DEQ Turns 20

- Division Accomplishments
- July 11th Quality Council Webcast

In his 1990 State of the State address, Governor Norm Bangerter proposed the formation of a Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The late Senator Steve Rees sponsored the bill creating DEQ—officially inaugurated on July 1, 1991—with the mission of "safeguarding human health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment."

Ken Alkema became the first director of DEQ, to be replaced by Dianne Nielson who served 16 years under Governors Mike Leavitt, Olene Walker, and Jon Huntsman Jr. When Huntsman appointed Nielson as his Energy Advisor, Rick Sprott took the helm, retiring a year later, with Deputy Director Bill Sinclair as Interim Director until a permanent replacement was named. In 2009, Amanda Smith became DEQ's fourth executive director, who also serves as Energy Advisor under Governor Gary Herbert.

Since its inception, DEQ's six Divisions—Air Quality, Drinking Water, Environmental Response and Remediation, Radiation Control, Solid and Hazardous Waste, and Water Quality—have played key roles in protecting and enhancing Utah's environment.

On these panels DEQ showcases 20 "success stories" achieved by its dedicated workforce and its commitment to Utah's environment.

> "A healthy environment is essential to Utah's future. To be short-sighted in our management of the environment is to short-change the next generation. In order to highlight the importance of this issue and in the interest of expediting the resolution of the many environmental issues facing the state, I am requesting the creation of a Department of Environmental Quality."—Governor Norm Bangerter

Read what our Divisions have accomplished over these past twenty years:

- Atlas Uranium Mill Tailings in Moab
- Chemical Weapons Storage
- Cleaning Up Geneva Steel
- Eureka Mining Town Gets Cleaned Up
- Great Salt Lake Water Quality
- Indoor Radon Program
- Midvale Slag Cleanup
- Murray Smelter Smokestack Site
- Nuclear Spent Fuel in Utah
- Partnering to Improve Air Quality

- Partners
- Protection From Radiation Sources
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- Used Oil Program
- Utah's Ag Water Quality Strategy
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- Water Quality Hardship Grant Program

Atlas Uranium Mill Tailings in Moab

Atlas Minerals Corporation (Atlas) shut down its Moab uranium processing mill in 1984. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had federal oversight at the time, and in 1993 determined that leaving the uranium tailings in situ did not impact the Colorado River—a source of drinking water for 25 million people downstream, and habitat for two endangered species of fish. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), through its Division of Radiation Control, persuaded the NRC that an Environmental Impact Statement was needed.

In 1998, Atlas filed bankruptcy, and after Congressional action, the Department of Energy (DOE) took over the site in 2001. DEQ convinced DOE that the tailings needed to be moved due to the possibility that a large flood might undercut the waste, causing widespread contamination downstream. A permanent disposal site was selected at Crescent Junction, about 30 miles northwest, near I-70. In April 2009, with the infusion of federal stimulus money, the first railcar shipment began.

In June of 2011, the Atlas Mill Tailings Project reached a milestone: One quarter of the uranium mill tailings—representing 4 million tons of the estimated 16-million ton-pile—has been relocated to Crescent Junction, in two years of work. Completion of the $1 billion project is anticipated by 2028, depending upon continued federal funding.

Chemical Weapons Storage

The State of Utah has stored 42 percent of the United States' stockpile of chemical agents since the 1940s at the Tooele Army Depot—South Area, later renamed Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD). In the 1970s, the Army began to study methods for the disposal of chemical weapons. The chemical agents stored in Utah were the nerve agents GA, GB and VX, and blister agents mustard and Lewisite. These agents were stored in various configurations, including ton containers, bombs, rockets, mines, and projectiles.

The Tooele Chemical Agent Destruction Facility (TOCDF) was constructed at DCD specifically for the incineration of the agents. In August 1996, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste issued the Army a permit to destroy rockets filled with the nerve agent GB in a manner protective of the environment and health of the citizens of the state of Utah. By March 2002, the entire stockpile of GB was destroyed. Destruction of the VX stockpile followed, and was completed in June 2005.

In August 2006, TOCDF began destroying the mustard stockpile, finishing that work on May 16, 2011, completing the destruction of over 99 percent of the total stockpile of chemical agent stored in Utah. The remaining mustard filled munitions and the GA and Lewisite chemical agents stored in bulk containers will be destroyed using specialized equipment. Completion of destruction of these remaining agents is anticipated by February 2012.

Cleaning Up Geneva Steel

The Geneva Steel Facility, which covered approximately 1,800 acres near Vineyard, Utah, was founded during World War II to produce steel for war activities. The Columbia Steel Company and US Steel Corporation (USS) constructed the facility with federal funding in December 1941.

The facility operated as a US government facility until June of 1946, after which it was purchased and operated by USS until 1987, when it was sold to Geneva Steel. In November 1989, the Utah Division of Environmental Health's Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste issued USS a permit to facilitate the cleanup and remediation of the property. The permit also outlined provisions for post-closure care of three closed hazardous waste surface impoundments, environmental investigations, and facility-wide

corrective action. These investigations and appropriate remediation are required prior to any redevelopment. Cleanup standards were also outlined in the permit.

In 2002, Geneva Steel declared bankruptcy and ceased operation. In 2005, all assets were sold to Anderson Geneva Development, who dismantled the facilities and is developing the property with a mixture of light industrial, commercial, and residential components. USS and Anderson Geneva share responsibility for the investigation and cleanup of the property.

The Department of Environmental Quality, through its Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, plays an active role in the oversight of the cleanup activities. To date, the Division has reviewed and approved work plans and site remediation standards for the cleanup of approximately 1,120 acres of the total 1,800 acres of land.

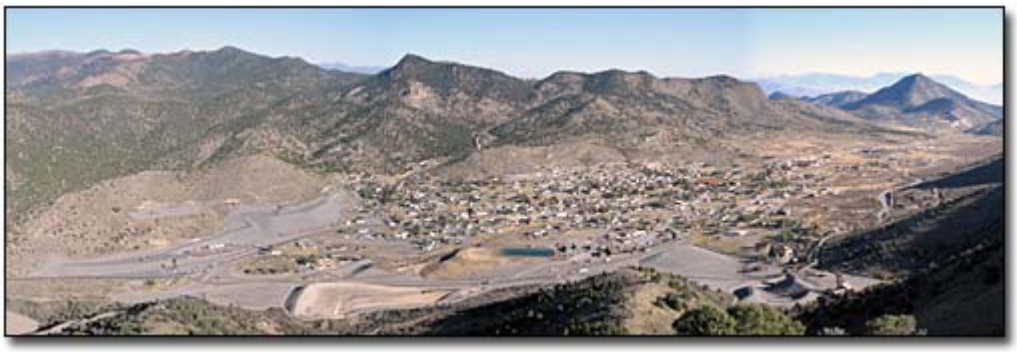
Eureka Mining Town Gets Cleaned Up

The Eureka Mills Site is located in the City of Eureka in Utah's historic Tintic Mining District. The mill, established in 1870 upon the discovery of a high-grade mineralized outcrop, processed silver and lead, as well as gold, copper, arsenic, and other trace elements. The district was extensively mined until 1958. The properties on the south side of the Valley, adjacent to residences and businesses, was largely contaminated by large waste rock tailings and associated waste material resulting from mining operations.

In 2000, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Environmental Response and Remediation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigated the impact of mining activities on the City of Eureka, finding high concentrations of lead and arsenic in the soil, and elevated blood-lead levels in the community's children. Cleanup began in 2001, and the site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List in 2002. Seven years later the cleanup was completed.

About 700 residential properties were redressed through removal of contaminated soil which was then replaced with soil or rock covers. Mine waste piles, which posed a human health risk, were capped with soil or rock covers. Potentially responsible parties, such as the mine owners, performed portions of the

work with EPA and DEQ oversight. The success of the cleanup can be seen in the considerable drop in blood-lead levels in Eureka's children.



Great Salt Lake Water Quality

The Great Salt Lake is the largest salt water lake in the western hemisphere, the fourth-largest terminal lake in the world, and the 37th-largest lake on Earth. The lake is of hemispheric importance, as both a refueling stop for millions of migratory birds and a nesting area for others. Eighty percent of Utah's wetlands surround the lake. The mineral extraction industry, duck hunting clubs, and the brine shrimp industry are dependent upon the vitality of the lake. Nature enthusiasts flock to the lake because of its ecological importance.

However, it is because of the unique nature of the Great Salt Lake that the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality (DWQ) was best able to protect it when the first numeric water quality standard for selenium was established in November, 2008. Public concern over adding more selenium to the Lake as the result of the South West Jordan Valley groundwater cleanup project brought a renewed focus on the need for numeric standards.

This selenium water quality standard of 12.5 mg/kg is tissue-based, using the complete egg/embryo of aquatic-dependent birds of Gilbert Bay. Establishing this standard required a comprehensive, $2.6 million, 4-year process led by a Selenium Steering Committee comprised of prominent stakeholders advised by an international scientific panel of selenium experts. DWQ is developing new, less expensive methods to adopt more numeric criteria through extensive literature searches, benchmarking, and prioritizing pollutants.

Indoor Radon Program

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas. It is estimated to cause thousands of deaths each year, and is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, next to smoking. It is estimated that in Utah, one-third of the homes have elevated levels of radon.

The Utah Indoor Radon Program promotes new home construction with radon resistant technology; supports disclosure, testing, and mitigation in conjunction with real estate transfers; develops coalitions with local governments, partner affiliates, and other radon risk reduction leaders; promotes public awareness and action; and, determines and tracks testing and mitigation results. For the past several years, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Radiation Control has seen a substantial increase in radon testing and mitigations.

The Radon Program has a longstanding cooperative alliance with IHC Hospitals throughout the state with its Baby Radon Program. Other valuable partnerships include the Utah Department of Health's Utah Cancer Action Network, Local Health Departments, the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, CanSAR, the Utah Safety Council, the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Huntsman Cancer Institute, Habitat for Humanity, and various community groups such as the Boy Scouts of America and local schools.

Midvale Slag Cleanup

The Midvale Slag Site, located in Midvale City, with a small portion extending into Murray City, is a former smelting facility along the Jordan River, covering about 446 acres. Five separate smelters located on or near the site operated from 1871 through 1958. In 1991, the site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities list when groundwater and soil proved to be contaminated with heavy metals, including lead, arsenic, chromium, and cadmium.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) worked closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on planning, and cleanup began in 1996, which included the removal of contaminated soil in affected residential areas along the northern end of the site, the capping of contaminated soil and smelter waste in the southern areas, and the installation of a groundwater monitoring system to verify that the Jordan River remains unaffected by contaminants.

The riparian area along the Jordan River is undergoing work to stabilize the riverbed and prevent riverbank erosion. As part of this work, a damaged sheet pile dam was replaced by a steel-reinforced boulder structure. DEQ took the lead in managing the residential cleanup at the north end of the site and in the installation of the groundwater monitoring system. DEQ also partnered with EPA and Midvale City to ensure that the remedy would be compatible with mixed residential and commercial land uses planned for the area. Redevelopment is underway at the site, now known as Bingham Junction.

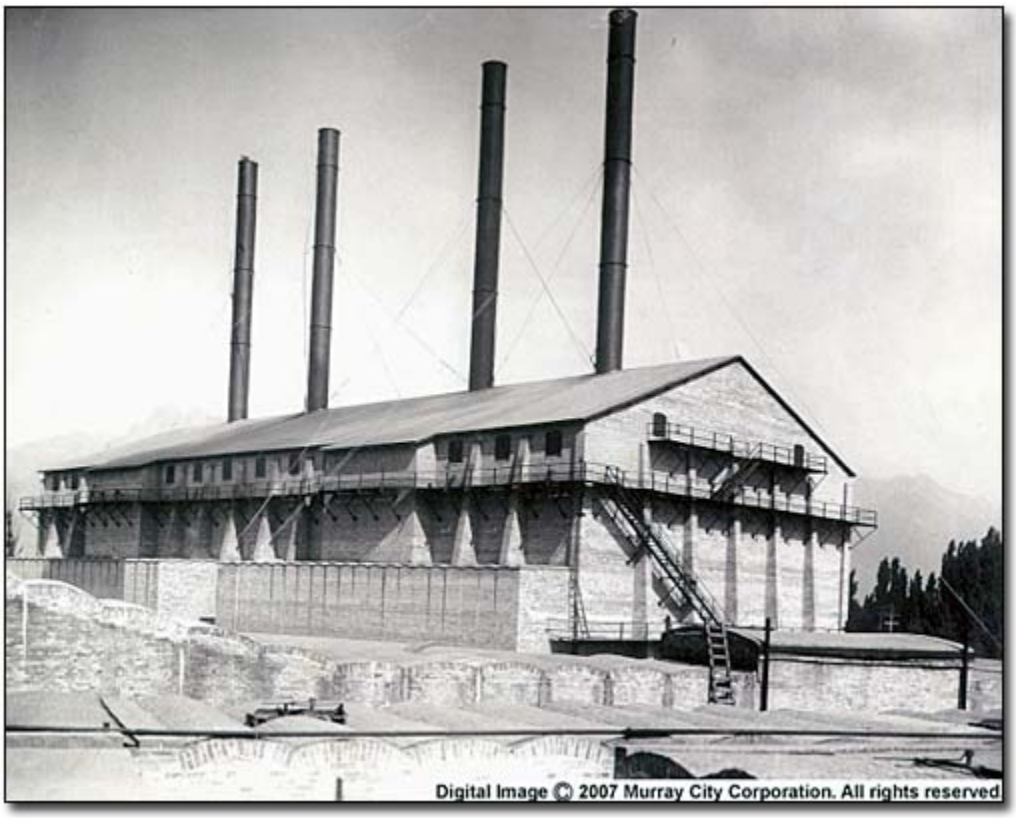
Murray Smelter Smokestack Site

The Murray Smelter Site is the former location of a large lead smelter in Murray City that ASARCO operated most of the years between 1872 and 1949. Smelting and refining activities affected the soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment at the 142-acre site and surrounding area. Lead and arsenic were the primary contaminants of concern. The site was proposed for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1994.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Environmental Response and Remediation worked closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and ASARCO to develop a cleanup plan. DEQ also participated with EPA, ASARCO, Murray City, property and business owners, and other community members in a work group that considered redevelopment issues and cleanup strategies that would facilitate revitalization while protecting human health and the environment.

Cleanup activities began in 1998 and were completed in 2001. The cleanup involved transporting the most contaminated soil to an off-site disposal facility, consolidating and capping less-contaminated materials in an on-site repository, demolishing two smoke stacks, removing and replacing contaminated soil at affected off-site residences, and continued monitoring of groundwater. Murray City also adopted an ordinance to ensure that activities at the site will not expose nearby residential communities to contaminated waste materials. Since completion of the cleanup, the site has undergone significant

revitalization. IHC's Intermountain Regional Medical Center now covers a large portion of the site, while a Costco store and a UTA TRAX light rail station and parking lot occupy other portions.



Nuclear Spent Fuel in Utah

In 1997, Private Fuel Storage (PFS), a consortium of eight nuclear power companies, proposed to store 44,000 tons of commercial spent nuclear fuel on the Goshute Reservation in Tooele County. The fuel would be stored in 4,000 18-foot tall concrete and steel cylinders on open-air concrete pads. Notably, the Skull Valley Band of Goshutes were divided over the proposal.

Governor Leavitt declared his opposition and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) led Utah's efforts to stop the facility, pressing the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to deny the license.

The Attorney General's Office, DEQ, and technical experts, engaged in an eight-year adjudicatory contest with the NRC over technical, safety, environmental, and legal issues such as: risks from an F-16 crash; earthquakes; transportation accidents; lack of financial assurance and accountability; storage container design and radiation exposure; and, impacts on groundwater, wildlife, and Utah's economy. Nonetheless, in 2006, the NRC issued a license to PFS. Utah's appeal of the decision is on hold, and will only be revived if PFS obtains final approval of a lease with the Band and finds a viable method for transporting spent nuclear fuel to the site.

The President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future is expected to recommend that the nation pursue spent nuclear fuel centralized interim storage, a type of facility PFS may still be interested in operating in Utah. Governor Herbert, as did previous Governors Walker and Huntsman, opposes locating a centralized spent nuclear fuel storage facility in Utah.

Partnering to Improve Air Quality

The Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) received $1.2 million to partner with the Utah State Office of Education and local school districts to purchase about 26 new school buses.

DAQ received $750,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for its Clean Diesel for Agriculture Project which replaced nine agricultural vehicles and associated equipment, re-powered 22 engines, and installed 32 auxiliary power units on agricultural vehicles. DAQ collaborated with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and Utah State University to identify agricultural operators whose operations could help improve the air with cleaner, more fuel-efficient technology, and equipment that will ensure that stricter emissions standards requirements are met and yield more diesel fuel conservation.

Utah is the "Crossroads of the West" for freight traffic. Interstates 15, 80, 84, and 70, as well as other freight routes, provide connections to Utah's central railroad network and create an inter-modal hub for warehousing and distribution in the Western United States. The Salt Lake International Airport, Union

Pacific Railroad, and thousands of distribution centers and terminals in which over 19,000 Utah-based carriers operate, are reasons Utah is home to the country's largest trucking companies, carriers, and suppliers. Working together with the Utah Trucking Association, DAQ has acquired funds totaling $588,235 for use in the Utah Clean Diesel Trucking Initiative which develops projects intended to increase fuel efficiency and improve air quality.

Partners

In appreciation for all we have been able to accomplish together and looking forward to what we will do in the future on behalf of Utah's environment.

Academia

Utah's Colleges & Universities + Davis & Ogden-Weber Applied Technology Centers + Utah's School Districts + USEE

Boards

Air Quality + Drinking Water + Radiation Control + Solid and Hazardous Waste + Water Quality Board

Business

Chambers of Commerce + EDCU + Utah Association of General Contractors + Utah Hospital Association + Utah Manufacturers' Association + Utah Mining Association + Utah Petroleum Marketers Association + Utah Petroleum Association + Utah Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel + Utah Trucking Association

Environmental Community

Breathe Utah + Friends of the GSL + GSL Audubon + HEAL Utah + Nature Conservancy of Utah + Sierra Club + SUWA + Utah Clean Cities Coalition + Utah Clean Energy + Utah Moms for Clean Air + Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment + Utah Rivers Council + Utah Uranium Watch + Wasatch Clean Air Coalition

Government

Federal

BLM + Bureau of Reclamation + DOD + DOE + EPA + NRC + US Army Corps of Engineers + USFWS + USFS + USGS

State

Governor's Office + State Legislature + AGRC + Agriculture + AG's Office + DTS + DCED + Education + Energy Office + DOH + DNR + DPS + SITLA + UDOT

Local Health Departments

Bear River + Central Utah + Davis County + Salt Lake Valley + SE Utah + SW Utah + Summit County + Tooele County + TriCounty + Utah County + Wasatch County + Weber-Morgan + Utah Health Officers

Local

Bear River AOG + Five County AOG + Mountainland AOG + Wasatch Front Regional Council + Utah Association of Counties + Utah League of Cities and Towns

Others

American Cancer Society + American Lung Association + ASTSWMO + AWWA + Boy Scouts of America + Community Brownsfield Foundation + ECOS + Envision Utah + Habitat for Humanity + National Energy Foundation + Restoration Advisory Boards + Rural Water Association + Solid Waste Association of North America + Utah Farm Bureau + Utah Planners Association + Utah Safety Council + Utah State Bar + Utah Transit Authority

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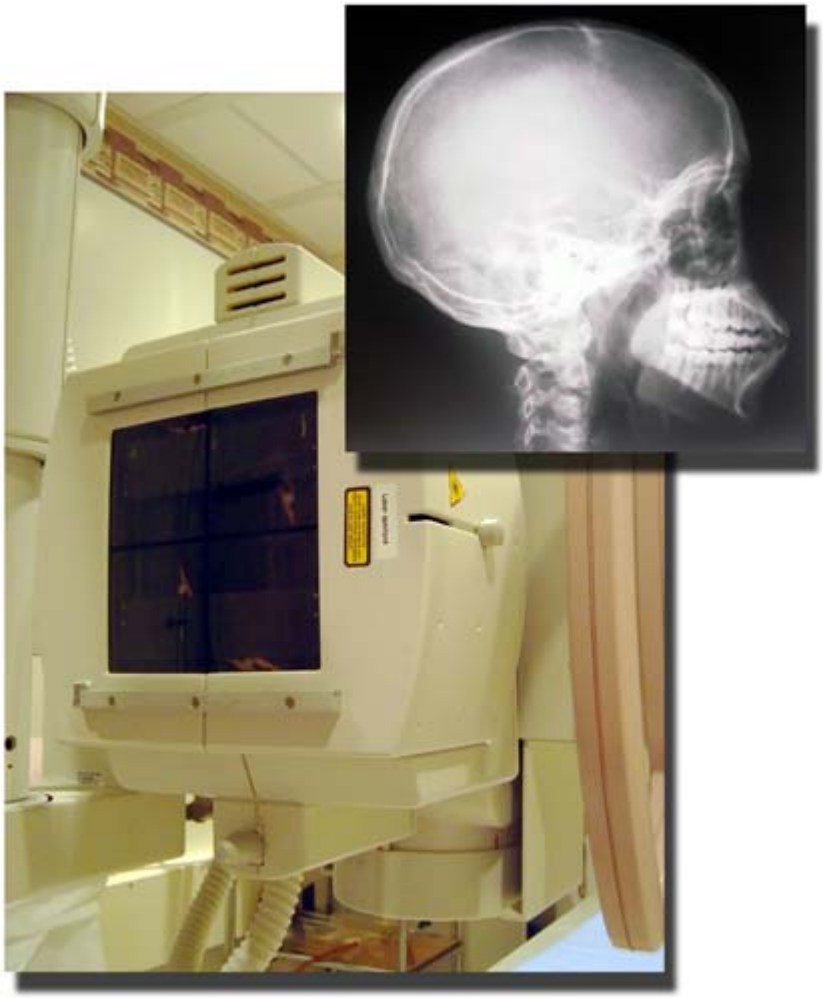
Protection From Radiation Sources

All of us—all citizens within Utah—are exposed to radiation every day, both from natural sources, such as minerals in the ground, and from man-made sources, such as medical x-rays. According to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement, the average annual radiation dose per person in the U.S. in the early 1980s was 360 millirems, while in 2006 the dose was up to 620 millirems. Growth in the use of medical imaging procedures now contributes almost half of the total radiation exposure to the U.S. population.

With the growing contribution of medical imaging procedures to the average annual radiation dose we receive, the Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Radiation Control routinely inspects and monitors the radiation producing equipment used in these vital procedures to ensure it functions within appropriate specifications and that required safety practices are followed.



Safe Drinking Water for 20 Years

Utahns and countless visitors enjoy clean, safe drinking water. With financial and technical assistance provided by the Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Drinking Water (DDW), a number of county water conservancy districts were able to consolidate and absorb non-viable water systems. These consolidations involved the construction of adequately sized source, storage, and distribution systems managed by well-qualified staff. To facilitate these and other efforts, DDW offered approximately $240 million in grants and low interest loans to communities throughout the State.

To meet the requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State Safe Drinking Water Act, DDW implemented 31 new rules over the last 20 years. These rules significantly increased the Division's

workload, as well as imposed many new requirements on public water systems, yet compliance rates have remained high.

In 1994, DDW implemented a comprehensive compliance strategy which covers all of the Division's rules. This strategy encourages water systems to voluntarily comply, and an overwhelming majority of water systems have responded favorably. The strategy also provides a very defensible priority ranking of water systems that need escalating enforcement.

Scenic Vistas at Utah's National Parks

Utah's plan to improve regional haze is implemented through a Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP is the product of 20 years of work, beginning with the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission in 1991. It was developed through a consensus-based regional stakeholder process that led the nation in protecting the vistas of western areas, including the five national parks in Utah.

During certain times of the year the visibility in Utah's National Parks is among the best in the nation. One of the goals of the Regional Haze SIP is to ensure that haze does not increase on these clean days. During the cleanest days of the year the air flow is often from the northwest. The SIP requires tracking of emissions growth in the Clean Air Corridor that includes portions of Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon.

Visibility is measured in deciviews—a visibility index where the higher the number, the worse the visibility. A change in visibility of one deciview can be noticed by the human eye. Visibility in our national parks has substantially increased in the past 20 years.

Streamlining Air Emissions Data

In the mid-1980s sources regulated by the State Implementation Plan and federal Continuous Emission Monitoring (CEM) regulations were submitting quarterly excess emissions reports containing little resemblance to federally mandated reporting requirements. The inconsistency and randomness found in the quarterly reports made the review process difficult and time consuming. To resolve this issue, a rule was needed that would establish consistent reporting requirements for all CEM regulated sources in Utah.

Utah's electricity generating utilities were invited to the Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) to join workshops intended to develop a standardized hard copy reporting format and a new "Continuous Emission Monitoring Program" rule. After several years, DAQ developed the State Electronic Data Report that replaced the hard copy report format.

Electronic reporting gives industry the opportunity to install software programs that collect and monitor emissions data, allow them to then develop their own electronic report, thus reducing reporting time to a few hours, rather than the usual three to four days. DAQ also developed an Excel workbook program that reduces review time from 12 to 5 weeks. This program provided DAQ with a comprehensive and

consistent review of each source's electronic report. In addition, the DAQ's review program writes a response letter to the reporting source, a memorandum insert, conducts a High Priority Violator review, and develops pivot tables based on reported data. The pivot table provides DAQ with a thorough, precise, and condensed look into events that occurred during the reporting period for each source.

Underground Storage Tank Program

With the advent of the automobile, service stations became a critical part of our transportation infrastructure. However, as these facilities age, many old underground tank systems begin to leak, impacting groundwater resources. In addition, many of these facilities, once closed and abandoned, leave undesirable or blighted properties. One of the major successes of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank and the Underground Storage Tank programs has been the removal of old underground storage tanks and the cleanup of any site contamination, allowing many of these former gas station properties to return to sustainable use.

Throughout the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) 20 years of existence, over 5,000 old underground tank facilities have been closed, remediated, and brought back into operation. This has enhanced thousands of acres within communities across the state and has benefited them both economically and aesthetically. In addition, nearly 1,500 of these sites also had groundwater contamination that posed potential impact to our state's underground drinking water resources. Through the cleanup activities supervised by DEQ's Division of Environmental Response and Remediation this risk has been reduced, and, for the most part, alleviated.

Urban Redevelopment

Brownfields are lands polluted by hazardous substances. In the mid-1990s the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the Gateway District, 18-acres of former rail yard in downtown Salt Lake City, as a "Brownfields Showcase Community." The District was assessed by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and cleaned up under the Voluntary Cleanup Program coordinated by the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation's (DERR).

Through this partnership, the cleanup helped establish the Intermodal Hub, completed in 2007, which serves multiple forms of transportation, including Amtrak, Greyhound Bus Lines, the UTA TRAX light rail and bus system, and FrontRunner, a regional commuter rail service. The Intermodal Hub has been a catalyst, along with the development of the Gateway Shopping Mall, in helping revitalize this portion of downtown Salt Lake City.

To the north, a block of downtown Ogden was the site of a salvage yard, auto repair shops, and the former Ogden Iron Works. Several buildings on the block had been vacant for years due to suspected soil contamination and the general deterioration of the downtown area. With the support of DEQ, Ogden City received a brownfields assessment grant from the EPA. Subsequent investigation revealed soils impacted with metals, volatile organics, and petroleum compounds. In December 2000, Ogden City entered DERR's Voluntary Cleanup Program and by 2004 had removed the contaminated soils and began redevelopment.

The site currently houses an office complex, and is an important part of Ogden's downtown revitalization efforts. According to Ogden City, approximately 900 new jobs were created as a result of this development, and over $21 million worth of private development was part of phase one.

Used Oil Program

Used oil is generated by households and businesses across the nation, and up into the early 1990s was improperly handled and disposed of, causing soil, groundwater, and surface water contamination.

In 1993, the Utah Legislature created Utah's Used Oil Program in response to federal regulations and to provide a regulatory structure for the handling and management of used oil, and tasked the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste with ensuring that our State's used oil is collected and recycled properly.

The DIYer (Do-It-Yourselfer) Program coordinates over 400 state-wide Used Oil Collection Centers where citizens can recycle used oil for free. Collection Centers include Jiffy Lube, Wal-Mart, and O'Reilly and NAPA Auto Parts. As part of the program, DEQ promotes recycling, provides material and equipment to the Centers, and works closely with the Local Health Departments, who inspect the Centers twice annually to ensure that used oil is handled and recycled properly.

The Used Oil Management Program recognizes that most oil generated in Utah comes from businesses. DEQ sets standards for handling and storage, requiring that used oil transporters, transfer facilities, processors, and marketers obtain permits. Permitted facilities must have closure plans, financial assurance, and pollution liability insurance. These standards led to improvements and upgrades at these facilities.

Since 1995, approximately 160 million gallons of used oil—from both programs—has been recycled.

Utah's Ag Water Quality Strategy

In 2001, the Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) Committee developed the Utah Strategy, which is an agreement to help AFOs compliy with environmental regulations to improve water quality. Although the original Utah Strategy expired in 2008, the AFO Committee wishes to continue to build on past success and has prepared a working draft of a new Utah Strategy.

The Committee is a partnership of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality (DWQ), the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Farm Bureau, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah State University Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 8, and Utah’s animal producer groups.

Through Clean Water Act delegation, DWQ's program focus has been to oversee Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. Through federal and state monies, DWQ funds the efforts of the agricultural partners to assist AFO producers with compliance to water quality regulations. DWQ has provided monies to several Committee partners for AFO work. The partners' knowledge of the regulated community and relationships with the producers allows greater access to AFOs that otherwise may not have been available through an enforcement based approach. Through the Utah Strategy, the partnership provides education, compliance, and technical assistance, resulting in greater water quality protection.

Voluntary Cleanup Program

There are numerous sites where soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment have been impacted by past uses. Many of these sites are being addressed through the proper regulatory framework to assure appropriate cleanup and protection of human health and the environment. However, for some of these sites, a regulatory framework may not exist and the owners of these properties, or prospective purchasers, may wish to perform cleanup to facilitate land transfers or for other reasons.

From the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's perspective, there is a benefit to Utah citizens, local economies, and the environment in having owners and prospective purchasers come forward and conduct a voluntary cleanup. Recognizing this mutual benefit to land owners and the State, the Utah Legislature established the Voluntary Release Cleanup Program (VCP) during the 1997 legislative session, with it becoming effective on May 5, 1997.

To date, numerous sites have been assessed and/or cleaned up, from the Uintah Basin to Wendover, and from Cache County to Washington County. Since the inception of the VCP, 72 applications have been received, with 35 "Certificates of Completion," and three "No Further Action Letters" have been issued. In addition, eight sites have been designated "No Further Remedial Action Planned by the Environmental Protection Agency" and over 850 acres of impacted property has been returned to a state of beneficial reuse.

Water Quality Hardship Grant Program

With the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act, Congress ushered in a new era in clean water infrastructure financing by replacing the long-standing federal Construction Grants program with an innovative Clean Water State Revolving Fund. However, the Revolving Fund requires extensive planning to qualify for construction funding, and many small communities lack the resources necessary to complete this work. Therefore, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality instituted a Hardship Grant Program in June 1998 to provide planning and design advances to communities in need of assistance if the community demonstrates a financial hardship. The advances provide interim financial assistance for project planning and design until construction financing can be secured.

The Hardship Grant Program was creatively financed principally by charging Hardship Grant Assessments in lieu of interest on Revolving Fund loans, supplemented by interest charged on State loans, and interest earnings in the State loan and hardship grant funds.

Since its inception, the Hardship Grant Program has provided $3.7 million to 71 communities to prepare project plans, and $9.9 million to 23 communities to perform project design. The Hardship Grant

Program has also provided $25.4 million in construction grants to 32 communities to make their projects affordable.

Within the last four years, the role of the Hardship Grant Program expanded significantly when non-point source projects became eligible for grants, with the program providing over $7.4 million in direct grants to 97 non-point sources.