

# ENGINEERING AND PERMITTING UPDATE

Board Meeting

May 5, 2023

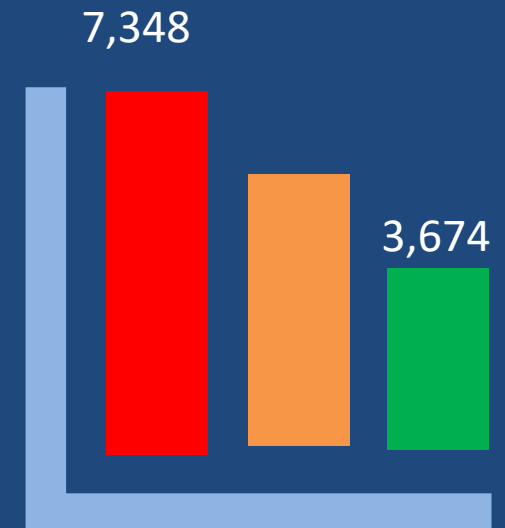


# PERMITTING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (PEP)

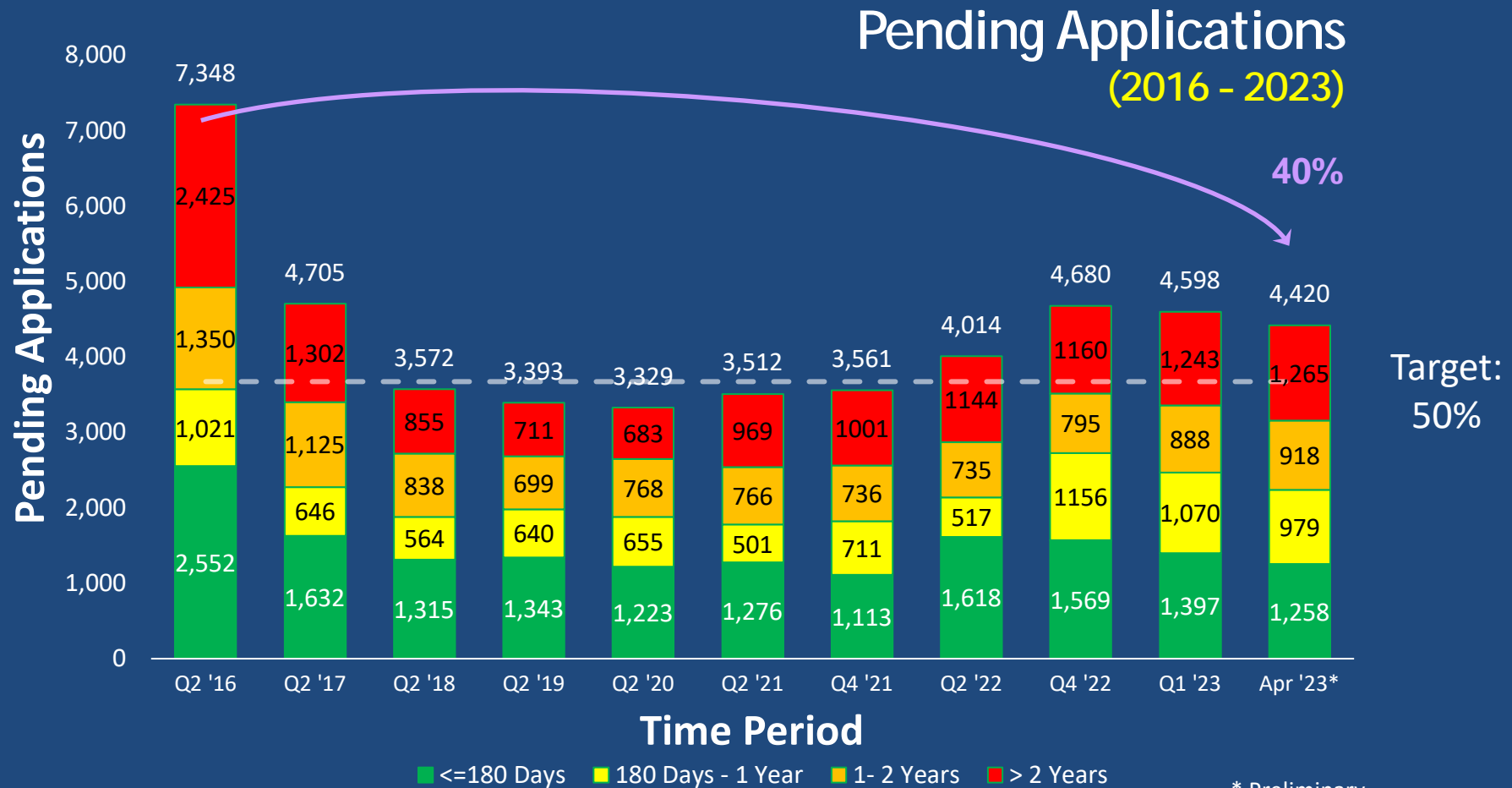
- At the April Board meeting, Chair announced three Priorities for her two-year term
- Permitting Enhancement Program (PEP) was one of the three Priorities
- Objective of PEP is to reduce the permit backlog and modernize permitting to improve processing and issuance timelines
- Chair directed staff to:
  - Provide background information and an outline for a Workplan for PEP at the June Board Meeting; and
  - Provide Workplan for PEP at the August Board Meeting

# CURRENT PENDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

- Currently receive an average of 500-600 applications monthly
- In 2016 an Action Plan was developed to
  - Address the growing inventory of pending applications
  - Issuing permits in a timely manner
  - Increasing transparency
- 2016 Action Plan Goal:
  - 50% of 2016 pending permit applications - maintain pending inventory of 3,674
  - Goal was met May 2018
- Permit inventory has been increasing, current Pending Permit Application Inventory: 4,420



# PENDING APPLICATION INVENTORY



\* Preliminary

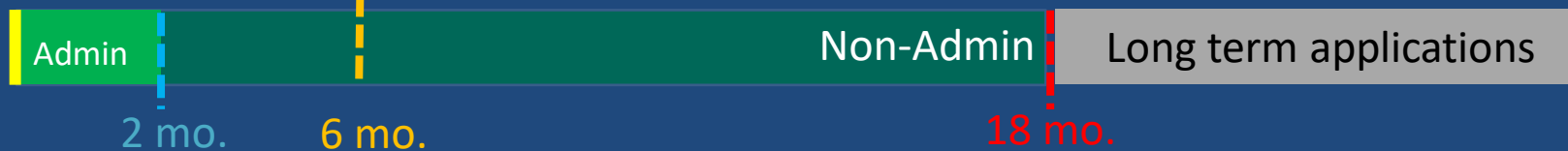
# WHAT'S IN THE INVENTORY?

- Non-Title V versus Title V regulatory target timeframes

- Non-Title V



- Title V

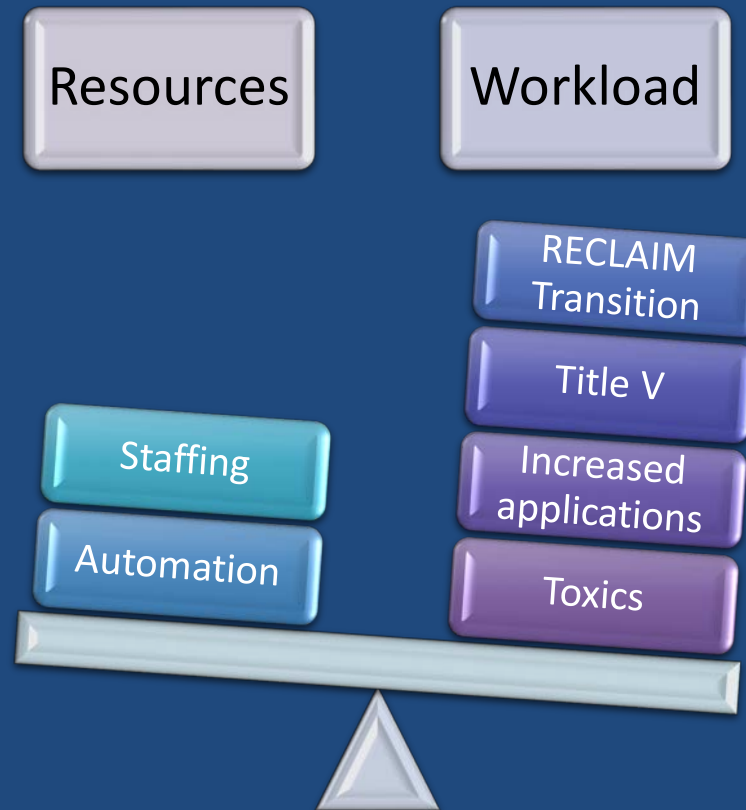


- Timeframes include applicable public notice periods, responses to public comments, and U.S. EPA review periods

Permit Processing target date is after Deemed Complete Date, not Application Submittal Date

# CURRENT CHALLENGES

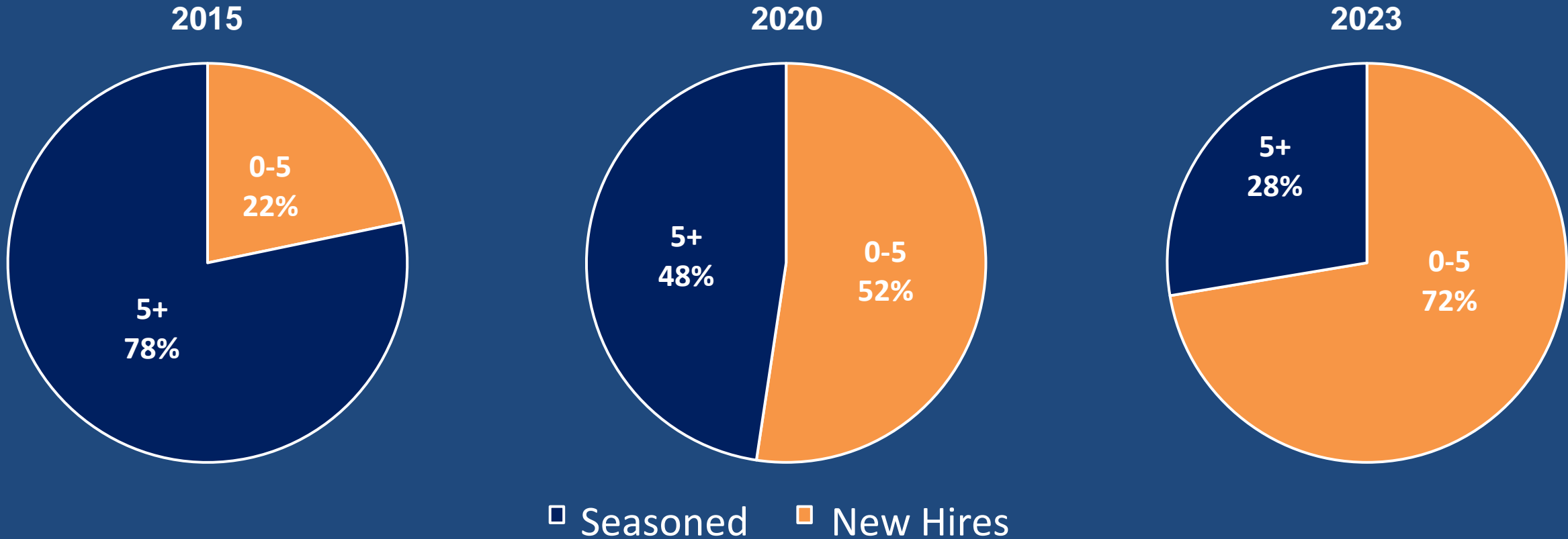
- High rate of retirements and resignations
- Pandemic hiring freeze
- Processing staff levels same for 10+ years
- Overtime
- Automation efforts



- 11% increase in permit applications
- Since 2016:
  - 26 source specific rules
  - 14 Toxics rules
- New projects and investigations
- Federal Title V permits

# E&P STAFFING TURNOVER AND ATTRITION

## YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ROLE – PROCESSING ENGINEERS



72% of E&P staff level engineers have been in their position 5 years or less

# E&P STAFFING

## REDUCING VACANCY RATE

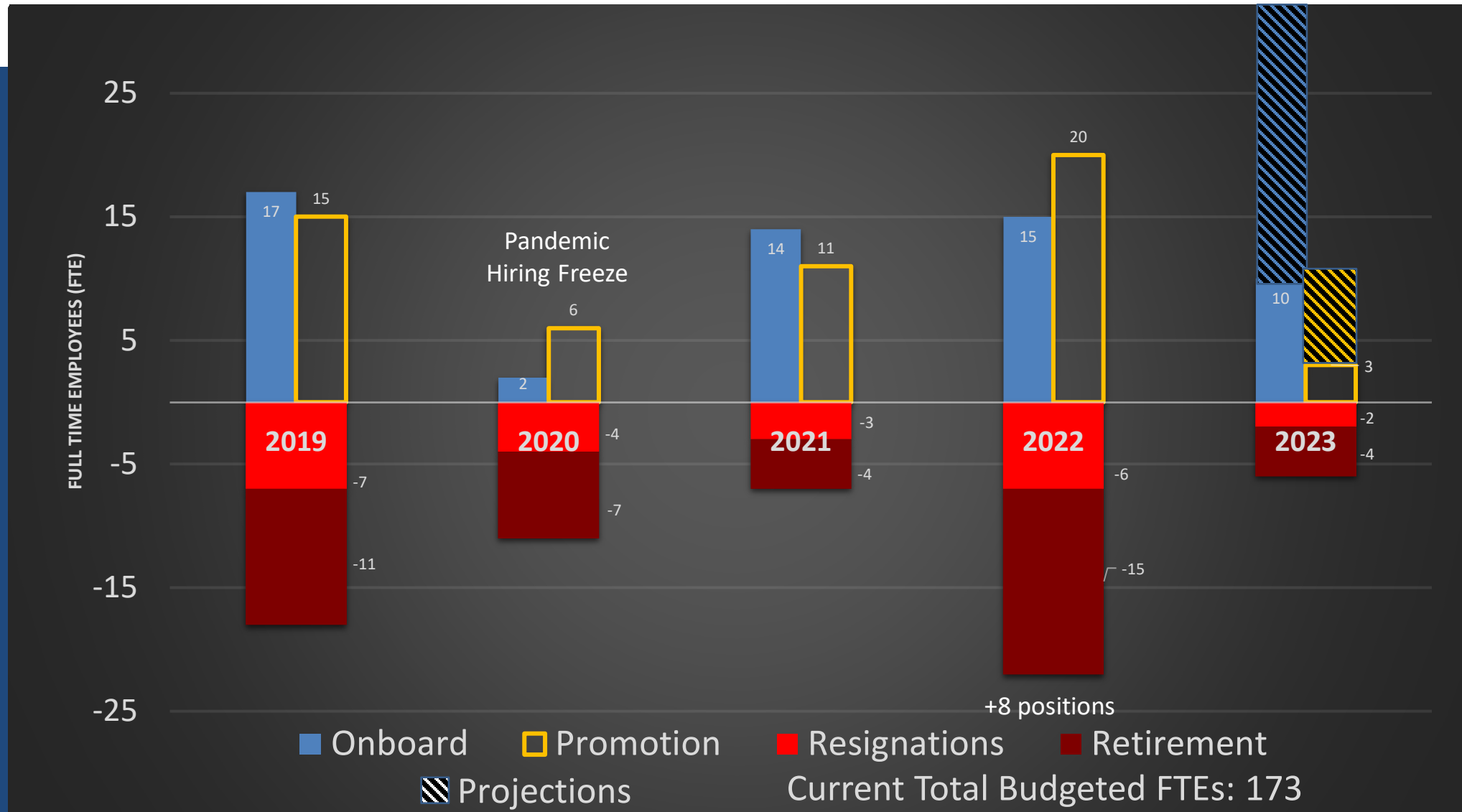
- Since January 2022, E&P has promoted or onboarded 48 staff
  - 125 interviews
- Maintaining inventory with high vacancy rate
  - Other engineering duties and training
  - Overtime rates exceeding 2016-2018 levels
  - Staff burn out
- E&P vacancy rate expected to be resolved in mid-2023
  - Training and retention



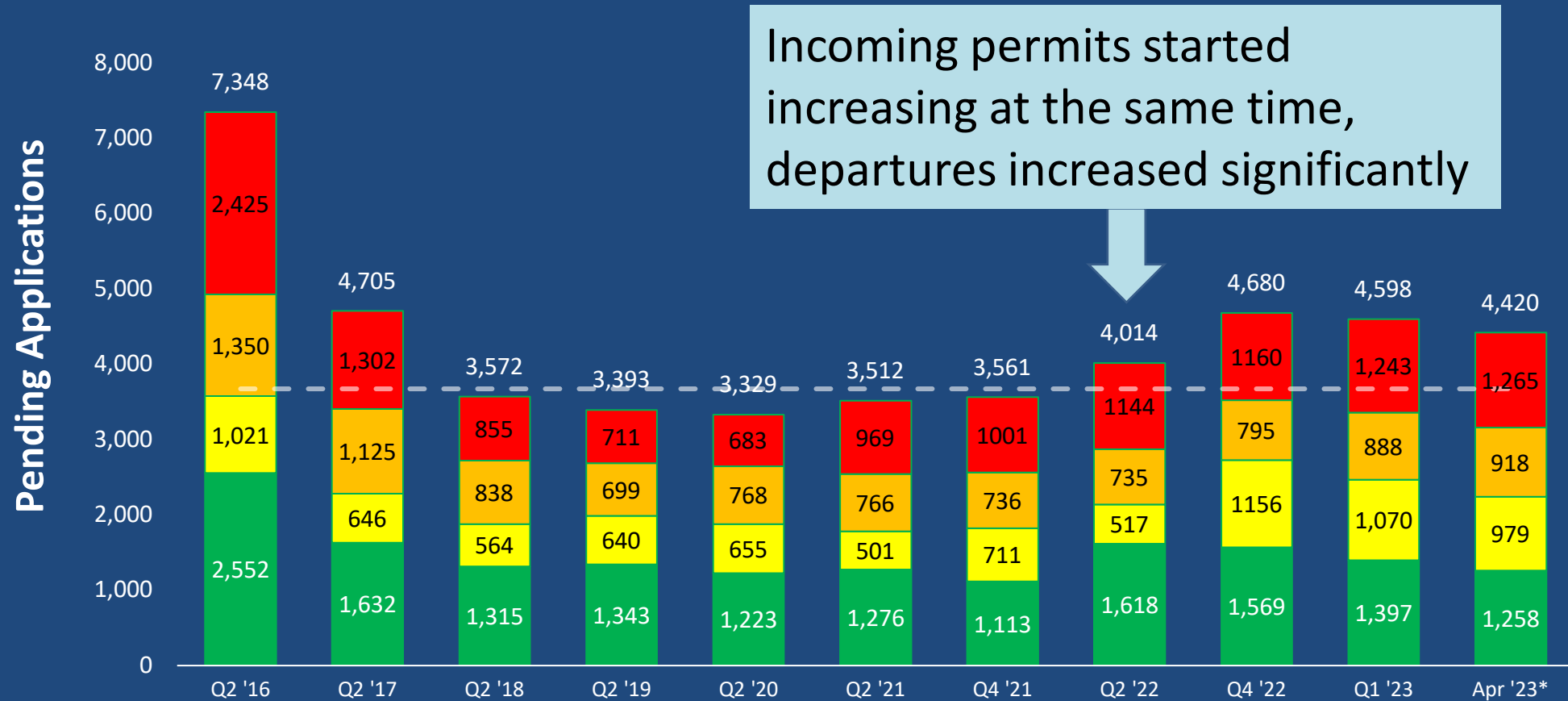


# E&P STAFFING

## RECENT EFFORTS



# RECENT INVENTORY TRENDS



\* Preliminary

# STAFFING ACTIONS TO DATE

- Hired Retirees
- Created Special Projects Team in December 2022
- Contractors to provide permitting support
- Other South Coast AQMD engineers
- Short-term succession planning positions used for upcoming retirees
- Continue to analyze workflows, identify bottlenecks and streamline processes



# KEY ELEMENTS OF PEP WORKPLAN



Online Permit Application Submittal



Modernization of Permitting System



Streamlining and Efficiency Improvements



Staffing and Resources



Training

Return to the Board in August with Workplan