

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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The **Department of Environment Quality (DEQ)** is committed to protecting and enhancing Michigan's environment and public health. As leaders in the stewardship of Michigan's environment, the members of this department work on behalf of the people of the Great Lakes state for an improved quality of life and a sustainable future so that future generations can enjoy and utilize the state's resources.

The DEQ was originally created by executive order by Governor John Engler in 1995, removing environmental functions and programs then administered mostly under the state Department of Natural Resources. Governor Jennifer Granholm recombined the agencies in 2010 as the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Governor Rick Snyder's first executive order (E.O. No. 2011-1), issued in January 2011, returned the agencies to independent cabinet posts.

E.O. No. 2011-1 was deemed necessary to effectively and efficiently administer state services in a cohesive manner. The DEQ was effectively recreated March 14, 2011.

The executive order stated that, consistent with Section 3 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the director of the DEQ shall be appointed by the governor, subject to the advice and consent process, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The director functions as the department's chief executive officer, monitors program activities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of department operations, and ensures that the department's mission, policies, and statutory mandates are met. The director's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and is authorized by Executive Order 1991-31 to delegate decision-making authorities to appropriate levels within the department.

The DEQ is guided by three main principles: 1) The department will be a leader in environmental stewardship; 2) the department will be a full partner in Michigan's economic recovery and development; and 3) the department will excel at customer service. These three principles guide the mission and future objectives of the DEQ.

The **Air Quality Division** works with business and industrial air emission sources and with the general public to maintain compliance with state and federal air quality statutes in order to minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment. Staff identify and reduce existing outdoor air pollution problems and prevent significant deterioration of the air quality through air emission control programs, air monitoring, control strategy planning, permit issuance, complaint response, and inspection of air emission sources.

The **Remediation Division** administers Part 201, Environmental Remediation; Part 211, Underground Storage Tank Regulations; Part 213, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks; and portions of Part 215, Refined Petroleum Fund, of the NREPA. In addition, this division manages the Aboveground Storage Tank Program, under the authority granted by the Michigan Fire Prevention Code (1941

PA 207, as amended), and portions of the federal Superfund Program, established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Together, these statutes and the related administrative rules guide the division's efforts in the remediation and redevelopment of Brownfield sites throughout Michigan.

The **Resource Management Division** includes waste and hazardous materials, drinking water, source water protection, public health (such as swimming pools and campgrounds), Revolving Loan Program, Operator's Certification Program, and the Office of Geological Survey and is responsible for work carried out by the Hazardous Waste Site Review Board. Its programs provide regulatory oversight for all public water supplies; issue permits to regulate the discharge of industrial and municipal wastewaters; regulate and permit solid and hazardous waste sites; manage scrap tire piles; and regulate transporters of liquid and hazardous waste. The division is also responsible for plan review and approval for public water supplies, campground construction, and public swimming pool construction.

The **Water Resources Division** includes land and water management programs addressing the following issues: aquatic nuisance, invasive species, nonpoint source, pretreatment, wastewater discharge (both surface water and groundwater), water management, and water withdrawal. Division programs establish water quality standards; issue permits to regulate the discharge of industrial and municipal wastewaters; and monitor state water resources for water quality, the quantity and quality of aquatic habitat, the health of aquatic communities, and compliance with state laws.

The division also administers programs that help protect sensitive natural resources, including inland lakes and streams, wetlands, floodplains, sand dunes, and the Great Lakes. It is responsible for promoting the best use of these resources for their social and economic benefits and provides technical assistance and regulatory oversight of activities such as dredging or filling wetlands, streams, and inland lakes; constructing marinas, seawalls, or docks; building in a designated critical sand dune, wetland, or floodplain; and protecting underwater shipwreck resources.

The **Administration Division** provides a complete range of financial and administrative support services to the DEQ, including budget development, accounting, expenditure and revenue projections and monitoring, procurement, facilities management, real estate, grants, field operations support, and business operations.

The **Office of the Great Lakes** was established in 1985 by the Great Lakes Protection Act as the lead agency within state government to develop policies and programs to protect, enhance, and manage the Great Lakes ecosystem. The office focuses on Great Lakes protection and restoration efforts and reviewing regional requests for diversions of water under the Great Lakes Compact. The office implements the state's Coastal Management Program, Areas of Concern Program, and Lakewide Management Plan Program. The director of this office also represents the state in a number of binational and interstate organizations, including the Great Lakes Compact Council and Regional Body, the Great Lakes Commission, the regional Great Lakes Protection Fund, and the International Joint Commission's Water Quality Board.

The **Office of Environmental Assistance** leads the DEQ's pollution prevention and compliance assistance programs through information activities and other nonregulatory outreach efforts reflecting all environmental programs administered by the DEQ. This office's 4 main program areas include: education and outreach; financial assistance; pollution prevention; and technical assistance.

The **Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs** focuses its efforts on administrative rules and regulations, emerging natural resources and environmental issues, strengthening the department's relationship with the legislature, and evaluating and setting department policy.

