

Protecting Illinois

Illinois Circularity Conference
October 2025

James Jennings, Acting Director



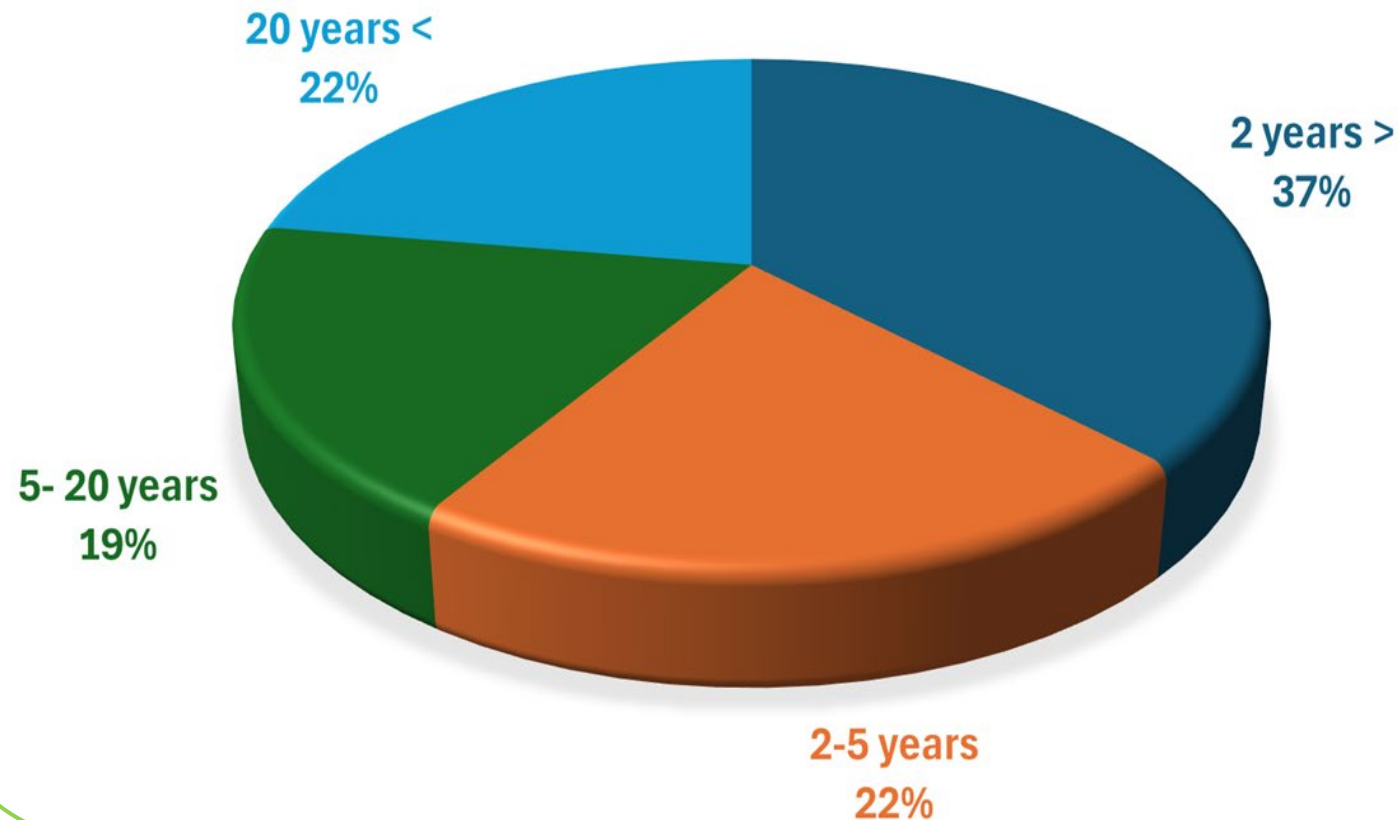
Agency Focus Areas

- ▶ Administering climate and energy grant programs
- ▶ Expanding external engagement
- ▶ Enhancing agency permitting programs
- ▶ Addressing emerging contaminants
- ▶ Catalyzing modern infrastructure
- ▶ Evolving federal relationships



Meeting our Evolving Workforce

IEPA EMPLOYEE TENURE



Recruiting Differently

Targeted outreach to professional associations

Augmented university presence

Featured CMS-led advertising campaign



A photograph of two construction workers in safety gear (hard hats, earplugs, and high-visibility vests) operating a large drilling machine on a grassy field. The worker on the left is wearing a yellow hard hat and a yellow safety vest over a plaid shirt and jeans. The worker on the right is wearing a yellow hard hat and a yellow safety vest over a grey long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants. They are both wearing earplugs. The drilling machine is a large, white, vertical machine with a long, spiral drill bit. The background shows a grassy field and a cloudy sky.

Expanded Employee Training Opportunities

- ▶ Structured program-specific training programs
- ▶ External professional development opportunities
- ▶ Externally-developed leadership training program

Environmental Information Management System

1

Connecting
Existing IT Systems

2

Expanding
Opportunities for
Electronic
Submissions

3

Providing Real-
Time Public
Information

Targeted Outputs

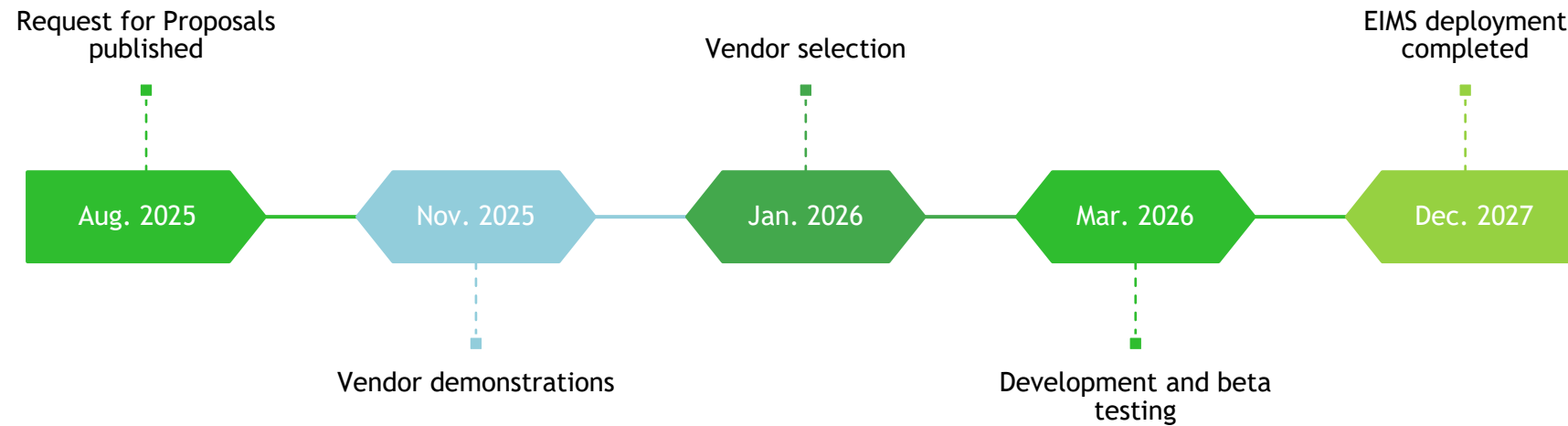
Holistic electronic permitting platform

Online reporting portal to replace paper submissions

Centralized information management system connecting all Agency programs

Increase in volume and quality of publicly available information

Development Timeline



Reimagining Engagement

Expanded and earlier regulated community outreach

Increased technical assistance

Comprehensive community outreach

Amplified social media presence



Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Programs are part of the Agency's core functions

Committed to protecting historically adversely impacted communities



Objectives for Enforcement in EJ Communities

- Strengthen communication with community members, community leaders, and advocacy groups regarding publicly available monitoring, inspection, and enforcement resources
- Provide educational and technical support resources to help increase community members' understanding of inspection, compliance, and enforcement authorities and activities.
- Place an increased emphasis on monitoring, inspection, and enforcement in areas of EJ concern so that complaints are investigated promptly and site operations are closely monitored.
- Work closely with governmental partners to pursue enforcement and develop collaborative enforcement activities in communities of EJ concern.
- Expand the use of environmental mitigation projects and Supplemental Environmental Projects, including maintaining a bank of concepts for such projects to which members of the public can contribute.
- Explore opportunities to escrow penalties for local use

Economic Development Activities



- ▶ Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
- ▶ Agency Capital Program Financing
- ▶ Permitting Expediency
- ▶ DCEO Engagement

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation

\$430 million implementation award from
USEPA

Priority areas

Accelerating Clean and Efficient
Building Adoption

Deploying Clean Transportation and
Freight

Kick-Starting Industry Decarbonization

Expanding Climate-Smart Agriculture

Keeping Clean Power Goals on Track

Capital Investments

\$6.2 billion in FY26

- \$4.4 billion for State Revolving Fund
- \$250 million for Lead Service Line replacements
- \$94.1 million for unsewered communities grants
- \$4 million for brownfields assessments and development
- \$2 million for recycling and composting grants



Federal Engagement

- ▶ Relationship between state and federal environmental regulations
- ▶ Agency's Performance Partnership Grant and Agreement
- ▶ Federal funding
 - ▶ PPG/PPA-driven funds
 - ▶ Capital funds
 - ▶ Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
- ▶ Work with USEPA Region V

Thank You!

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