

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



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The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) protects Michigan's environment and public health by managing air, water, land, and energy resources.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer created EGLE in February 2019 by signing Executive Order No. 2019-6. In addition to renaming the former Department of Environmental Quality as EGLE, the order established the Office of Clean Water Public Advocate, the Office of Environmental Justice Public Advocate, and the Office of Climate and Energy within the new department. It also reestablished the Office of the Great Lakes in EGLE.

Consistent with Article V, Section 3, of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the director of EGLE is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, subject to the advice and consent process. Executive Order No. 2019-6 establishes the director as the governor's chief advisor on policies and programs relating to energy, freshwater, and the Great Lakes. It also vests the director with a full complement of chief executive authorities, including allocating and reallocating duties, delegating powers to deputies, and setting the department's internal organization to promote "economic and efficient administration and operation."

Through its transition to EGLE, the department has retained its previous programmatic divisions focused on air quality, materials management, water resources, remediation and redevelopment, drinking water and environmental health, and oil, gas, and minerals. Much of EGLE's statutory authority is provided by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. EGLE has also created three new divisions to assist with meeting the department's mission, optimizing performance, and supporting staff.

The **Air Quality Division (AQD)** supports efforts to maintain clean air and minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment. AQD staff work to reduce existing outdoor air pollution and prevent deterioration of air quality through air emission control programs, air monitoring, control strategy planning, permit issuance, and inspection of air emission sources.

The **Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD)** oversees Michigan's public water supplies to ensure safe drinking water. The DWEHD is involved in source water protection, operator certification and training, water well construction, registration of water well drilling contractors, assisting local health departments in conducting drinking water quality investigations, approving and licensing the handling of domestic septage, and oversight of the on-site wastewater program. The DWEHD is also responsible for the approval and licensing of campgrounds and public swimming pools.

The **Environmental Support Division (ESD)** is responsible for EGLE's proactive outreach efforts and support functions necessary to maintain an effective organization. The ESD prepares professional materials to support EGLE's communication strategy. The ESD also hosts live events, coordinates webinars, produces videos, and develops publications. Working with program staff, the ESD assures public meetings and public hearings are professionally conducted. In addition, the ESD operates the call center, coordinates emergency response efforts, oversees EGLE's facilities, and provides training opportunities to staff.

The **Finance Division (FD)** is responsible for all financial aspects of EGLE from budget development to year-end closing. The FD Director serves as EGLE's Chief Financial Officer. The FD oversees the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Authority and the Water Infrastructure Financing Section. The Michigan Underground Storage Tank Authority assures underground storage tank owners and operators can meet federal financial requirements necessary to operate in Michigan and provides a funding mechanism to address environmental issues. The Water Infrastructure Financing Section is responsible for providing funding mechanisms to assist communities with meeting water infrastructure needs.

The **Information Management Division (IMD)** is responsible for establishing and implementing coordinated EGLE data management standards and processes for information tracking to support transparency and effective internal processes. The goal of the IMD is to implement processes that allow program staff more time to address program issues and less time on non-programmatic functions. The IMD is responsible for assessing information technology tools and strategies to meet the ever-changing business needs of EGLE. In addition, the IMD is responsible for coordinating EGLE's geographic information system initiatives, maintaining EGLE's website, and overseeing Freedom of Information Act responses. The IMD contains a Performance Optimization Section responsible for evaluating EGLE processes, updating department procedures, tracking audits, assuring corrective action plans are implemented, and coordinating appointments and other tasks for EGLE's various commissions.

The **Materials Management Division (MMD)** oversees the solid and hazardous waste programs, radioactive materials activities, radon awareness program, and energy program. The MMD oversees waste disposal, transportation, and storage, as well as implementing strategies to support pollution prevention and beneficial uses of waste materials. Activities in the radiological area include coordinating with nuclear power plants, local emergency responders, and the federal government to ensure that Michigan has sufficient resources in the event of a radioactive material release.

The **Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division (OGMD)** oversees the development of fossil fuels and minerals while ensuring the protection of natural resources, the environment, property, and public health and safety. The OGMD regulates the locating, drilling, operating, and plugging of wells used for exploration and production of oil, gas, brine, and minerals, as well as for underground storage and waste disposal. It also regulates mines for metallic minerals and industrial sand. Additionally, the OGMD maintains a variety of maps and data on Michigan geology, fossil fuels, and minerals for industry and public use.

The **Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD)** oversees the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties in Michigan. The RRD administers two environmental cleanup programs: the Environmental Remediation Program and the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program. In addition, the RRD coordinates the implementation of brownfield redevelopment financing for environmental response activities. The RRD also manages portions of the federal Superfund Program and oversees EGLE's laboratory responsible for drinking water and environmental testing.

The **Water Resources Division (WRD)** protects and monitors Michigan's waters by establishing water quality standards, assessing the health of aquatic communities, issuing permits to regulate wastewater dischargers, and overseeing aquatic invasive species concerns and water withdrawals. The WRD processes permit applications and provides technical assistance to local soil erosion and sedimentation control programs, as well as activities like dredging or filling; constructing or dismantling dams; constructing marinas, seawalls, or docks; building in a designated critical sand dune, wetland, or floodplain; and protecting underwater shipwreck resources. The WRD oversees and issues construction permits for all public wastewater infrastructure, requires asset management in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits to ensure proper maintenance, and oversees critical large-scale infrastructure improvements in the area of combined sewer overflow and sanitary sewer overflow control vital to the health of Michigan's waterways.

The **Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate** accepts and investigates complaints and concerns related to drinking water in Michigan. The office establishes and implements processes in coordination with the divisions to report drinking water complaints and assists with resolution of complaints.

The **Office of Climate and Energy** coordinates the state's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 through development and implementation of the Mi Healthy Climate Plan as ordered by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The plan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition toward economy-wide carbon neutrality.

The **Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate** serves as the external and internal voice to ensure environmental justice throughout the state. It establishes and implements processes of and reporting of environmental justice complaints and assists with resolution of issues. The office also leads the state's Interagency Environmental Justice Response Team.

The **Office of the Great Lakes** works to protect and restore our state's waters. The team works with partners to support sustainable communities, restore degraded waters, manage water quality and quantity, prevent aquatic invasive species, and engage with emerging policy issues.