

State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: DEQ Staff and Interested Parties
Date: April 16, 2008
From: Neil Mullane, Acting Administrator, Water Quality Division
Subject: *Temperature Water Quality Standard Implementation – A DEQ Internal Management Directive*

I am pleased to notify you that the document, *Temperature Water Quality Standard Implementation – A DEQ Internal Management Directive* (DEQ, April 16, 2008), is available on DEQ's website. The IMD may be found on the Internet at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/pubs/pubs.htm#imds>.

The Temperature IMD should be put into practice by DEQ staff immediately. This IMD was reviewed by DEQ water quality staff and managers and by external stakeholders, including EPA.

DEQ is committed to the protection of aquatic ecosystems through the implementation of science-based standards and a consistent water quality permitting program. The Temperature IMD provides information on the temperature standard rules and how to determine where and when the various temperature criteria apply. It also discusses the development of temperature TMDLs and outlines recommended approaches for performing a reasonable potential analysis and setting effluent limits for temperature in point source National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

The IMD will help DEQ use a consistent approach in applying the temperature standard in NPDES permits. If an alternative method is used to perform a reasonable potential analysis for the temperature standard, the rationale for varying from the IMD should be included in the permit evaluation report. We expect to issue addendums or corrections as needed, and may amend the IMD in the future, to reflect the Department's experience and to address topics that need further refinement.

In clarifying the policies and procedures for applying the temperature standard in DEQ's permitting program, DEQ is also meeting its commitment to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Wastewater Planning to issue "up-to-date, consistent water quality permits," as specified in the *Blue Ribbon Committee Report on Key Enhancements to the Oregon Wastewater Permitting Program* (August 2004).

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Mike Wiltsey, Water Quality Analyst, at 503-229-5047; or Debra Sturdevant, Water Quality Standards Coordinator, at 503-229-5691.