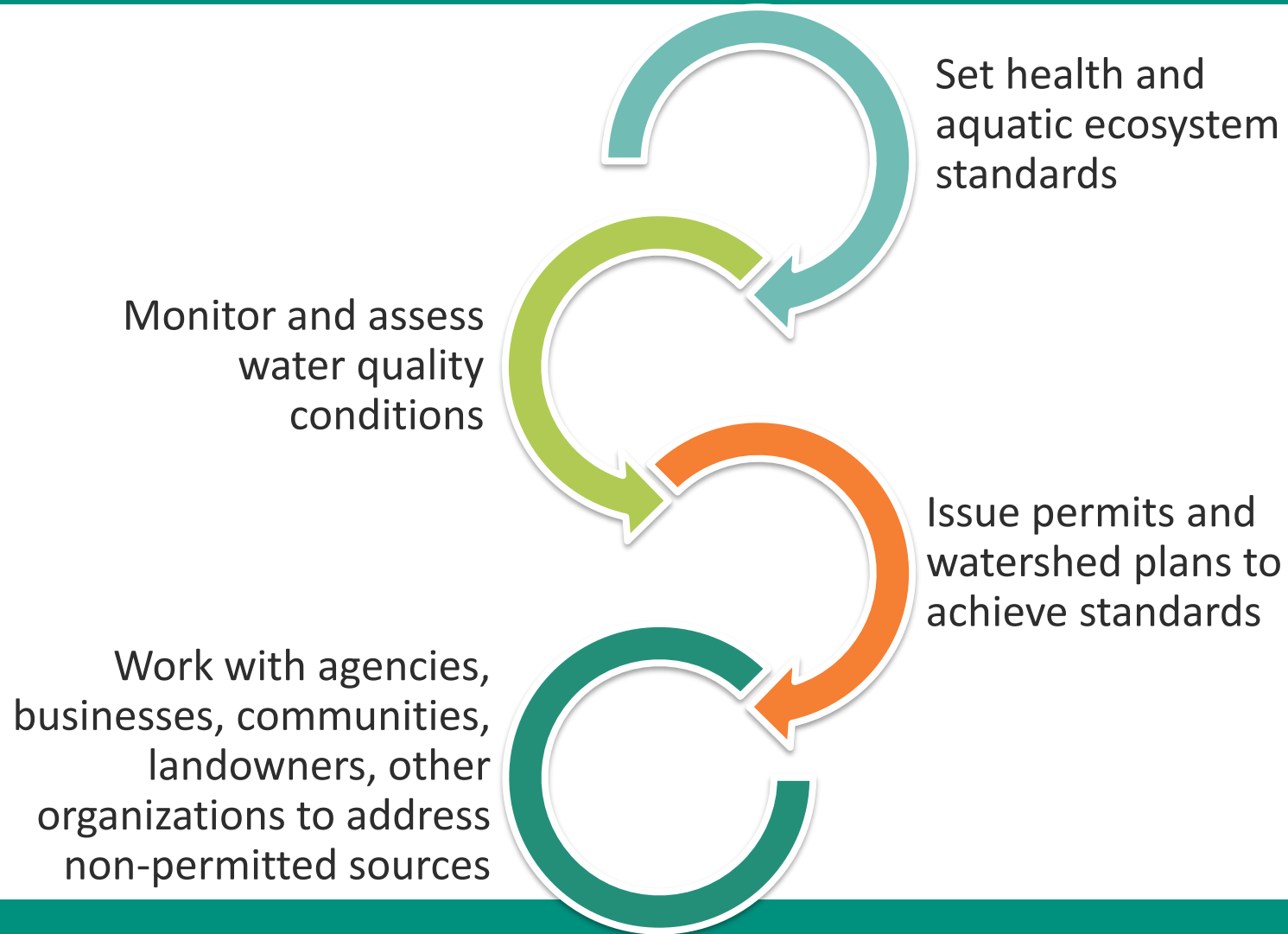
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Today's presentation

- Brief overview of water quality permitting
- History and status of general permit (900-J)
- Pending development of individual permits
- Questions and Answers



WQ Program Basics



Overview of water quality permitting

DEQ authority comes from EPA and state statute

EPA oversees permitting

DEQ permits control pollutants that harm human health and the environment

Permits

- clear compliance measurements
- protection of beneficial uses of the water, and
- provides data on water quality

Permit types

- General permits
 - Used for similar processes that generate similar pollutants
 - Don't account for site specific issues
 - All pay same costs for the permit and annual compliance fee
 - More restrictive in some cases than an individual permit
- Individual Permit
 - Specific facility at a specific location
 - Considers unique conditions
 - Uses data from that facility
 - Considers the processing and treatment equipment at the site

Pollution limits in permits

- NPDES permits have two kinds of limits:
 - Technology Based Effluent Limits (TBELS) and
 - Water Quality Based Effluent Limits (WQBELS)



Industrial Wastewater Treatment in Food Industry

Process of writing a permit

- All permit writing includes-
 - Data gathering and assuring validity
 - Consultation with the applicant or applicants
 - Internal reviews
 - Applicant Review
 - Public Notice and Comment Period

History and status of general permit (900-J)



Last issued in 2006.

In 2015 met with Coastal Caucus, began the process of drafting a new general permit
DEQ met with processors several times, several ways

- One on one at their plants
- In group meetings
- At agency and industry sponsored conferences
- At public hearings that were part of the permit drafting process.

Features of new general permit

- Tiers
- Pollutants covered in past versions
- Commingled stormwater
- Bacteria
- Ammonia and Chlorine
- Mixing Zone requirement

History and status of general permit (900-J)



General permit was issued in October 2020 and all seafood processors were informed

DEQ offered resources: website, DEQ staff to consult with, time to decide which permit fits them

If processor decided on general permit, they had time to upgrade before permit coverage went into effect in March 2022.

Pending development of individual permits

- Develop individual permits for applicants in the queue
- Inform applicants about data collection
- Work with facilities under 900-J that have compliance issues
- Continue to meet with applicants and potential applicants



Questions?

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