



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT

Consolidated Environmental Data Access and Retrieval System: Verification of Data Accuracy and Integrity

Department of Environmental Quality

SEPTEMBER 2009

09DP-01

REPORT SUMMARY

A critical part of DEQ program administration is maintenance of environmental data. DEQ developed multiple databases and systems within its various programs and at peak, had 175 individual databases in use throughout the department.

Context

The Consolidated Environmental Data Access and Retrieval System (CEDARS) is a computer system implemented by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to assist in the administration of environmental and facility site data including permits and fines. To date, business processes for five legacy applications have been migrated into sub-systems within CEDARS. Facility site data stored in CEDARS includes permit information, client contact information, and environmental records. The data and functionality of CEDARS is used by employees from multiple departments in DEQ to maintain business records, permits, fines, and a multitude of environmental data. Reports generated from CEDARS data are used by DEQ personnel, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the public.

CEDARS plays an important role in the maintenance of environmental and site data. As such, it is imperative the system is accurately storing, processing, and reporting data.

Results

DEQ has successfully migrated five program subsystems into CEDARS, including successful migration of data records. Overall, we noted DEQ has controls in place to ensure CEDARS is accurately reporting environmental and site data, as well as securing access to CEDARS. However, we did identify areas where DEQ can improve. This report includes two recommendations for DEQ relating to improving system development by implementing best practices for migration of new programs into CEDARS including documenting cost and time requirements, and improving business continuity of CEDARS operations by implementing a disaster recovery program.

Recommendation Concurrence	
Concur	1
Partially Concur	0
Do Not Concur	1

Source: Agency audit response included in final report.

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