



Creating a more timely permitting process

The purpose of DTSC's permitting reforms is to improve our ability to issue protective, timely and enforceable permits using more transparent standards and consistent procedures.

On average, it has taken DTSC 4.3 years to process a permit.

Through improvements outlined in the Permitting Enhancement Work Plan, DTSC has committed to a goal of processing 90 percent of its permits in 24 months.

Major phases of the permitting process:



Step 1: Establish a baseline permit process flowchart

- This baseline flowchart was put into immediate effect. It will be modified by subsequent improvement efforts.

Step 2: Streamlining and Standardization Completed

- The first project focused on permitting's technical review component – the most complex and lengthy step. On average, this process took 38 months. DTSC determined that by incorporating a 1082-point checklist, the Department could shrink the time for this step to 13 months for 80 percent of permits.
- The second project evaluated DTSC's entire permitting process with the goal of decreasing processing time to two years. Most significantly, it determined that administrative reviews typically are processed in seven months. The report made recommendations that would reduce the process to 30 days.
- Coupled with the improvements that are currently underway to reduce the technical review time, the reduction of the administrative review processing time is projected to result in 65 percent of future permit decisions processed within two years.

Step 3: Standardization, Coordination and Improvement Projects Underway

- DTSC has launched another project that will analyze how to improve the time it takes to identify and address application deficiencies.



Department of Toxic Substances Control

APRIL 2015

- DTSC is drafting Roles and Responsibilities documents between the Office of Permitting and other internal units (legal, enforcement, etc.) These agreements will improve communication, coordination and accountability. Procedural changes will be incorporated into the flow chart.
- DTSC is evaluating how to improve its public outreach while a permit application is processed. Earlier communication will result in a better decision and will likely result in less time taken at the end of the process.
- DTSC is evaluating other aspects of its permitting process, including the timing requirements for applicants to submit the application.