



Spencer J. Cox  
Governor

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
**2025-01**

*Expanding and Improving Permitting Efficiency at DEQ and DOGM*

**WHEREAS**, Utah continues to streamline government, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, and accelerate the development of critical infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, Utah has a strong track record of rightsizing environmental permitting processes and decreasing permitting timeframes while upholding public health and environmental standards;

**WHEREAS**, Utah has prioritized innovation and continuous improvement to streamline permitting timelines;

**WHEREAS**, 98% of the approximately 15,000 permits issued annually by the Department of Environmental Quality are either general permits or permits by rule, requiring little to no time for regulated entities to obtain these permits;

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding significant prior improvements to Utah's permitting processes, there are additional opportunities to improve;

**WHEREAS**, air quality permits containing plantwide applicability limitations (PALs) provide flexibility to respond to market needs for production and encourage innovation while maintaining environmental protections; and

**WHEREAS**, effective and efficient permitting processes are essential for a strong and growing economy and attracting business to Utah;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, hereby order the following:

1. **Purpose.**
  - a. The purposes of this executive order are to: 1) identify ways to expand and improve the use of permitting by rule and general permitting at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) in the Utah Department of Natural Resources; and 2) improve the PAL permitting process at DEQ.

**2. Permitting by Rule and General Permitting.**

- a. In order to expand the use of permitting by rule and general permitting:
  - i. DEQ shall identify and evaluate areas where it can appropriately expand the use of permitting by rule or general permitting. This effort should specifically include, but is not limited to, evaluating permits issued by the Division of Water Quality and the Division of Air Quality.
  - ii. DOGM shall identify and evaluate areas where it can appropriately expand the use of permitting by rule or general permitting.
  - iii. In performing the analysis required by Paragraph 2 of this Order, DEQ and DOGM shall:
    - A. consult stakeholders; and
    - B. consider successful permitting by rule or general permitting efforts in other states.
- b. In order to improve the processes of permitting by rule and general permitting, DEQ and DOGM shall do the following:
  - i. gather stakeholder input on how the processes related to permitting by rule and general permitting can be improved; and
  - ii. evaluate administrative rules, agency guidance, and agency practices to further streamline permitting processes, identify redundancies, enhance flexibility, and improve clarity for applications.

**3. Plantwide Applicability Limitation Permits.**

- a. DEQ shall evaluate, improve, and streamline the process for obtaining and maintaining a PAL permit. DEQ's efforts shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - i. evaluating successful PAL permit processes and guidance in other states;
  - ii. developing and publishing comprehensive written guidance related to PAL permits;
  - iii. evaluating and revising administrative rules related to PAL permits and the PAL permitting process; and
  - iv. consulting stakeholders.
- b. DEQ shall identify ways to increase regulatory certainty with regard to PAL permits, especially with regard to renewing PALs at the same emissions levels allowed by 40 C.F.R. Sec. 51.166(w)(10)(iv)(a).
- c. DEQ shall ensure that potential applicants are aware of the PAL permit process, including improvements to the process.

**4. Reporting.**

- a. DEQ and DOGM shall each report to the governor its implementation of the requirements of this Executive Order. DEQ and DOGM shall each provide an interim progress report by July 1, 2025, and final report by October 1, 2025.

**THIS ORDER** is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done in Fairview, Utah, on this, the 7th Day of January, 2025.



Spencer J. Cox  
Governor, State of Utah

Deidre M. Henderson  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah

ATTEST: