

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Environmental Quality

Title V Program

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Levy

On April 9th, the Natural Resources Subcommittee received a report from the Department of Environmental Quality on the operations and performance of the Title V Air Quality permitting program.

Title V of the federal Clean Air Act governs emissions from large industrial sources and requires all program costs to be fee-funded by the regulated entities. In 2023, two fee increases were approved to stabilize the program's revenue shortfall, and the Department was directed through a budget note to submit a report during the 2025 legislative session on the status of program staffing and productivity.

With the increased revenue, DEQ began hiring additional staff in late 2024 and early 2025. Program staff has increased by 4.20 FTE above the 2023 staffing level. The Department anticipates the timeliness and volume of various Title V permitting actions, and the permit renewal backlog, to improve as staffing levels increase and administrative processes are transferred to DEQ's new online data management system.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.