



Our mission is to champion a healthy environment for a thriving Montana.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

ANNUAL PLAN—PERFORMANCE REPORT

Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 26)

Updated October 1, 2026

The [Montana Department of Environmental Quality](#) is responsible for regulating air quality, water quality, underground storage tanks, automobile wrecking facilities, hazardous waste facilities, solid waste management systems, and mining operations; and for the siting and needs analyses of large-scale energy facilities. In addition, the department is the lead agency for reclamation and cleanup activities related to the federal and state superfund programs and leaking underground storage tanks, and for regulation and permitting of mining conducted on private, state, and federal lands. This work is completed through four programs - Central Management, Water Quality, Waste Management & Remediation, and Air, Energy, & Mining. The Petroleum Tank Compensation Board and the Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee are also attached for administrative purposes.

The department works in partnership with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy, and the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Congress gave the EPA the initial responsibility for development and implementation of environmental protection, but many federal statutes contain preference for delegation of the program to the states when the state can demonstrate capacity to carry it out. This arrangement establishes state-federal environmental goals and priorities with the funding and flexibility to achieve desired results. These joint activities become the basis of future agreements and long-term strategic planning.

CENTRAL SERVICES

The department's central services programs are responsible for agency-wide administration, management, planning, evaluation, and support. They include the director's staff, a centralized legal pool, the Montana Environmental Policy Act and the Major Facility Siting Act functions, public affairs, the enforcement program, human resources, information management and technology, financial services, records management, safety, emergency management, and continuous process improvement.

AIR, ENERGY, & MINING DIVISION

The Air, Energy, & Mining Division (AEMD) permits and regulates environmentally protective and productive operations in air, hard rock mining, opencut mining, and coal mining industries according to program statutory authority. The permitting and regulatory work includes extensive coordination with other programs to develop environmental review documents that comply with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), including environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. AEMD includes the State Energy Office, or Energy Bureau, which promotes and improves Montanan's access to energy efficiency and alternative energy sources while improving the state's energy security by offering financing mechanisms, technical assistance, and education for public and private entities.

WATER DIVISION

The Water Quality Division protects public health and water quality in the state of Montana. This is accomplished through the financing and technical assistance provided for community water and wastewater systems; the development of water quality restoration plans; managing a State-wide monitoring network; subdivision review; monitoring compliance of public water systems; and water discharge permitting. The division achieves this through coordination with the public and regulated community by proposing rules, drafting policy, and developing water quality standards.

WASTE MANAGEMENT & REMEDIATION DIVISION

The Waste Management & Remediation Division protects human health and the environment by preventing exposure to contaminants, working with Montana communities and businesses to implement effective material management and cleanup strategies, and overseeing compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. It oversees and conducts or supports remedial investigation and efficient, cost-effective cleanup activities at state and federal Superfund sites; supervises voluntary cleanup activities; reclaims abandoned minelands; implements corrective actions at sites; and administrators regulatory waste management programs.



Strategic Outcome

#1

CITIZEN SERVICE & ACCOUNTABILITY: CONTINUED FOCUS ON CULTURE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

DEQ continues to shift the agency's approach regarding routine activities to include more enterprising interactions with customers and stakeholders. The agency will continue to focus this fiscal year on staff physically getting out to cities and towns across Montana to meet constituents where they are, to be visible and to interact with stakeholders across the state.

The agency will measure outreach through the Montana Miles initiative. DEQ will strive to visit all counties and incorporated cities and towns across the state. The agency will strive to continue to demonstrate a culture of helping the public, being responsible and accessible to all Montanans.

Key Measures

- DEQ staff will have meaningful visits to all 56 counties and all 128 incorporated cities/towns during fiscal year 2026.
- Utilize GIS tracking tool where staff report travel data to track miles as well as locations visited.
- Review of Montana Miles (numbers) and success stories to foster relationships with citizens, to ensure continued satisfaction with the work we do, and to prevent problems before they arise.
 - # of miles traveled
 - # and % of 56 Montana counties visited
 - # and % of incorporated cities/towns visited
 - # of unique communities/locations visited

FY 26 Performance Report Update

DEQ was very successful in its focus to get out across the state and meet constituents in their communities. This initiative helped build and sustain relationships with stakeholders across the vast state. Staff from the agency traveled over 448,000 miles and visited all 56 counties. Staff visited the incorporated cities of the state and specifically had site visits in 294 unique towns.



Strategic Outcome

#2

PROTECT MONTANA WAY OF LIFE: MOVE MEPA FORWARD

DEQ supports the purposes of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and sees its importance as a bedrock environmental process. But we also recognize that the MEPA framework needs to be modified and modernized to account for both the experiences of the past thirty years and the demands of today's society. MEPA is increasingly used to challenge and delay development, leaving executive agencies, like DEQ, struggling to meet exhaustive demands for data, comply with statutory deadlines, and determine what an adequate review entails.

The 2025 Legislature passed significant legislation that covered topics ranging from appropriate legal remedies to options for improving the efficiency of agency MEPA reviews and treatment of greenhouse gas emissions following the Montana Supreme Court's decision in *Held vs. State of Montana*. Together, these bills now inform how DEQ and other agencies apply MEPA to review and disclose the potential impacts of proposed actions.

Key Measures

- DEQ will finalize a draft Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Guidance document for use by State Agencies that provides a consistent approach to completing an analysis. The approach will fulfill Constitutional requirements and provide regulatory certainty.
- DEQ will host three public meetings to gather input on the draft GHG Guidance to gather varied stakeholder opinions. The document will also be vetted by a third-party entity hired by DEQ.
- MEPA practitioners from all state Agencies will meet quarterly to prioritize the use of legislative appropriations to advance programmatic assessments and categorical exclusions. This should include a minimum of five permitting actions.

FY 26 Performance Report Update

- In January 2026, DEQ released the final GHG Guidance document to guide state agencies when they are conducting analyses as part of MEPA regarding GHG emissions. This guidance document helps agencies provide for regulatory certainty. DEQ has used the GHG assessment method in roughly 6 fossil fuel related environmental reviews since January 2026 (coal and air quality).
- DEQ held three public listening sessions to receive public comment on the draft GHG Guidance document. The public comment period was open from October 1-30, 2025. The final guidance document was revised based on constructive feedback from various public comments received. The document was also vetted by a third-party entity contracted to write and review the GHG Guidance document under the guidance of agency experts.
- It was determined that the MEPA appropriation to advance programmatic assessments and categorical exclusions was to be used for DEQ's Air Quality Oil and Gas Registration program and FWP's Stream Protection Act Permits. Both of these programs issue well over five permitting actions per year. DEQ and FWP plan

		to publish draft programmatic assessments in the fourth quarter of 2026. Once these programmatic assessments are finalized it would allow for the issuance of categorical exclusions for oil and gas registration projects and stream protection act permits. MEPA practitioners do meet regularly and as schedules allow. • DEQ has completed 4 programmatic environmental assessments (asbestos control program, 318 permit, subdivisions & public water supply, and underground storage tanks) and plans to complete 6 more before the end of 2026.
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Strategic Outcome

#3

CITIZEN SERVICE & ACCOUNTABILITY: LITIGATION VISIBILITY

DEQ and litigation are closely intertwined, with legal actions sometimes necessary to enforce regulations, and stakeholders and others using litigation to challenge agency actions or hold them accountable. This dynamic plays a crucial role in shaping environmental policy and enforcement in Montana. On average, 4.2 years elapsed between publication of an environmental analysis and conclusion of the corresponding legal challenge at the appellate level, according to a recent report by the Breakthrough Institute.

DEQ must maintain a degree of public transparency regarding litigation and updates related to its activities and decisions, while balancing this with necessary legal and ethical considerations.

Key Measures

- DEQ will update its website to include a litigation report. The report will be updated quarterly to indicate court rulings.
- DEQ will provide litigation updates, including decisions on attorney fees and related fiscal impacts, to both the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) and to the Section C Interim Budget Committee (IBC). As appropriate DEQ will also provide information specific to MEPA court cases, and Board of Environmental Review (BER) rulings.
 - # of cases where DEQ prevailed
 - \$ in attorney fees awarded
 - # of cases before BER and trends

FY 26 Performance Report Update

- DEQ is committed to maintaining transparency regarding litigation activities. To fulfill our commitment to transparency and accountability, DEQ provides [litigation updates on our website](#). The website was published in early 2026 and is updated regularly. The litigation update page shows:
 - Cases where DEQ prevailed
 - Case trends
 - Cases where DEQ incurred attorney fees/costs
- DEQ prevailed in 9 cases during FY 26 before courts as well as the Board of Environmental Review.
- Attorney fees were awarded in two DEQ cases during FY 26. The first was AM 4 before the Montana 16th Judicial District Court, Rosebud County. The agency settled attorney fees for \$760,000 in the case. The second was the Held v. State case. The Montana 1st Judicial District Court, Lewis & Clark County awarded \$3 million—the issue is currently pending before the Montana Supreme Court.
- DEQ had 16 cases before the BER during FY 26. Many involved coal or opencut mining.
- DEQ Legal observed a trend toward constitutional challenges in FY 26 as the agency saw 9 of these challenges.

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For complete court filings, opinions, and orders, please contact the respective County District Court or Montana Supreme Court. |
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Strategic Outcome

#4

EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS: RED TAPE RELIEF & REGULATORY REFORM

DEQ will continue to make common sense regulatory reform measures through FY 26 by prioritizing rules reviewed by the agency. We will evaluate rules that are ripe for advancement through the legislative/executive streamlining efforts with a focus on effectiveness and boldness. As of June 1, 2025, DEQ had evaluated 854 statutes, rules, and circulars.

Key Measures

- DEQ will evaluate agency rulemaking needs and calendar timelines to successfully update identified and required rules prior to 2027 legislative session. DEQ will advance at least 15 significant rule packages.
 - Monthly meeting of agency rule review team to discuss priorities, timelines and stay on track –monthly occurrence.
 - Identification and development of red tape relief concepts to ensure proposed legislation is successful in 2027 session.
 - Report out progress through metrics
 - # Rules amended, # Rules repealed, # Rules new
 - # Circulars adopted final, # Circulars amended

FY 26 Performance Report Update

- Held monthly meetings with agency senior leadership and individual rule teams. DEQ continues to review and prioritize agency circulars, rules, and statutes for reform using ranking criteria and complexity analysis as applied to a master inventory list.
- Held an annual rule retreat for the purpose of discussing rulemaking processes, reviewing the current metrics, rule package priorities, and identify (re-confirm) priority rule packages. Pre-identify 2027 legislative and rulemaking implications associated with A-bills.
- Periodic meetings held with the Lt. Governor and staff occurred and will continue to be held to review R2 progress and priorities.
- Agency has made substantial progress in updating outdated rules, older than 30 years—from when DEQ became an agency. DEQ’s “Health Score” has increased since 2021 from 71% to 95%, as DEQ addresses repealed references in rules. Additionally, DEQ’s reading level has decreased since 2021 from a “post-graduate” to a “college” reading level.
- FY 26 R2 Metrics: 3 rule packages completed rules adopted final = 10 amended and 1 new.
- Planning for FY 27 R2 Metrics: 21 + rule packages to be completed (21 are currently active in Esper, with 11 more prioritized to start in the fall of 2026 with adoption in 2027, several may be adopted within FY 27).

 Strategic Outcome #5	CITIZEN SERVICE & ACCOUNTABILITY: ENGINEERING REVIEW OF WATER SYSTEMS TO PROTECT MONTANANS	
	The WQD will maintain a consistent and timely review process for public water and sewer projects, as well as subdivisions, with a strong emphasis on accountability and delivering exceptional customer service.	
	Key Measures	- WQD will enhance staff proficiency in the consistent application of ARM and Circulars by providing comprehensive training on relevant rules and procedures. Additionally, WQD will empower staff to thoroughly review applications and, where a lawful and protective solution exists, collaborate with applicants to identify and implement viable alternatives rather than defaulting to denial. - Monthly trainings held for all Engineering Bureau Employees # of preapplication meetings held per month # of new subdivision lots and dwelling units approved # of pending plan and spec and subdivision files
	FY 26 Performance Report Update	- Trainings were held twice per month for all Engineering Bureau staff throughout FY 26. 1 to 5 preapplication meetings were held each month, based on requests from applicants. 3,354 new subdivision lots created and 6,726 new dwelling units approved during FY 26. 187 average monthly active plan/spec and subdivision files. - The Engineering Bureau continued to have a record number of files to review and remained on-time with the review and approval of files. There remains a quality control component that the bureau will be asking the Subdivision Advisory Task Force about: How can the Department improve the quality of plans received for review? This varying factor has implications on the workload of reviewers because much more time is spent on incomplete applications, which can push out timelines for the more thorough and complete applications. - In addition to the increasing number of files to review, the improved MEPA Environmental Analysis work for developments with a large public interest, Programmatic Environmental Analysis documents, and response to comments for the MEPA analysis were all completed by the Engineering team while remaining on time for file reviews.

 Strategic Outcome #6	PROTECT MONTANA WAY OF LIFE: SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR ALL MONTANANS	
	The WQD will strive to reduce risks to public health from drinking water by setting enforceable standards, monitoring compliance, and promoting ongoing improvements in water system infrastructure and source protection throughout Montana.	
	Key Measures	• The WQD regulates public water systems and supports local operators through Water School continuing education, building partnerships with other state and local agencies, and by providing technical assistance for compliance. ○ # of sanitary surveys completed ○ # of certified operator exams administered ○ # of Water School attendees
	FY 26 Performance Report Update	• Drinking water regulations in Montana remain in line with Federal standards. The Public Water Supply Bureau works with approximately 2,200 public drinking water systems statewide to ensure monitoring and compliance are taking place. Additionally, the bureau has been tasked with responding to emerging contaminants such as PFAS and Manganese, with no additional funding or resources. ○ 566 sanitary surveys were completed in FY 26. ○ 388 certified operator exams administered in FY 26. ○ 409 Water School attendees in FY 26.



Strategic Outcome

#7

PROTECT MONTANA WAY OF LIFE: PROTECT MONTANA'S HIGH-QUALITY WATERS

The WQD will define the next steps to implement protections for Montana waters from nutrient pollution.

Key Measures

- The WQD will engage with local and Federal partners to implement protections and programs that are feasible and predictable, while also addressing causes of non-point source pollution.
 - \$ Amount of funding injected into Montana's economy for projects to reduce non-point source pollution.
 - Meet with 7 largest dischargers in the state to co-produce solutions for permitting challenges.

FY 26 Performance Report Update

- Since the EPA's approval of Montana's Nutrient Water Quality Standard, the division has worked to develop a framework for assessing, monitoring, and issuing permits that is environmentally protective and legally defensible. Permits and TMDLs that have languished for 10+ years are being acted upon and implemented consistently and feasibly.
 - \$1,525,516 in funding was injected into Montana's economy for projects to reduce non-point source pollution during the fiscal year.
 - The Water Protection and Water Quality Planning Bureau chiefs have met with the 7 largest dischargers in the state to co-produce solutions for permitting challenges. These meetings have been held in each community.

 Strategic Outcome #8	CITIZEN SERVICE & ACCOUNTABILITY: BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATIONS	
	The Brownfields Program is an assistance program focusing on improving public health and the environment, creating economic opportunities by sparking private investment in rural Montana and urban downtown areas, and revitalizing communities by preserving historic structures, eliminating blight, and providing spaces for critical community services such as new housing, childcare facilities, and recreational destinations. The Brownfields Program provides assessment, planning and cleanup assistance to properties such as former gas stations, vacant historic buildings, and former commercial/industrial sites so they can be reused and returned to the tax base.	
	Key Measures	• The Brownfields Program will continue to protect human health and the environment by conducting environmental site assessments and cleanup, so properties are ready for redevelopment. • The Brownfields program will continue to build strong partnerships with communities: assisting local leaders with funding and technical expertise to transform blighted sites into community assets. ○ # of properties assessed ○ # of properties cleaned up and ready for redevelopment ○ # of community engagement events ○ \$ spent in Montana communities
	FY 26 Performance Report Update	• The Brownfields Program was busy in working with Montana communities in FY 26 to achieve progress and revitalization. ○ 21 properties assessed ○ 2 properties cleaned up and ready for redevelopment ○ 11 community engagement events ○ \$3,094,697 spent in Montana communities



Strategic Outcome

#9

EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS: OBTAIN STATE COST SHARE FOR FORWARD PROGRESS ON FEDERAL SUPERFUND SITES

DEQ's Federal Superfund Program relies on relationships built on great communication and trust to move federal superfund sites forward. EPA is typically the lead agency, while DEQ is the consulting agency. DEQ works closely with partners in local governments and communities, helping to educate and listen to concerns.

Also of great importance are DEQ's relationships with Montana legislators. Federal superfund sites typically require a 10% state match on remediation of these sites. The 1989 legislature developed a mechanism for obtaining this match, and DEQ's success depends on the legislature agreeing to allocate the funding for the match.

Key Measures	• # of Federal Superfund sites moved from one phase to the next • # of Federal Superfund sites nearing need for state match • \$ needed for state match • # of legislators educated about federal superfund site and the state's needed match
FY 26 Performance Report Update	• 3 Federal Superfund Sites moved from one phase to the next • 2 Federal Superfund sites nearing need for state match • \$2.1 million needed for state match for Billings PCE OU1 • 35 legislators educated about Federal Superfund sites and state's needed match



Strategic Outcome

#10

EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS: FIND BALANCE BETWEEN PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT & FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH & STABILITY

This initiative is focused on the state’s junk vehicle (JV) program, which has been the subject of much legislative attention over the last 10 years. DEQ will provide on-time defensible permits that follow the law, protect human health and the environment, and allow businesses to succeed, while providing excellent customer service via timely inspections and compliance assistance.

Key Measures

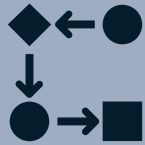
- DEQ will examine and analyze fiscal year General Fund Transfer to the JV Program. This will be the first step in a broader conversation with the Legislature.
- \$ Annual crushing revenue.
- \$ Amount of Junk Vehicle funds granted to counties.
- # of licenses issued (or renewed annually)
- # of inspections performed annually
- # of vehicles collected annually

FY 26 Performance Report Update

- Annual crushing revenue: \$93,461.38
- Amount of Junk Vehicle funds granted to counties: \$1,712,513*
- 167 licenses issued (or renewed annually)
- # of inspections performed annually: 117 inspections by counties, 26 inspections by the state
- 581 vehicles collected in FY26 (reported number – this is likely higher)

*Note: \$2,181,792 was transferred to DEQ’s Junk Vehicle Program from general fund in FY26, and counties were eligible to request \$2,538,422.

	EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS: MINE PROGRAM FUNDING	
	The Mining Bureau will utilize fee structures, including the new hard rock mining fees, Natural Resource Operations (NRO), and General Fund for effective and efficient mine program implementation.	
 Strategic Outcome #11	Key Measures	• The Mining Bureau will continue to seek, collect, and review Annual Progress Reports and annual fees for Opencut Mining permittees to support the opencut mining permitting, bonding, and compliance work performed by DEQ. • By July 1, 2025, the Bureau will begin invoicing entities subject to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA) for operating permits, exploration licenses, and small miner exclusion statements (SMES). The Bureau will utilize the hard rock mining fees to support hard rock mining permitting, bonding, and compliance work performed by DEQ and to reduce DEQ's reliance on General Fund. ○ By March 31, 2026, complete the necessary rulemaking for implementing the new hard rock mining fee structure provided by HB69 [2025]. ○ Report on \$ fees collected in fiscal year ○ Report on # of permits issued ○ Report on \$ bonds held ○ Report on # of inspections conducted
	FY 26 Performance Report Update	• Annual progress reports and fees were collected for Opencut Mining permittees in FY 26. • Rulemaking for HB69 was completed in 2026. • Since passage of HB69, DEQ has collected \$82,650 in MMRA annual fees plus \$4,000 in MMRA application fees. • DEQ holds \$490,497,125 in bond for MMRA regulated activities. • One new operating permit and 43 operating permit revisions were issued in FY 26. 4 new exploration licenses, 7 exploration license amendments, and 48 exploration license renewals were issued during the year. Several final decisions are pending bond submittal from the applicants. • 133 operating permit sites, 16 exploration sites, and 102 Small Miner Exclusion sites were inspected.



Strategic Outcome

#12

EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS: MINE RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES

The Mining Bureau will manage reclamation activities at the CR Kendall Mine and the Zortman-Landusky Mining Complex to achieve the appropriate reclamation outcomes at the most reasonable expense. This will focus on strategizing for future, dependable funding sources.

Key Measures

- Continue to seek opportunities to improve reclamation and reduce/minimize reclamation costs.
- Identify and report on reclamation improvement options
- Report on reclamation changes considered
- Report on reclamation changes made
- Report on treatment accomplished

FY 26 Performance Report Update

Reclamation changes were regularly analyzed for both the CR Kendall and Zortman-Landusky mining complexes.

Zortman-Landusky

DEQ, in coordination with its site management contractor and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), annually prepares a Capital Improvement Plan which identifies priority projects at the Zortman and Landusky sites that may need to be implemented over the next 5 years. These include the replacement of aging infrastructure, such as components of water treatment systems, which should be replaced before they fail and cause the release of contaminated water to the surrounding environment. The priority project for the 2025-2027 period is the replacement of the Landusky Bio-reactor System which removes selenium and nitrate from water stored at the mine site prior to discharge to adjacent surface waters.

Reclamation (earthwork, vegetation establishment) at these sites was largely completed 20 years ago. Since that time, the focus has been on operation and maintenance of existing water treatment infrastructure and when necessary, the implementation of improvements to collect and treat contaminated water more effectively. In recent years, this has included the construction of a retention pond in Swift Gulch north of the Landusky site to store water prior to treatment and the implementation of a high flow treatment plan in Swift Gulch for ensuring water can be treated instream when high flow conditions exist, e.g., during spring runoff, to minimize the impact of untreated water reaching downstream Tribal lands.

DEQ analyzed a project to replace the bioreactors at the Landusky water treatment plant. Replacement of the bioreactors would ensure continued water treatment of mine wastewaters to reduce selenium

	and nitrate levels prior to discharge of the water from the Landusky Mine site. DEQ maintains and operates six active water treatment systems at the Zortman and Landusky sites. Collectively, these facilities intercept, treat, and discharge 350 to 400 million gallons of contaminated water per year on average. CR Kendall DEQ has investigated several options for reducing long-term water treatment costs at the CR Kendall Mine site. One option considered was utilizing a gravity-flow of seepage collection\ treatment system designed to intercept water below each waste rock dump through a series of vaults, tanks, or other structures. Intercepted water would be treated and allowed to infiltrate into the groundwater system. Initial designs were submitted by a contractor. After further design work and site investigations, DEQ along with the contractor determined the locations below the waste dumps did not have sufficient permeability to allow effective infiltration of treated water into the ground and that water quality effluent limits for direct discharge to surface water were unlikely to be consistently met by a gravity-flow seepage collection\ treatment system. DEQ also considered a simpler water treatment system whereby the existing water treatment system at the CR Kendall Mine site would be replaced with purpose-built system that requires less labor to operate and maintain. DEQ is in the process of implementing the replacement of water treatment infrastructure at the CR Kendall Mine site with a purpose-built water treatment system as noted in #1. DEQ analyzed the replacement of the zeolite tanks within the existing water treatment facility at the CR Kendall Mine site. The existing water treatment system utilizes the tanks from the mine operator that were used for gold recovery during the cyanide leaching process and are not well suited for use as a zeolite treatment system for removing thallium. Reuse of the tanks has required ongoing specialized training for operations and maintenance activities. By replacing the current zeolite tanks and ancillary equipment with a purpose-built water treatment system, it is anticipated the new system will be much simpler and cost effective to operate and maintain. DEQ continues to utilize the existing system to treat thallium contaminated water at the CR Kendall Mine site to ensure the water does not impact adjacent landowners.
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 Strategic Outcome #13	JOBS & THE ECONOMY: ALL THE ABOVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS	
	DEQ’s state energy office will coordinate and contribute to the Governor’s Energy Task Force so the meaningful work of that Task Force can advance and be memorialized. This will include a focus on generation, growing demand for energy in Montana, and the role of transmission and markets. This Task Force will outline problems and then strategize solutions. DEQ will facilitate this work.	
	Key Measures	• Necessary meetings scheduled/held by DEQ • Coordination to task force provided by DEQ • Tangible and practical outcomes identified by Task Force ○ # of Meetings Held ○ # of Outcomes identified • Final report and recommendations
	FY 26 Performance Report Update	Six energy task force meetings, approximately 20 workgroup meetings, and three open houses were held as part of this Task Force effort. More than a dozen recommendations were identified by the Task Force. The final report, with recommendations, was delivered to the Governor on August 25 th . It is available here .