

FINANCIAL-COMPLIANCE AUDIT
 Department of Environmental Quality
 For the Two Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2012

DECEMBER 2012

12-16

REPORT SUMMARY

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers environmental protection and enhancement efforts of the state of Montana. As an agency created and empowered by the legislature to encourage the maintenance of a clean and healthful environment mandated by the Constitution, DEQ monitors environmental conditions, issues permits and evaluates permit compliance for activities with defined impacts on the environment. DEQ also works to ensure remediation of environmental damage in Montana and enforces the state's environmental laws. The four recommendations in the report focus on improving compliance with state laws and policy regarding accounting for certain department operations.

Context

DEQ promotes environmental quality through programs to promote air quality; improve water supply, wastewater, and solid waste disposal infrastructure; regulate the discharge of pollutants by issuing permits and assessing compliance with the conditions of the permits; enforce the environmental laws of the state; and encourage remediation and reclamation at the sites of past natural resource damages.

pricing of storm water permits and the accounting fund placement of the abandoned mine land reclamation account required by state law.

Results

The report recommends DEQ limit the encumbrance of current budget authority for expenditure in future years to valid obligations as defined in state accounting policy. Another section recommends excess money in the hard-rock mining debt services fund be transferred to a related special revenue fund where the resources can be invested and used as directed by state law. Other issues address compliance with regulations regarding the

Recommendation Concurrence	
Concur	4
Partially Concur	0
Do Not Concur	0
Source: Agency audit response included in final report.	

For a complete copy of the report (12-16) or for further information, contact the Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122; e-mail to lad@mt.gov; or check the web site at <http://leg.mt.gov/audit>
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