



**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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# **The Cost of Operating the Water Pollution Control Branch**

# The Reckoning

Annual Cost to Run the Program: \$20,300,945

Fees collected annually: \$5,336,439

**-\$14,964,506**



# "The Bill" & Inflation

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The total on the previous slide was 2025 data

- Shortfall in previous slide  $\neq$  Future shortfall or budget needs
  - Did not address inflation
- Clean Water Program Fees have been flat since 2015
  - Increased economic inflation of over 32%
- Since 2020, pay plan has increased over 22%
- Costs to operate the program are projected to increase to by at least 19% in FY 2028 (*w/o including additional pay plan increases*)

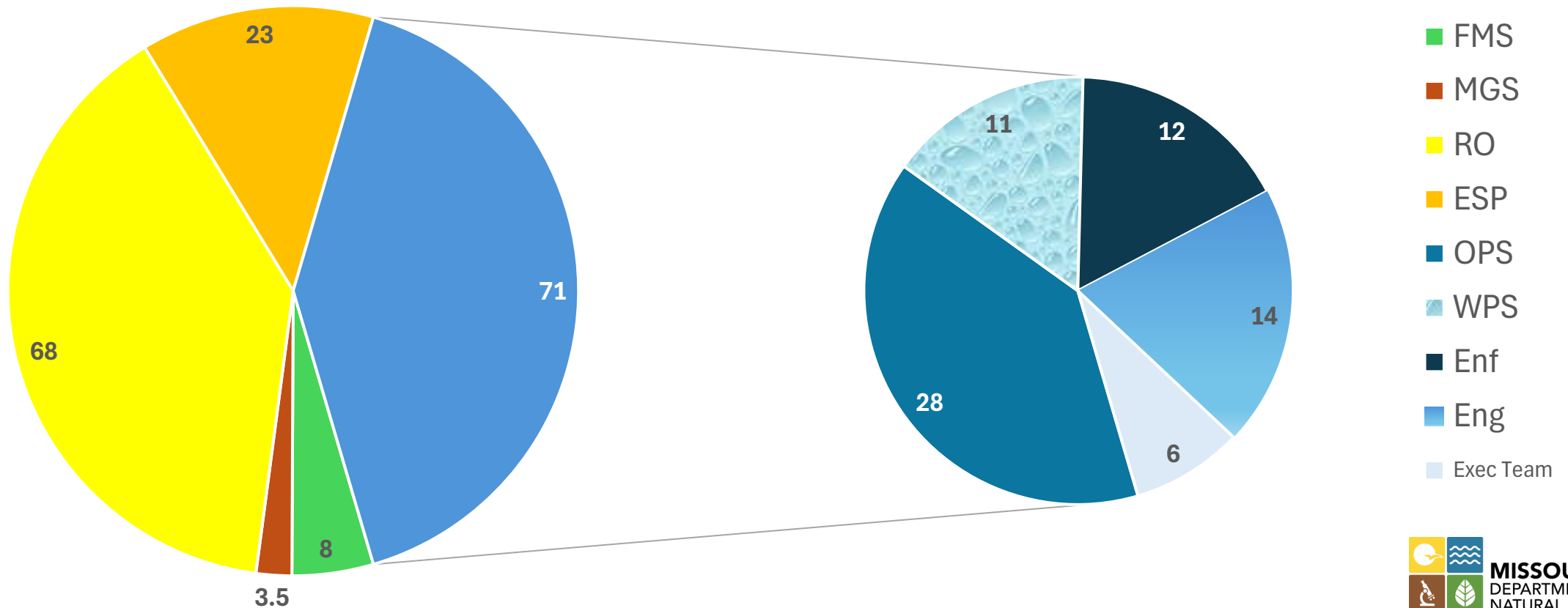
## Federal Level

- 54% decrease in federal U.S. EPA budget
- Smallest U.S. EPA budget since 1986
- White House proposed budget eliminates state operating grants
- Final budget likely to stagger reductions

*“The Budget recognizes that EPA has invested hundreds of billions of dollars over several decades building state and local capacity and many programs are mature or have accomplished their purpose.”*

# The Budget

- \$1,878,147 = Expense & Equipment
- \$2,416,858 = Indirect (IT, facilities management, AGO, support)
- \$16,005,940 = Personal Services (Staff)



- 71 Program staff (+5 NPS)
- 8 Fiscal Management team members
- 3.5 Missouri Geological Survey team members
- 68 Regional Office / Inspection team members
  - 6 different regions
  - 23 Analysis and Sampling team members
- Support for these teams
- Expenses & Equipment

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# What is “the Program?”

# Water Pollution Control Branch



## PERMITTING & ENGINEERING

- Review Designs & Plans
- Understand your site
- Plan for success & compliance
- Develop a permit that works for you
- Support your compliance
- Work through facility & community concerns



## INSPECTIONS

- Go through your site with you
- Review Permit & Regulations
- Understand your site
- If needed, work on a plan to address issues
- Assist with your compliance
- Respond to concerns



## OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

- Transparency
- Rule updates
- Program operations
- Permit development
- Emerging Issues
- New determinations
- Forums for discussion
- Site visits or industry meetings
- 50-100 monthly Sunshine Law Requests



## WATERSHED PROTECTION

- Review water quality criteria
- Implementation of criteria
- Sampling waters
- Assessing water quality
- Develop 303(d) list-plans and listings
- TMDLs
- Site specific data (metals translators, criteria, modeling)



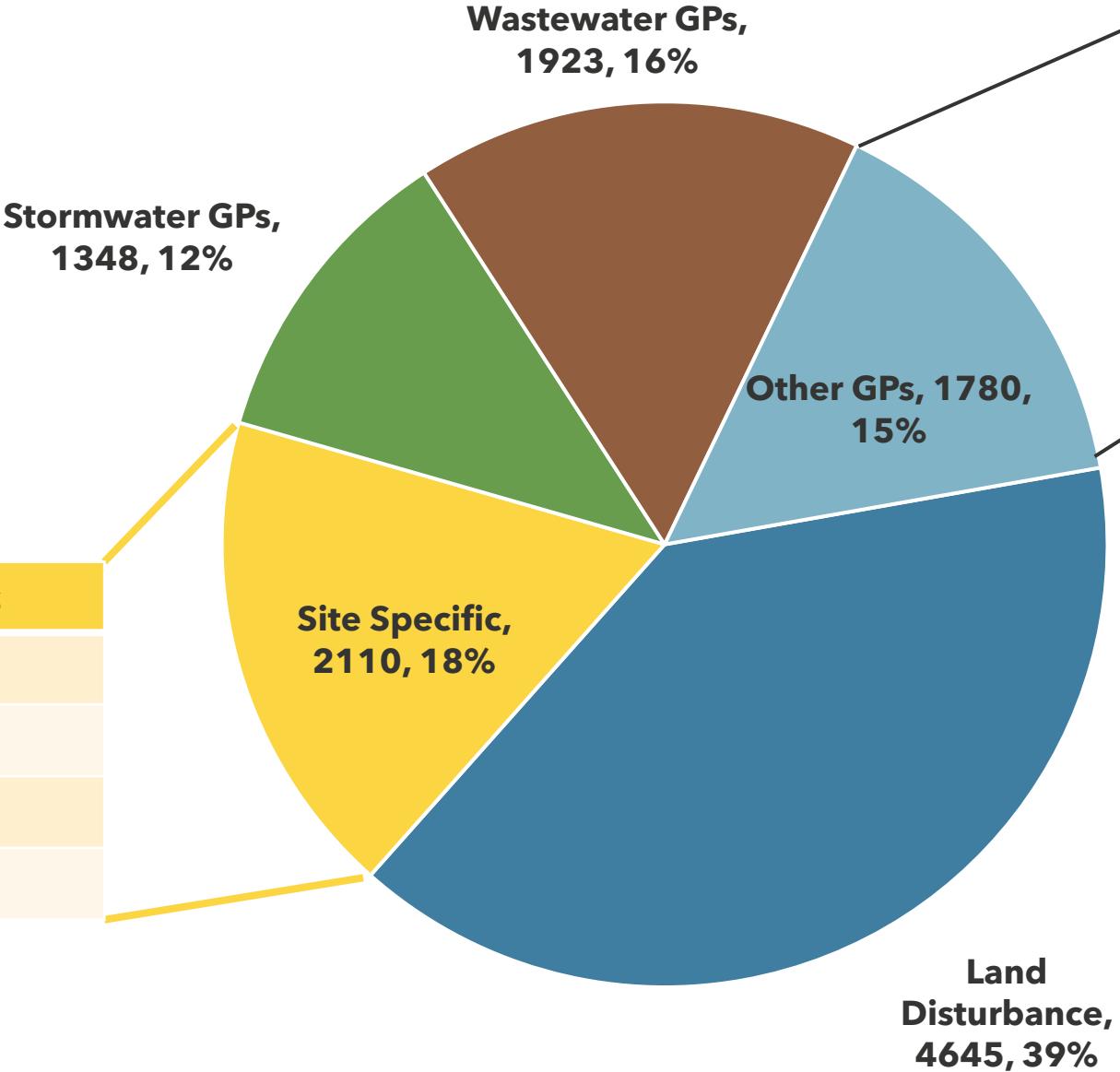
## COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

- Missouri-led enforcement
- Voluntary Plans for compliance
- EPA-coordination
- Assist and explain requirements
- Community Outreach
- Site-specific plans that work for you
- Data entry customer service



# Permitting Activities

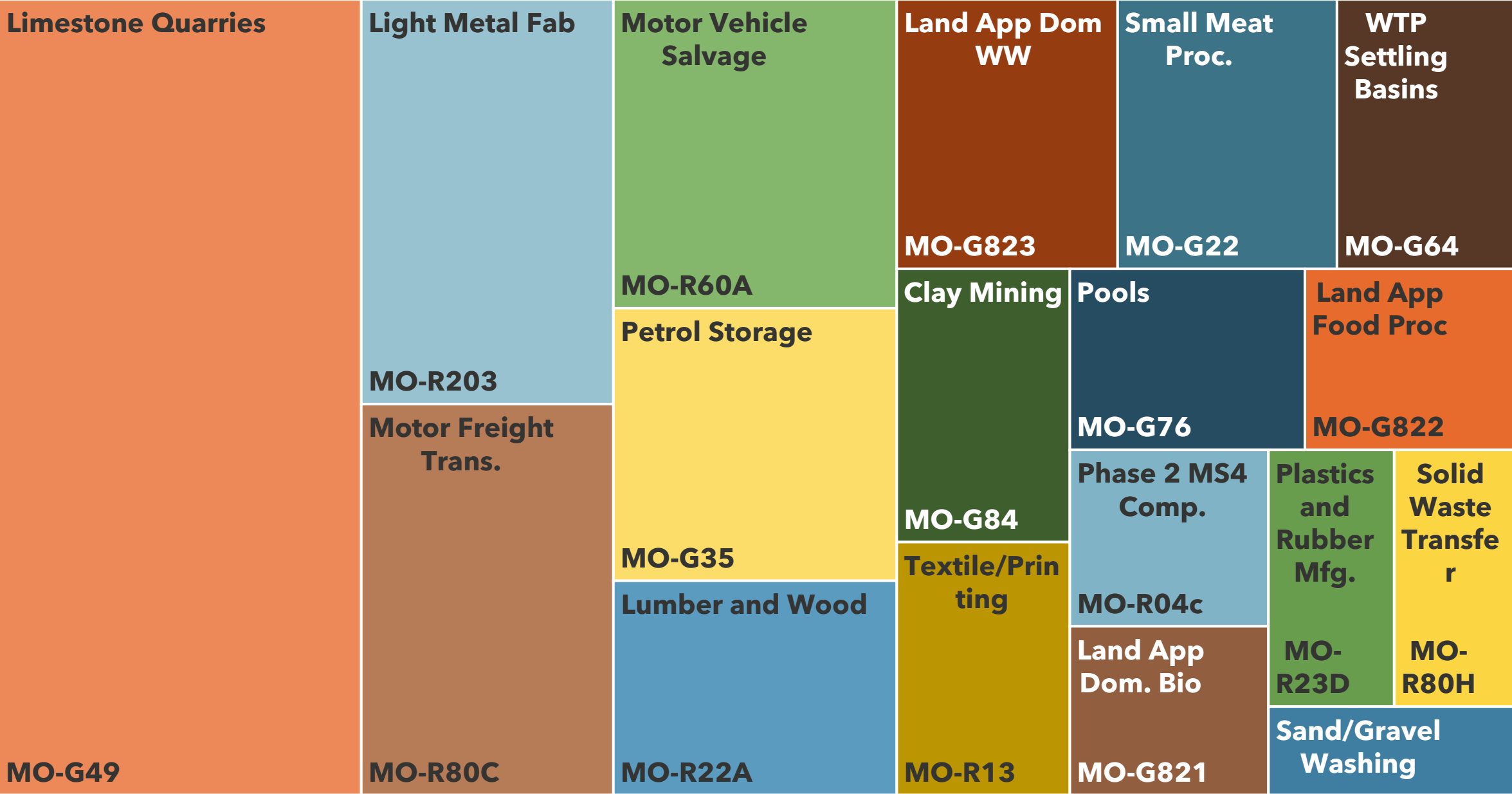
Site-Specific Permits	
Domestic	84%
Industrial	14.5%
CAFOs	1%
MS4	<1%



Other General Permits	
MO-G01	29
MO-GS1	470
MO-GC	604
MO-GD	341
MO-GDS	336



Wastewater and Stormwater General Permits  
(over 50 permittees, excluding CAFOs/ LD)

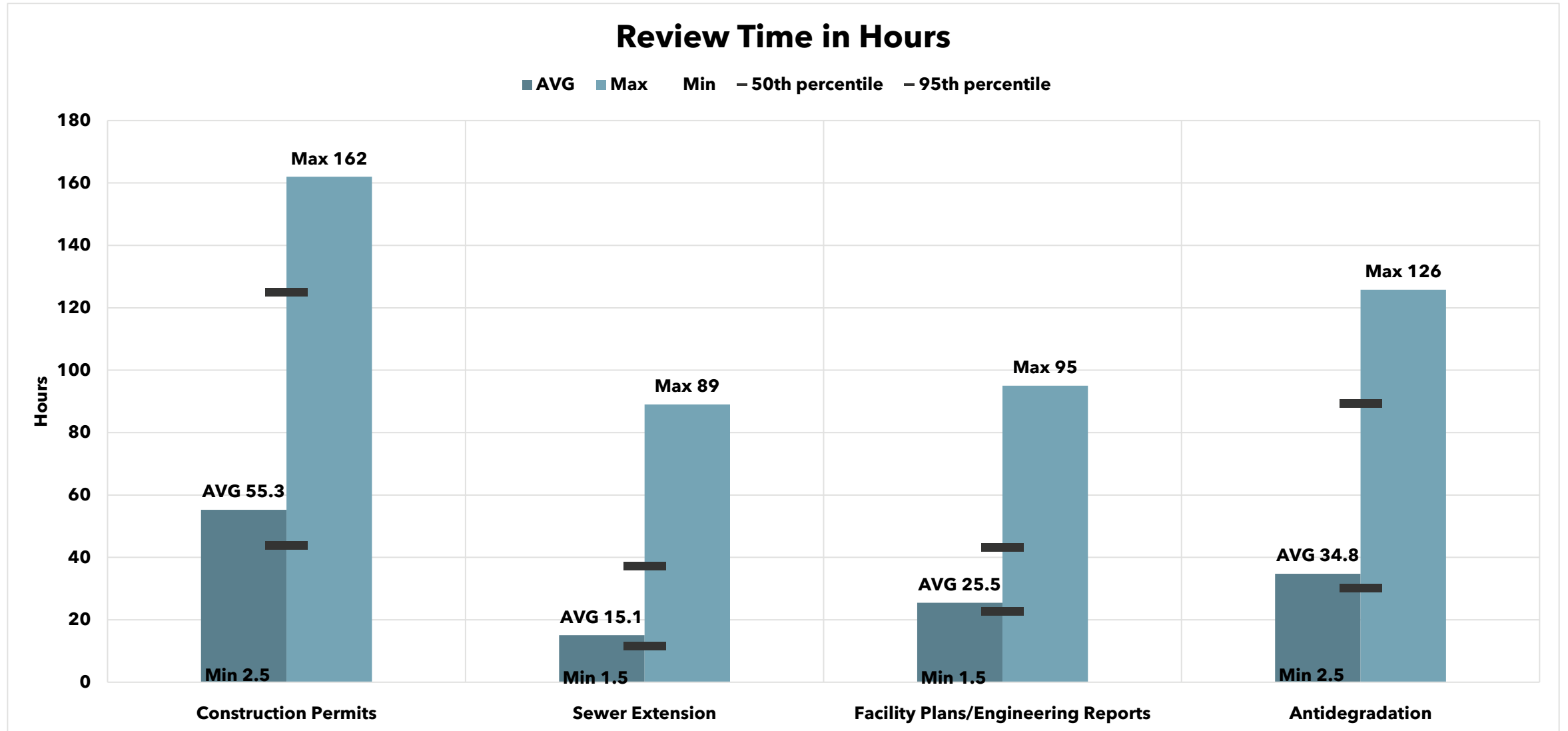


# Upcoming Fee Discussions

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- Review all permit fees (update 2000-2015 rates)
- Construction permit structure review
- Operator Certifications
- Water Quality Certifications
- New considerations
  - Variances
  - Site specific evaluations (DMT, BLM, SS Criteria)
  - Modeling Reviews

# Engineering Reviews?



# Permit Types

- POTW – domestic
- Privately owned domestic
- General Stormwater
- General Wastewater
- CAFOs
- “Categorical” Industrial
- Industrial Wastewater
- Industrial Stormwater
- Land Application
- Construction Permits
- Sewer Extensions
- Antidegradation
- Water Quality Certifications
- Variances
- Operator Certification
- Modifications
- Ownership Transfers

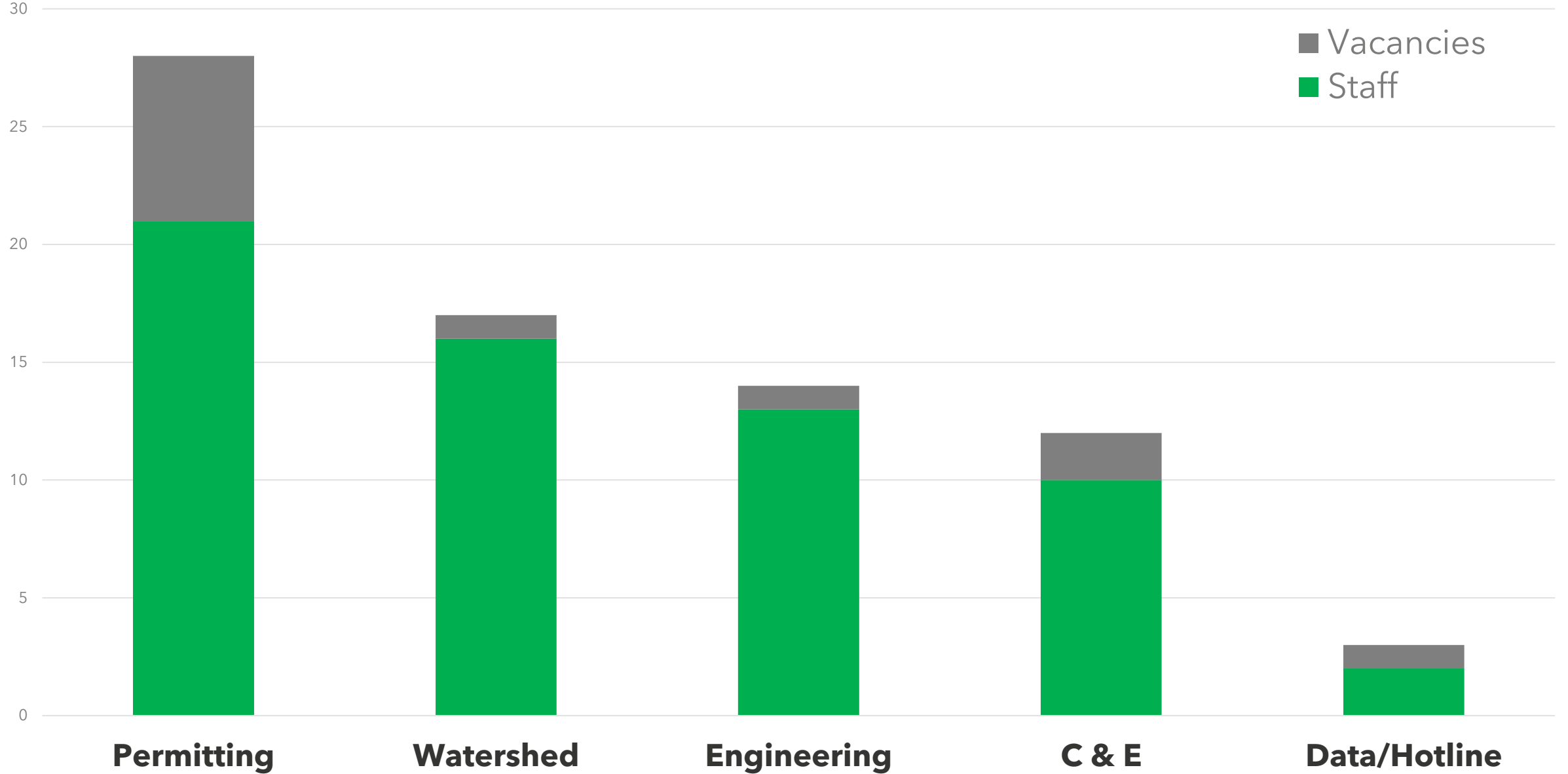
# What are we doing right now?

- Holding & reviewing vacancies
  - 1-2 budget vacancies
  - 5 non-permit vacancies
  - 7 permit writer vacancies
- ~14% of our positions are vacant
- ~25% of our permit writer positions are vacant

Engineering Conference = virtual



# WPCB Teams with Vacancies



## Department Water Quality Monitoring (Federal Grant Funded)

- **Wasteload Allocation Studies**
  - 4x 48-hour studies per year
  - 4x 24-hour studies per year
- **Wadable Streams Monitoring**
  - >900 samples per year ~160 locations
- **Invertebrate Monitoring**
  - 50-60 sites sampled 2x per year
- **Fish Tissue**
  - 13 Long term trend sites (~half per year)
  - ~25 Targeted sites per year
- **Streambed Sediment**
  - ~30 sites per year
- **HAB Response Sampling**
- **PFAS Sampling**
  - Water (8-10 sites sampled 2x year) and
  - Tissue (13 trend sites)

## Department Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring

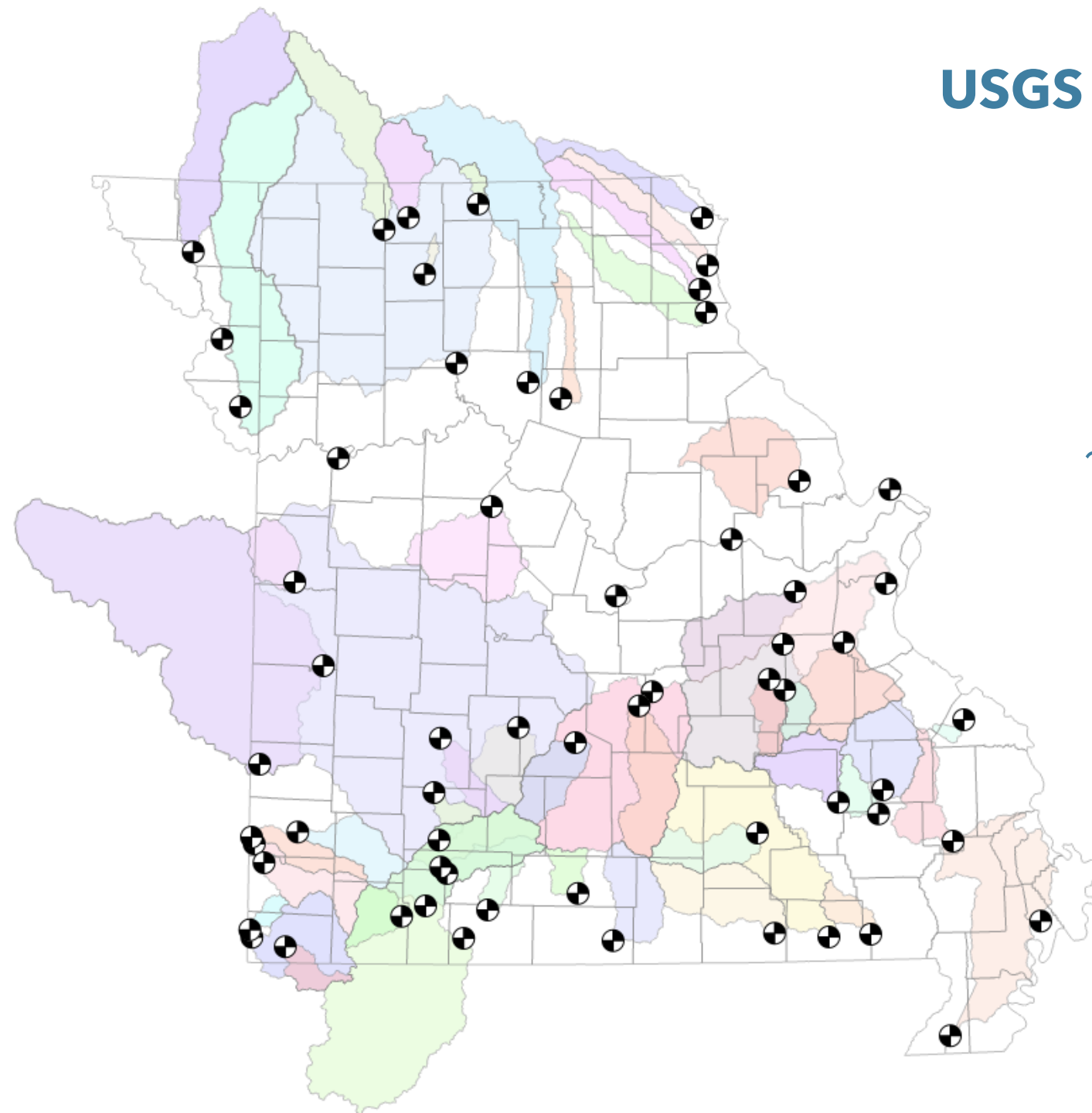
- **Lake Monitoring (Federal Grant Funded)**
  - Statewide Lakes Assessment Program (SLAP)  
~65 lakes sampled per year
  - Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program (LMVP)  
~130 sites across ~70 lakes per year
  - Funding no longer available after March 2027!
- **USGS Ambient Network (State and Federal Grant Funded)**
  - Historically ~1000 samples across >60 locations
  - >75% reduction anticipated through FFY26



# USGS Ambient Water Quality Network

Federal Fiscal Year 2024

~1000 samples annually across  
63 sampling locations

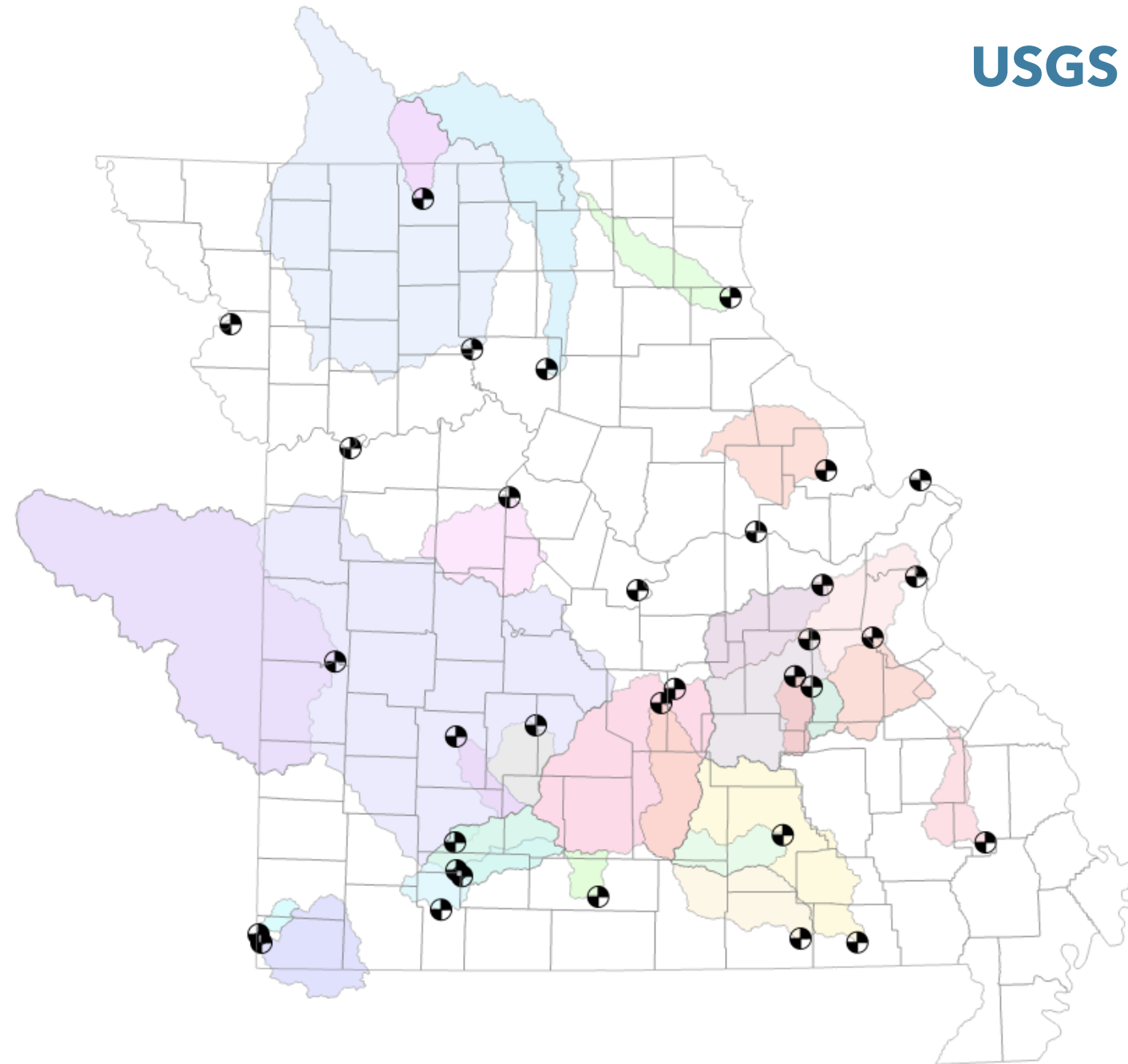


# USGS Ambient Water Quality Network

Federal Fiscal Year 2025

~430 samples annually across  
34 sampling locations

56% reduction from FFY24



# USGS Ambient Water Quality Network

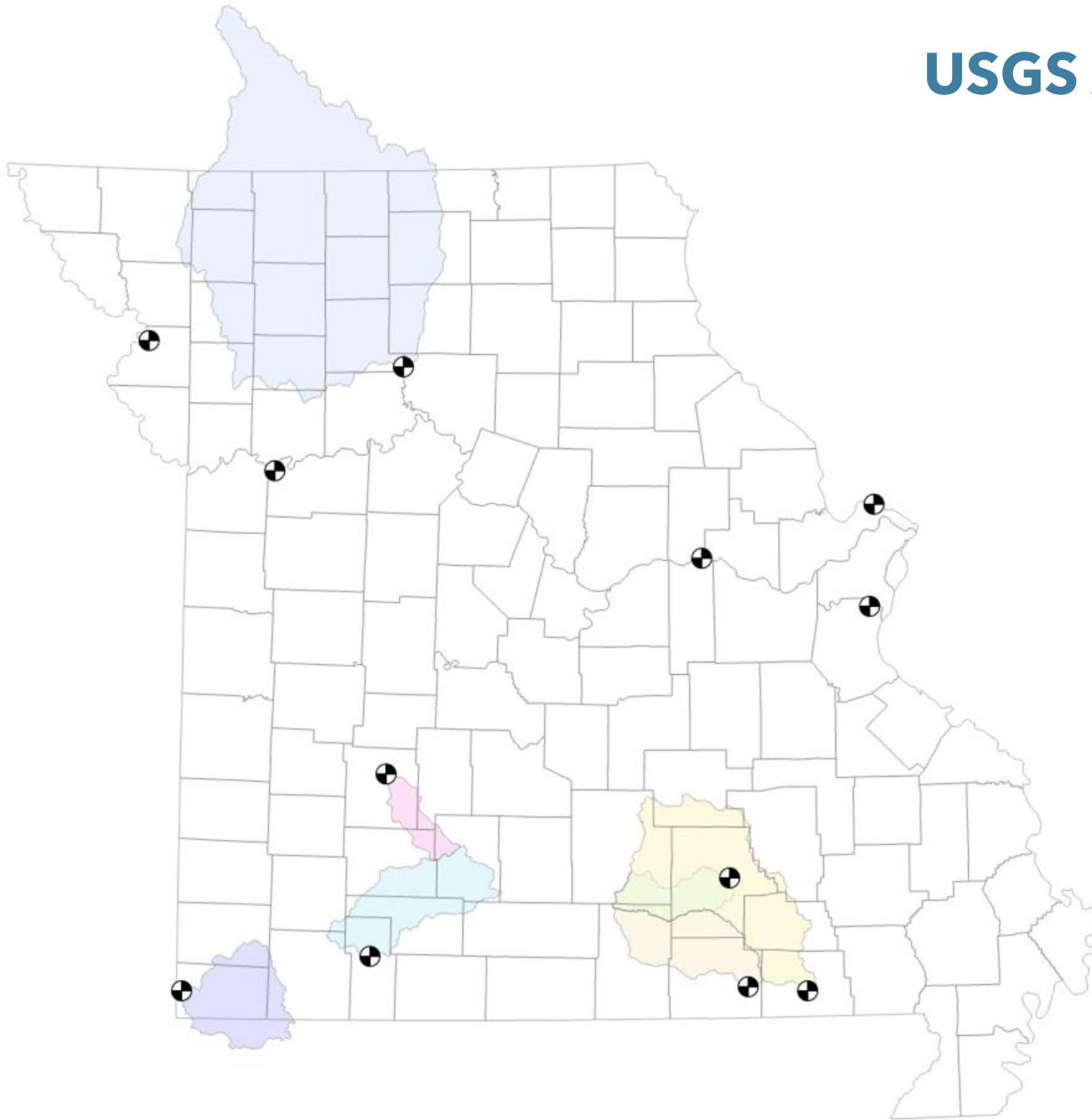
Federal Fiscal Year 2026

Anticipate additional reductions

~170-240 samples annually across  
12-19 sampling locations

76-83% reduction from FFY24

Further reductions may occur in  
future years if federal grants are  
reduced



# Meetings:

- August 19** Opening Meeting
- September 17** Domestic WWTF (municipal/public & private), MS4
- October 21** Agriculture (CAFOs, meat processors, land app)
- October 30 (am)** Development Community, Engineering, Construction
- October 30 (pm)** Industries (not already covered)
- November 4** TBD
- November 13** Other fees- certifications, variances, site-specific (model, WER, metals trans, BLM, SS criteria)

**Come Join Us!**

# The Final Process – Clean Water Commission (CWC)

## CWC “Presentation” Meeting

- MoDNR Comprehensive Review
  - Stakeholder Engagement
- Proposed fee structure presented to Clean Water Commission
- Stakeholder input/ agreement

## CWC “Decision” Meeting

- CWC Review
- CWC Vote on Fee Structure
- 2/3 majority or 5 Commissioners
- Move to Formal Rulemaking