

# **Oregon's Air Quality Permitting Program**

## ***Oregon DEQ***

House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment

May 29, 2025



# Air Quality Permitting

Air Quality Management

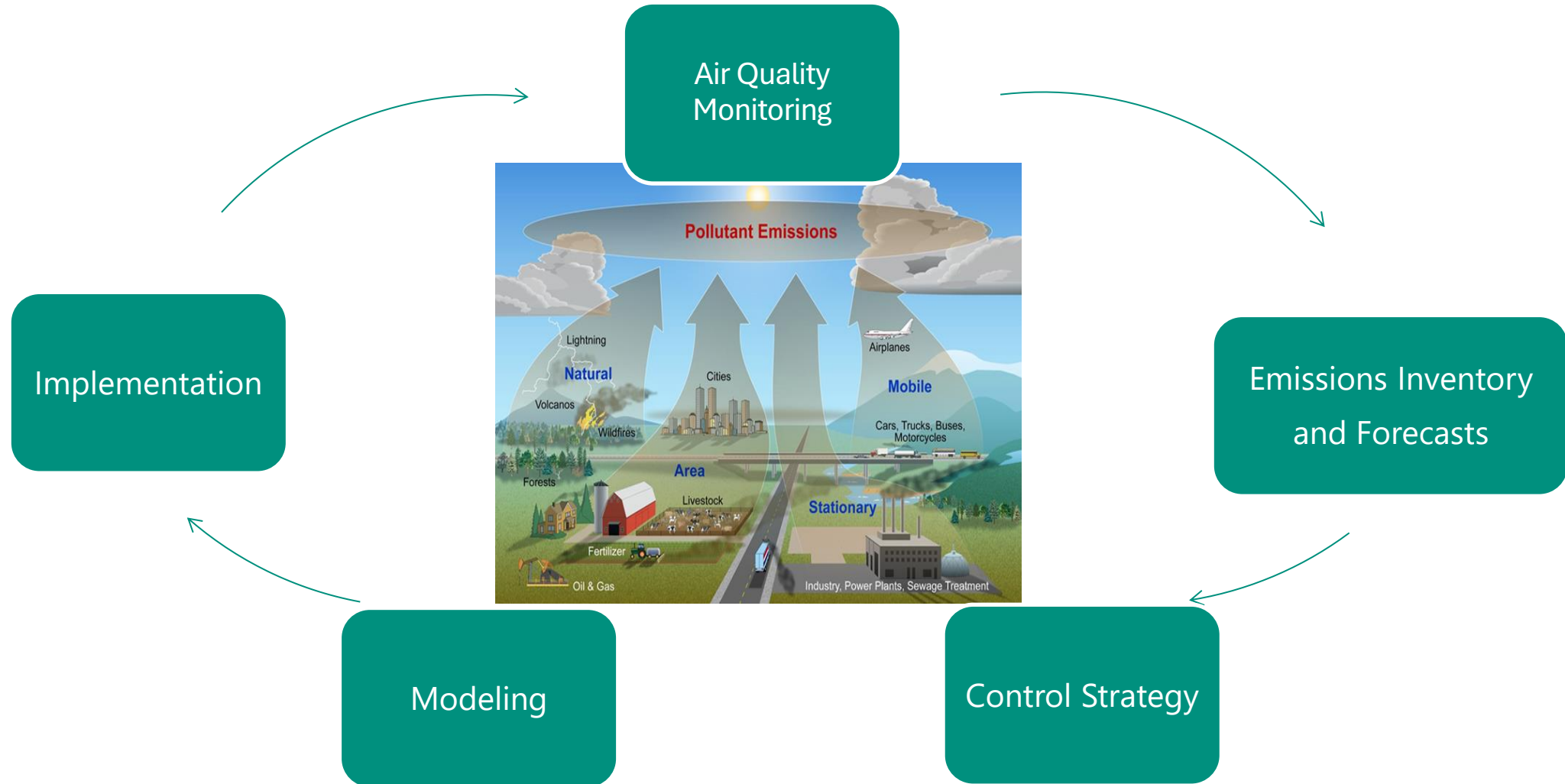
Permitting Process

Permitting Programs

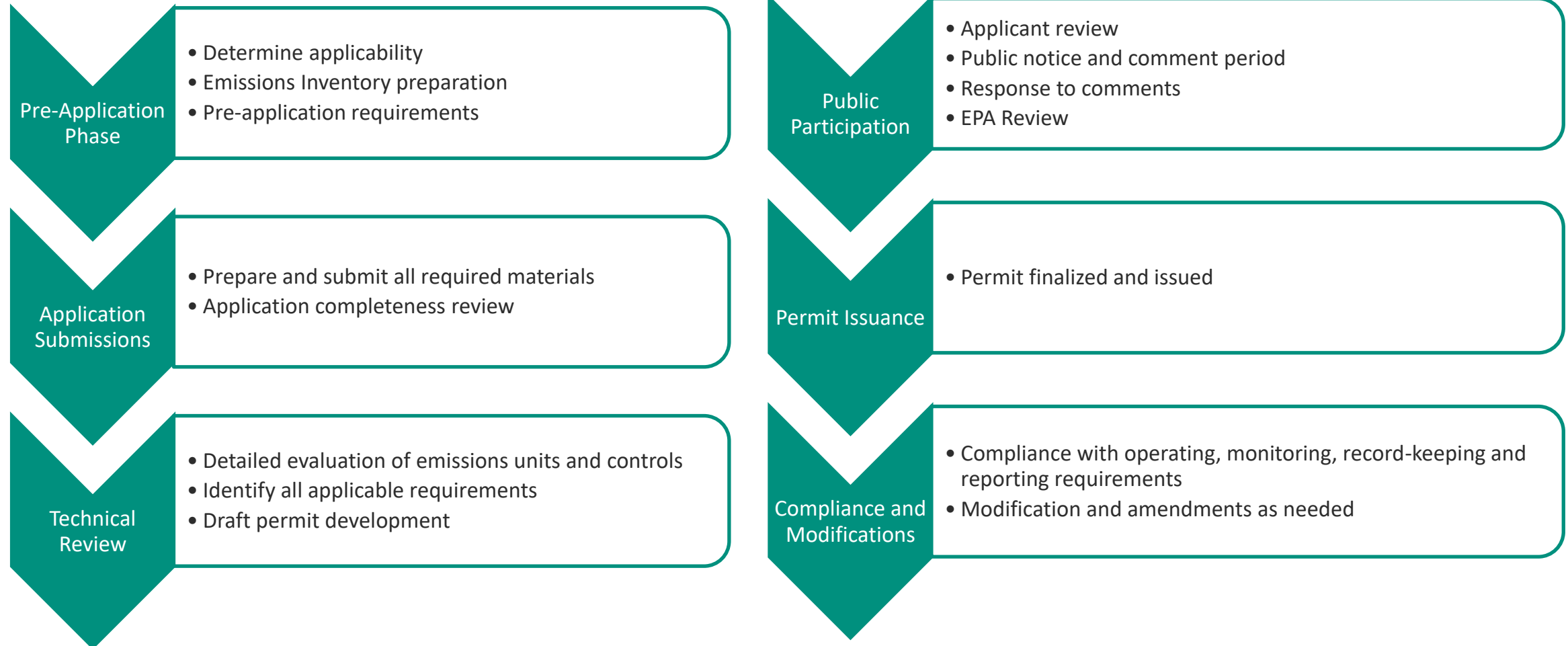
Program Review and Performance

Initiatives and Upcoming Work

# Air Quality Management Process



# Permit Development Process



# Air Contaminant Discharge Permit Program

## New Sources and Construction Permits

- New Source Permitting
- Notifications to Construct

## Minor Source Operating Permits

- Operating permits for operations that emit air pollution, but do not trigger federal permitting requirements
- Variable permit terms

## Technical Assistance and Compliance Assurance

- Technical assistance
- Periodic inspections
- Complaint response
- Reviewing annual reports
- Source test observation and review

## - 2024 Snapshot -

29 new facilities

988 Permitting activities

- 336 New Construction notices
- 66 Modifications and amendments
- 586 Permits renewed

# (ACDP) Minor Source Operating Permits



## Basic Air Contaminant Discharge Permits (~200)

Rock Crushers, Auto body Shops, Crematories



## General Air Contaminant Discharge Permits (~2,100)

Gasoline stations, Dry Cleaners, Coffee Roasters, Grain Elevators



## Simple Air Contaminant Discharge Permits (~145)

Data Centers, Metal Foundries, Wastewater Treatment Plants, Printers, Publishers



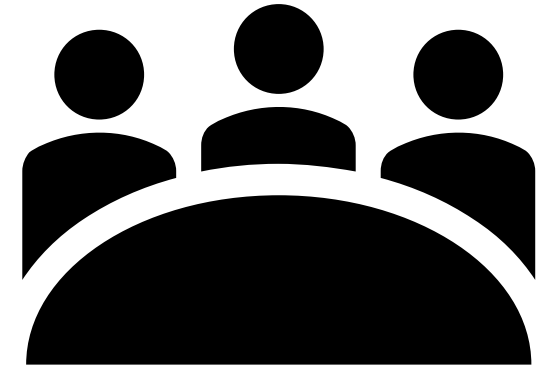
## Standard Air Contaminant Discharge Permits (~154)

Particleboard, Plywood, Fuel Terminals, Semiconductor, Bakeries

# 2022 Permit Update Rulemaking

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- Incorporate compliance with short-term NAAQS (24-hr PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 1-hr NO<sub>x</sub>)
- Efficiencies
  - Introduced “notice-and-go” authorizations
  - Extended how long construction authorizations are valid
  - Lengthened permit terms
  - Expand the use of short-term activity permits for temporary operations



# Federal Operating Permits and Compliance

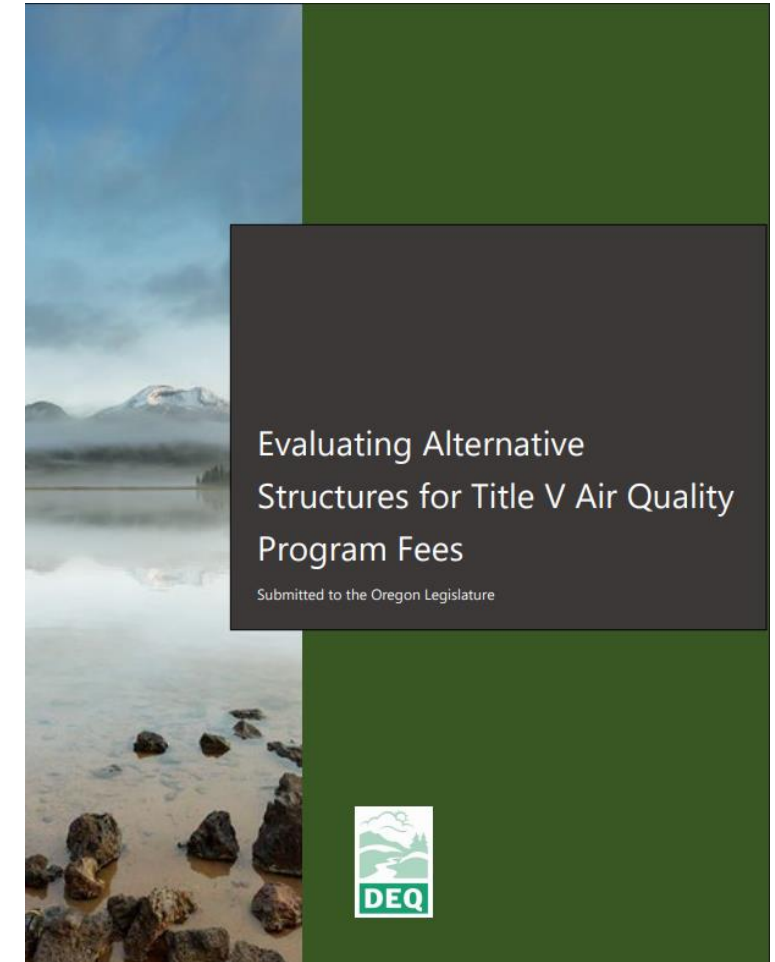
- Major Sources
  - 100 tpy criteria pollutants (6)
  - 10 tpy of a single hazardous air pollutants
  - 25 tpy of combined hazardous air pollutants
- 5 Year Permit Term
- ~105 Title V Permitted Sources in Oregon
- Extensive source-test requirements
- Semi-annual reporting



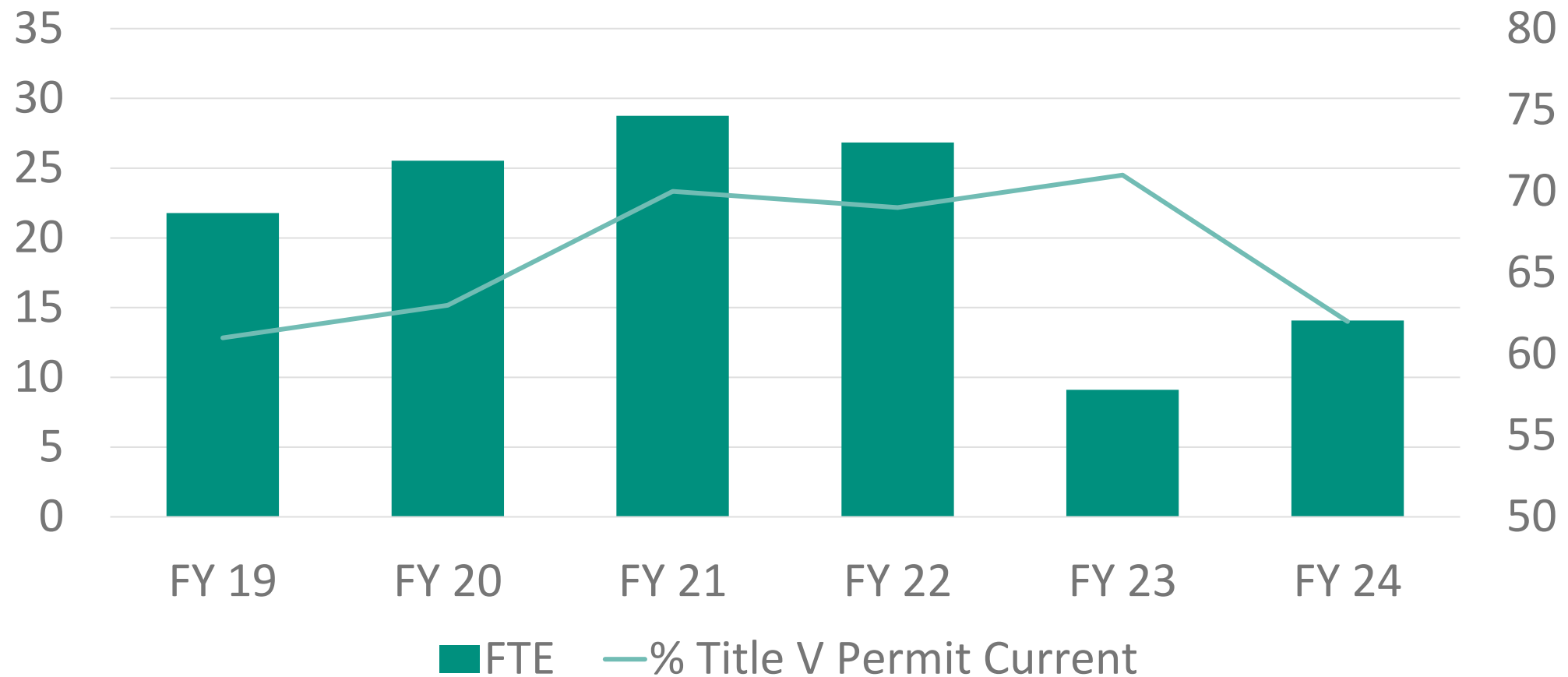


# 2023 Title V Fee Increase

- HB 3229 (2023)
- Phased-in adjustments over the 23-25 the biennium (43% and 40%).
- The first adjustment to the statutory fees in over a decade
- Fee increase addressed increase in Personal Service costs, but did not add capacity
- DEQ worked with feepayers to evaluate the fee structure



# Title V Backlog Improves with Staffing



# Air Toxics Permits

## Before Cleaner Air Oregon, Oregon's rules had gaps...

Companies operated legally - but emitted pollution that could be harmful to neighbors.

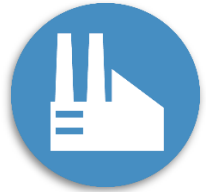
No assessment of  
potential risks to neighbors

Limited air  
toxics reporting

Health risks were not considered  
in permit decisions



# Air Toxics Permit Process



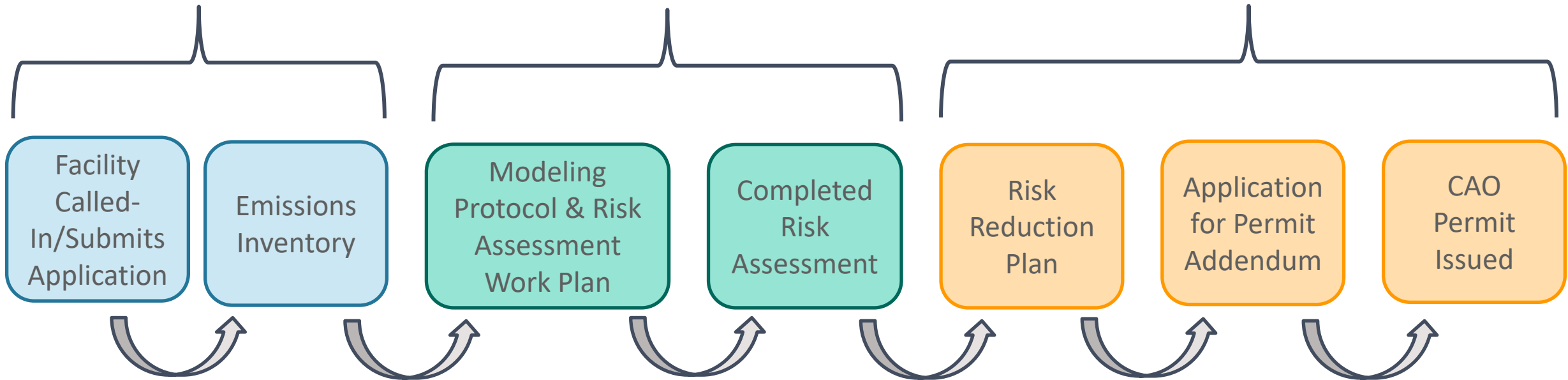
## Report air toxics



## Assess risk

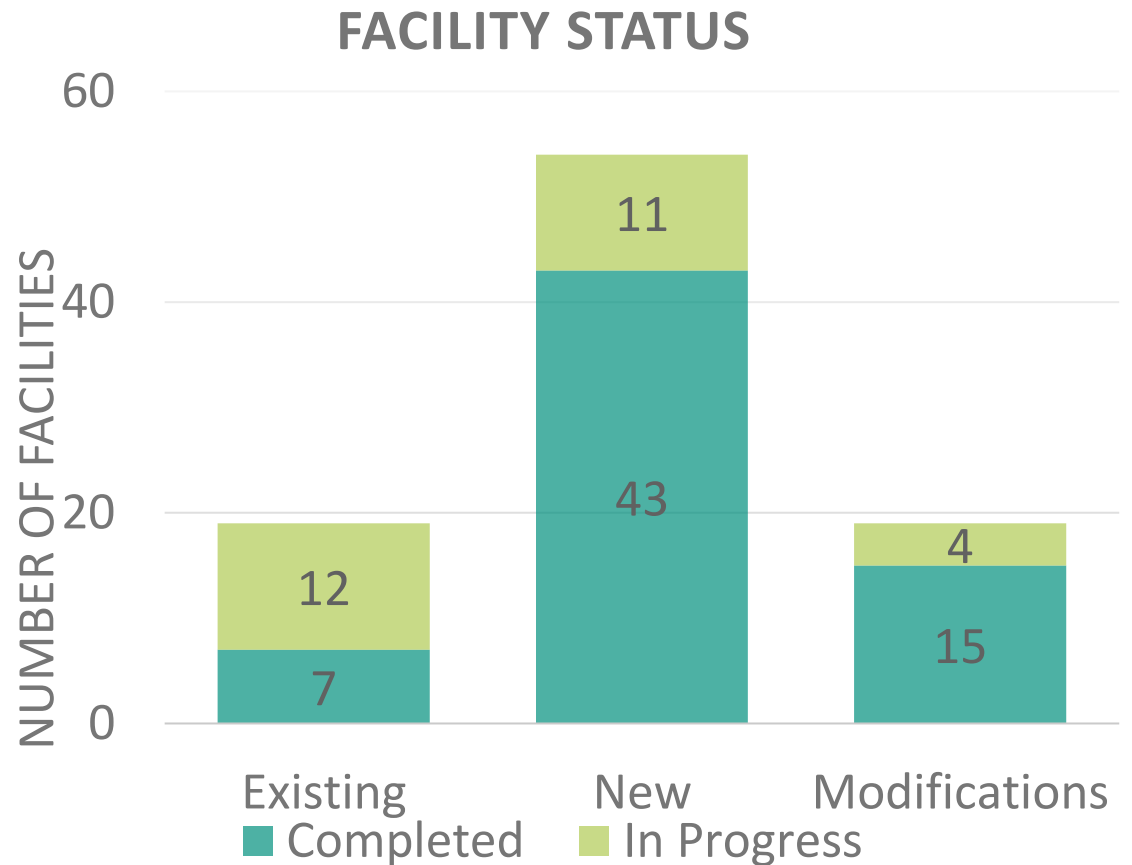


## Regulate Risk



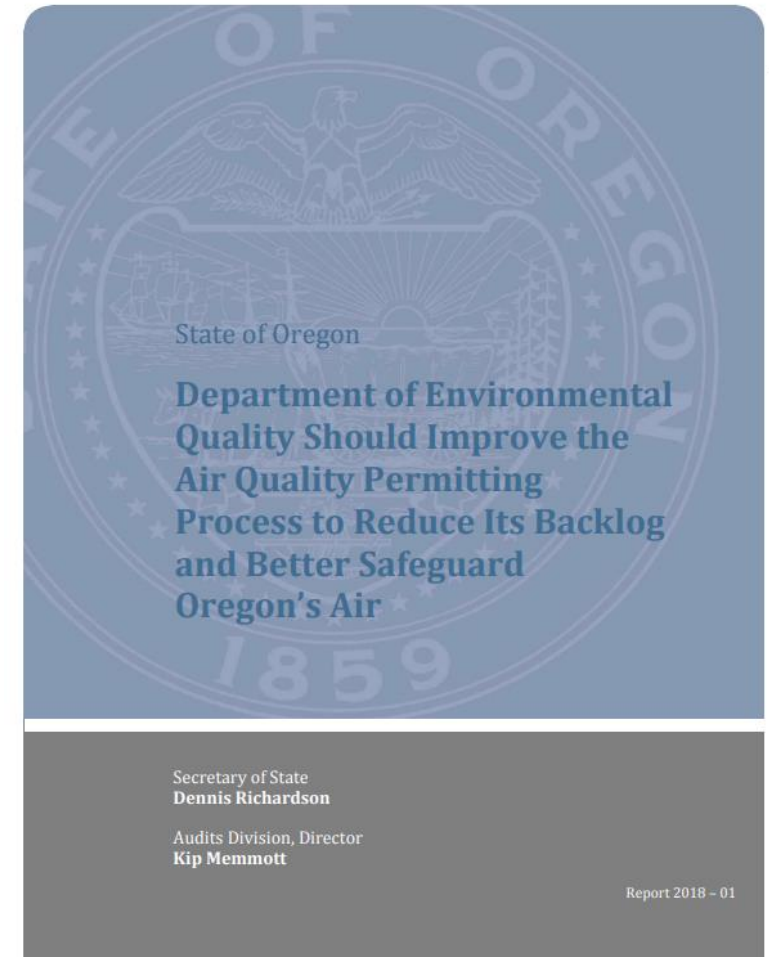
# Cleaner Air Oregon Workload

- New & Modified Sources
  - Priority for program
- Concurrent review with ACDP materials
- Existing source reviews are significantly more complex



# Independent Program Review

- Secretary of State Performance Audit in 2018 and 2019 (follow-up)
- Identified 10 recommendations, key examples:
  - Conduct LEAN analysis
  - Update guidance and resources for staff
  - Update guidance and resources for permit applicants
  - Provide clear information on the purpose and opportunities for public participation
  - Perform workload analysis
- DEQ implemented all 10 recommendations
- Audit identified resource deficiencies as a key barrier to success



# Upcoming Program Activities

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- Implementing legislative mandates
  - HB 3729 (crematory operating temperature) – *pending vote on Senate floor*
  - SB 726 (methane monitoring by drones) – *pending vote on House floor*
- Updating Toxicity Reference Values for air toxics permits
- Permit Timeliness Improvement Project

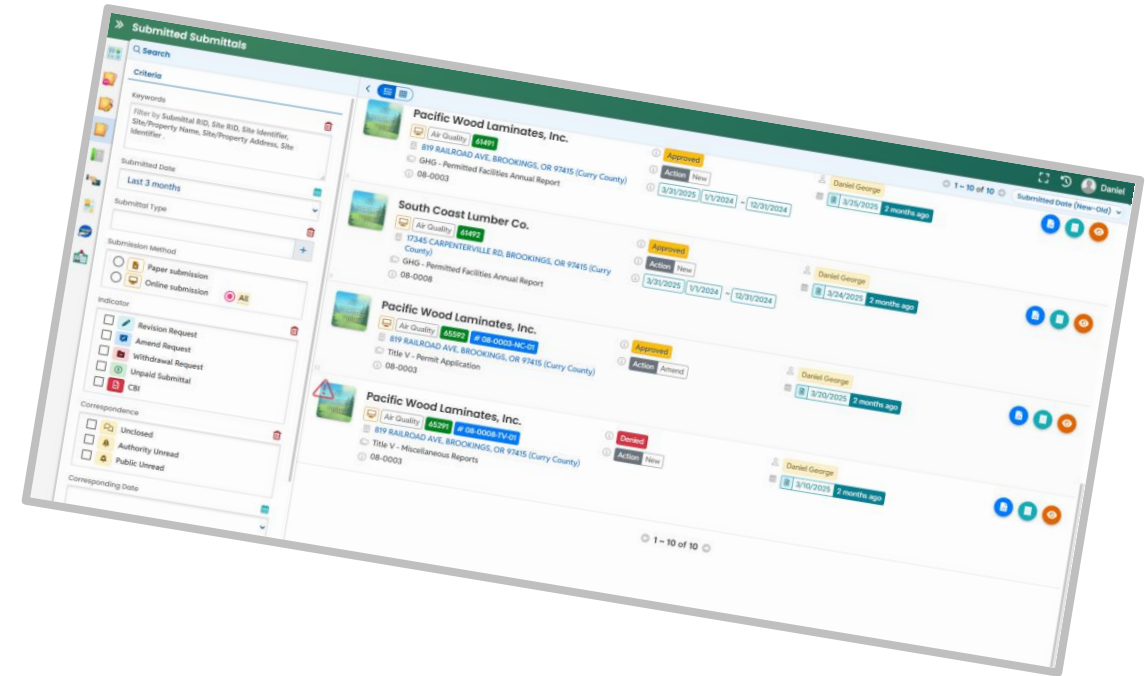
# Permit Timeliness Improvement Project

Your DEQ Online

- Improved data
- Ability to track permit milestones

Improve efficiency and timeliness

- Dedicated permit writers for key projects
- Prioritize new permits and major modifications





# Thank you

## Key Contacts

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