

# Implementing the 2011 Permitting Efficiency Law

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Working with Minnesotans to protect, conserve and improve our environment and enhance our quality of life.

# Background

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- **Air** emissions
- **Wastewater** discharges
- **Land** – solid waste, hazardous waste, Storage tanks



# Background

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- Over 15,000 air, water and land permits (and increasing!)
- Over 5000 permit applications received each year for building, changing and terminating facilities.
- Construction permits are top priority!



# Continuous Improvement

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- Since 2003, the MPCA has been focused on Continuous Improvement (CI).
- Started with water permitting program. Completed hundreds of projects.
- Set MPCA permitting goals:
  - ▣ 90% issued within 180 days.
  - ▣ Backlog of <10%



# Summary of Permitting Efficiency Law

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- 150 day permitting goal
- Allow submission of permitting and ER documents electronically
- Determine application completeness within 30 days
- Compare proposed changes to standards to federal regs, neighboring states and EPA Region 5.



# Summary of Permitting Efficiency Law

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- Allow water projects to be built prior to receipt of a permit.
- Allow project proposer to prepare preliminary draft EIS.
- Requires RGU to make decisions on permits within 30 days after approval of EIS
- Allows EIS and EAW appeals to go directly to Court of Appeals (vs. District Court)



# MPCA Implementation Activities

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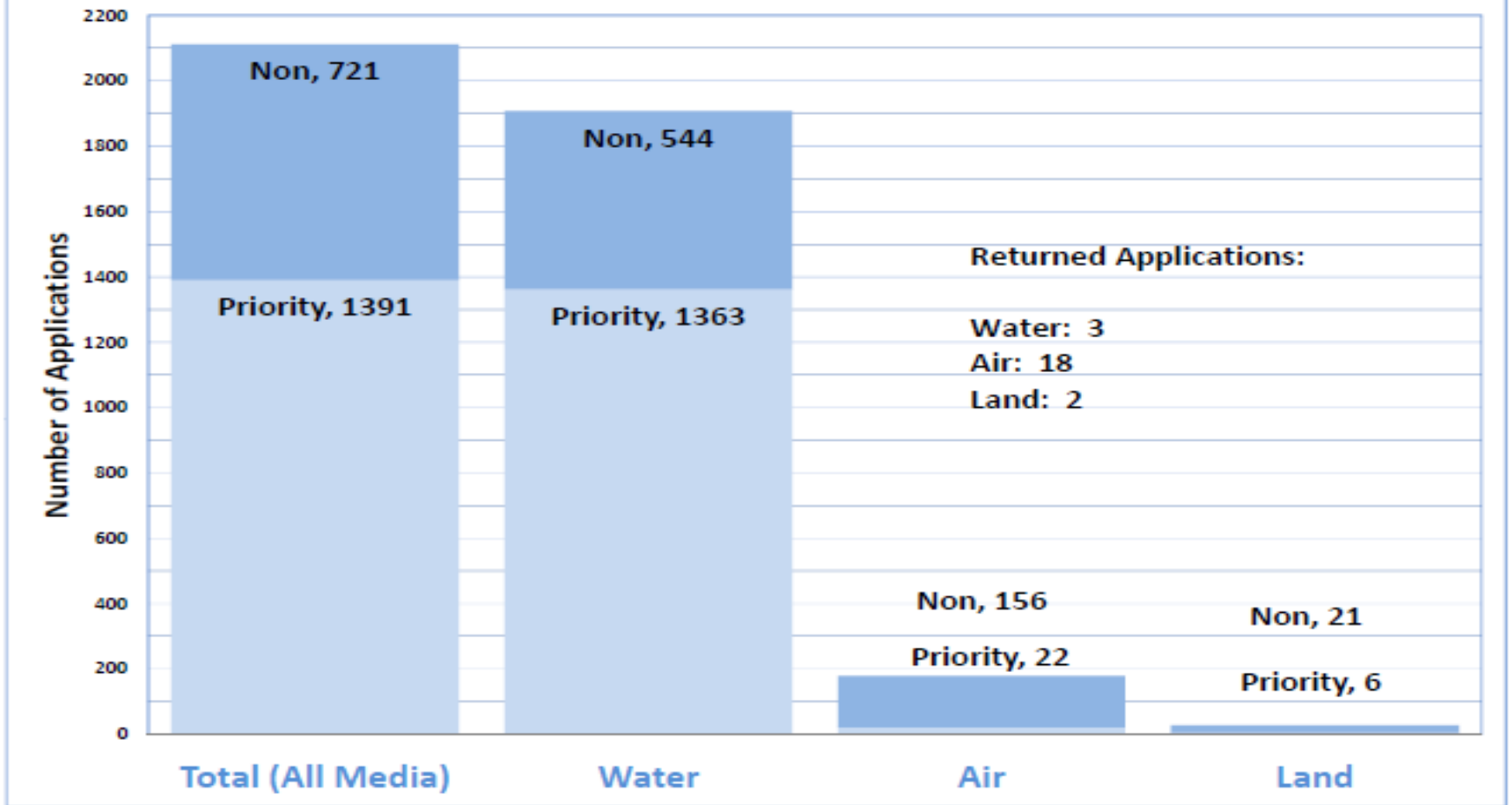
Since March 4, 2011:

- Created a Permit Managers Team.
- Better coordination with other agencies (DNR, DEED and Agriculture)
- Created a cross-media permitting staff team.
- Amended rules.
- Meeting with external partners
- Designed a new integrated permitting database



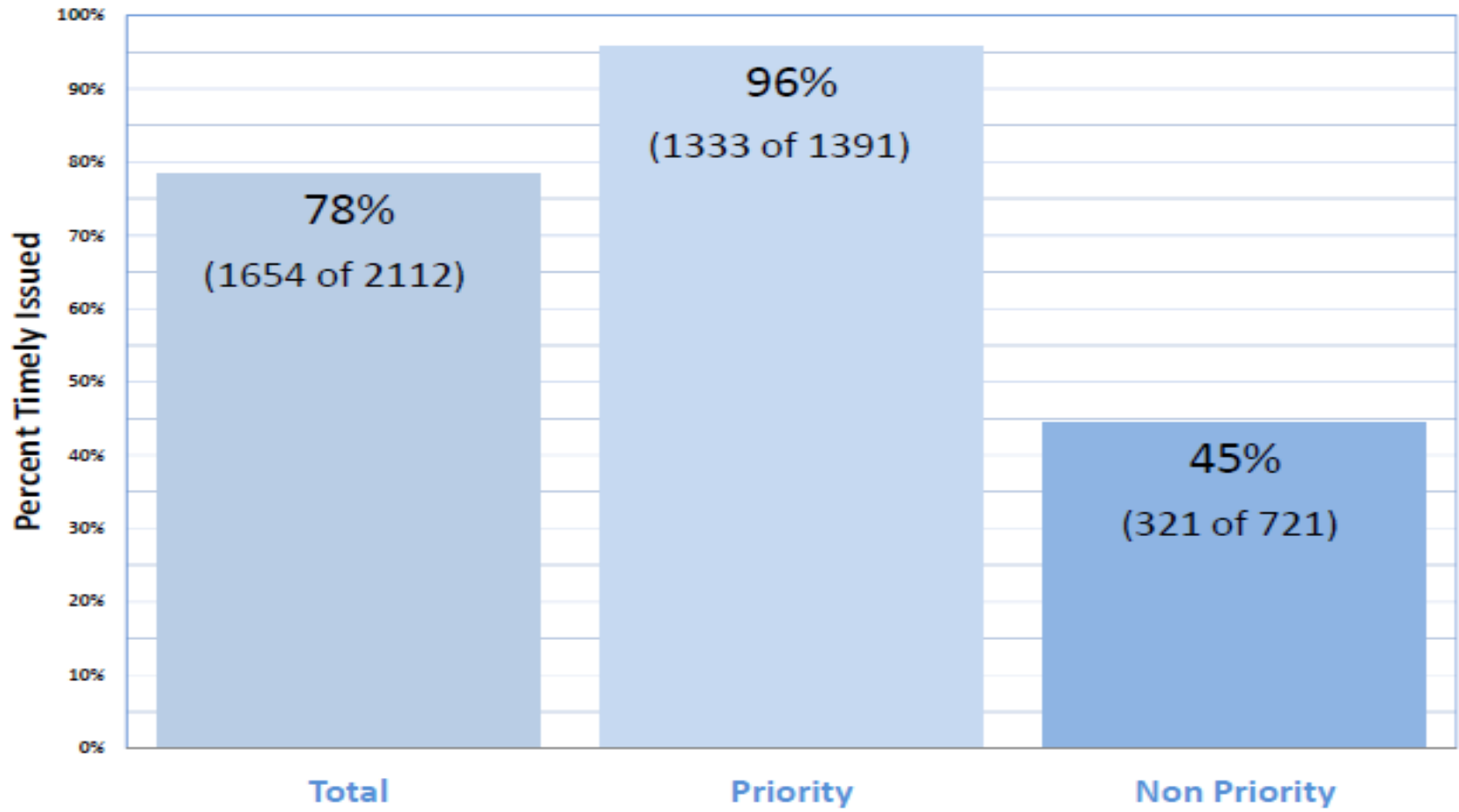
# Results

**Permit Applications Received By Media**  
(Since March 4, 2011)

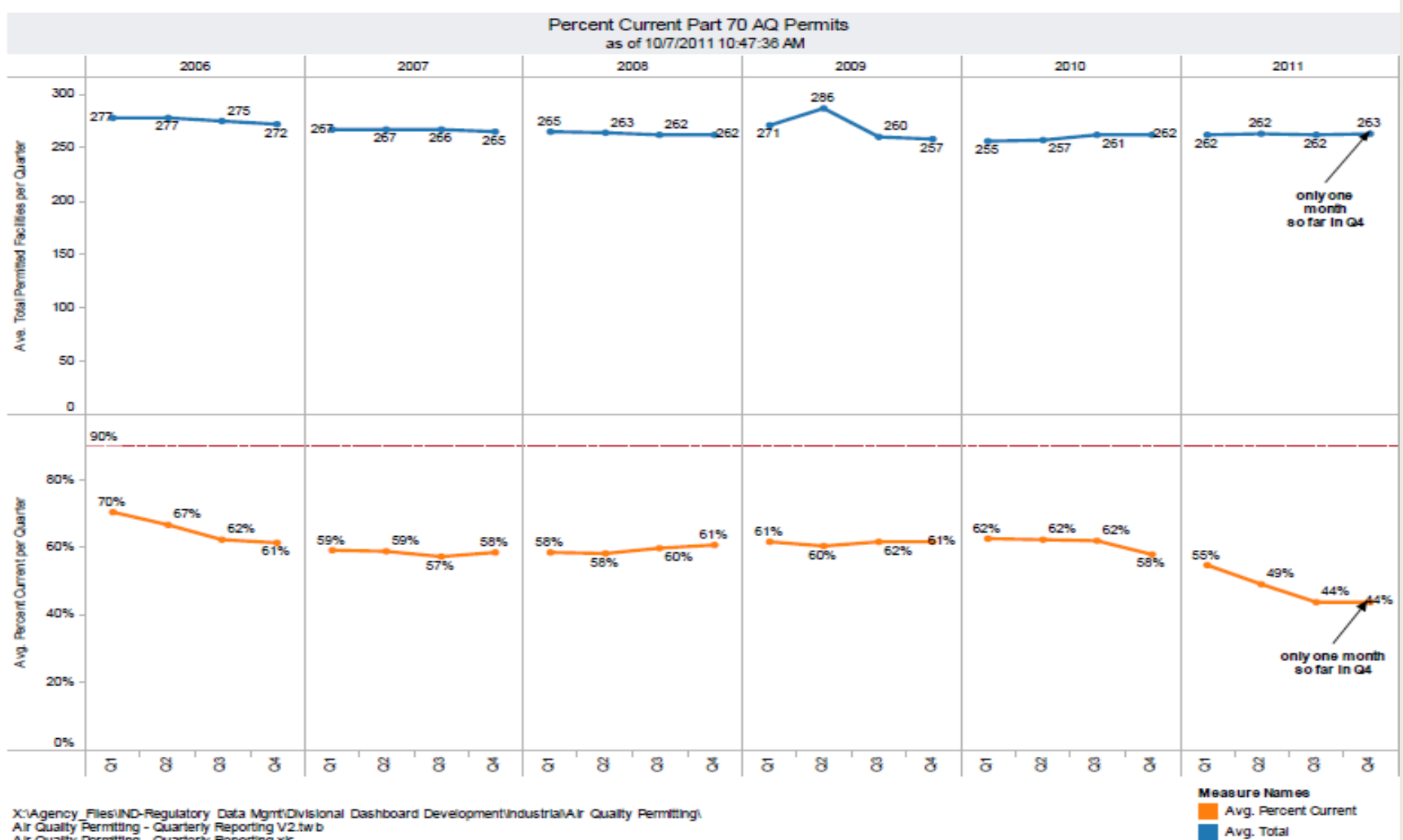


# Results

**Timely Permit Issuance (Issued within 150 Days)**  
(For Applications Received Since March 4, 2011)



# Results



X:\Agency\_Files\IND-Regulatory\_Data Mgmt\Divisional\_Dashboard Development\Industrial\Air Quality Permitting\  
 Air Quality Permitting - Quarterly Reporting V2.twb  
 Air Quality Permitting - Quarterly Reporting.xls

Contact: Don Smith, Cindi Kahrman



# Challenges

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- Tight budgets and downsizing
- Aging data systems
- Technical and social issues
- Changing federal regulations
- Attracting and keeping staff



# In Conclusion..

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- The MPCA is fully committed to improving our permitting programs.
- There will be significant challenges for the MPCA and the regulated community.
- Full implementation will take time.
- We need your feedback and ideas!



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MPCA website:

[www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)

Link to semi-annual legislative reports:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mPCA/legislative-issues/legislative-reports/legislative-reports.html?menuid=&redirect=1>

Link to updated forms and process:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/regulations/permits-and-rules/permits-and-forms.html>

