

Agency 84 - Department Of Environmental Quality

Statutory Authority:

The Department's statutory responsibilities are based on the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act as well as numerous other statutory programs.

Vision Statement:

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is to fulfill the role of the agency as described by the Nebraska Legislature in Section 81-1501:

To accomplish this mission, the Legislature granted NDEQ the authority to perform certain tasks such as issuing permits, inspecting facilities, assuring compliance with standards and regulations and to require remediation where necessary. These basic Tasks of the agency are best accomplished by assembling an effective workforce which is organized and trained to carry out the agency's responsibilities. In situations where it is most effective and efficient the department will use a non-traditional approach as such as collaborating with other entities and those creative approaches will be continually identified and evaluated.

Goals:

The following goals of the NDEQ will be pursued:

- Community presence and relations. NDEQ will be present in the community it serves - Nebraska. The agency will also establish working relationships with citizens and others it affects.
- Simplify regulations. Persons and entities affected or protected by NDEQ will be assisted in their ability to understand the requirements with as little difficulty as possible.
- Balanced enforcement. Enforcement means gaining compliance with the law. A balanced approach between compliance assistance and traditional enforcement will be reached.
- Timely permitting. Permit review and issuance will be streamlined and simplified to allow timely permitting decisions.
- Assistance in stewardship. The NDEQ will assist those it regulates to enable them to meet and exceed minimum standards. Concepts such as pollution prevention, compliance assistance, and environmental management systems will be incorporated into the mainstream of our work.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	9,141,989	7,790,716	7,143,843	7,286,636	7,688,213	7,985,037
Cash Fund	13,873,153	27,396,876	25,038,774	25,164,746	23,772,674	24,036,939
Federal Fund	23,931,088	22,336,604	28,130,616	28,356,229	25,833,358	26,289,621
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	46,946,230	57,524,196	60,313,233	60,807,611	57,294,245	58,311,597

Agency 84 - Department Of Environmental Quality Program 163 - Landfill Closure

Program Objectives:

The purpose of the Landfill Closure Assistance Fund is to provide grants for closure assessment, landfill closure, monitoring and remediation for landfills existing or closed in July 15, 1992. Funding comes from State Lottery proceeds. The program will cease to exist when presently available funds are provided as grants.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	888,585	510,498	509,636	509,790	9,856	9,946
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	888,585	510,498	509,636	509,790	9,856	9,946

Performance Measures:

Agency 84 - Department Of Environmental Quality Program 513 - Environmental Quality

Program Objectives:

The Department is dedicated to its legislative purpose of ensuring and protecting the quality of the natural environment both today and for future generations.

Nebraska statutes direct the agency to address contamination problems created in the past, assure that current activities are conducted in accordance with recognized principles of sound environmental management, and enhance the environment of the future by taking the opportunity for pollution prevention.

This program identifies funding necessary to accomplish our mission.

Performance measures are identified within the section descriptions.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	3,650,932	3,793,716	4,121,643	4,254,960	4,196,013	4,473,654
Cash Fund	12,984,568	21,119,443	23,529,138	23,654,956	23,562,818	23,826,993
Federal Fund	10,513,312	12,261,604	11,746,324	11,971,937	11,633,358	12,089,621
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	27,148,812	37,174,763	39,397,105	39,881,853	39,392,189	40,390,268

Performance Measures:

	97/98 Act.	98/99 Act.	99/00 Act.	00/01 Est.
Scrap Tire Permits	26	41	42	42
Integrated Waste Mgmt.				
Permitted Facilities	94	90	94	102
Air Quality Construction				
Permits	44	33	39	40
NPDES Facilities Permitted	50	155	143	246
Livestock Waste Control				
Facilities Permitted:				
Construction	139	126	60	100
State Operating	70	80	97	120
TMDL's Developed	0	0	2	20

Agency 84 - Department Of Environmental Quality Program 523 - Wastewater Loan Fund

Program Objectives:

The Clean Water Loan Fund provides low-interest loans for construction of wastewater treatment facilities. This program also provides small town matching grants for these activities.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	15	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	200,000	200,000
Federal Fund	4,955,081	5,000,000	9,200,000	9,200,000	7,200,000	7,200,000
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,955,096	5,500,000	10,200,000	10,200,000	7,400,000	7,400,000

Performance Measures:

1. Administer the SRF so it will exist in perpetuity as a viable source of financial assistance to communities;
2. Maintain an inventory of statewide wastewater needs;
3. Fund projects that contribute to the most significant improvement to water quality or public health and meet basin management goals and strategies;
4. Promote public participation in the program decision-making process;
5. Work with municipalities during facility planning to ensure that cost-effective and appropriate technology projects are evaluated;
6. Ensure compliance with all state and federal requirement.

Agency 84 - Department Of Environmental Quality Program 528 - Drinking Water Loan Fund

Program Objectives:

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides low interest loan and loan forgiveness to owners of public water supply systems for construction of storage, wells, distribution, treatment and land for wellhead protection.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	2,272,587	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	8,462,695	5,000,000	7,184,292	7,184,292	7,000,000	7,000,000
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	10,735,282	5,000,000	7,184,292	7,184,292	7,000,000	7,000,000

Performance Measures:

1. Administer the DWSRF so it will exist in perpetuity and grow to become a viable source of financial assistance to public water supply systems;
2. Create a statewide inventory of public water supply needs;
3. Fund projects that meet the most critical public health needs and further the goals of the Safe Drinking Water Act;
4. Promote stakeholder participation in the annual program decision-making process;
5. Work with public water supply systems during planning to ensure that cost-effective and appropriate technology projects are considered; and
6. Ensure compliance with all state and federal requirements.

Agency 84 - Department Of Environmental Quality Program 585 - Low Level Waste Disposal Act

Program Objectives:

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Program conducted a technical review of the license application for a proposed low-level radioactive waste disposal facility near Butte, Nebraska. The State Program (in a combined effort with the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation & Licensure) issued a decision to deny the application on December 18, 1998. The applicant, US Ecology, filed a petition for a contested case proceeding January 15, 1999. No date for the contested case hearing has been set at this time - the result of a preliminary injunction issued by a federal court judge in March, 1999.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	3,218,455	3,997,000	3,022,200	3,031,676	3,492,200	3,511,383
Cash Fund	0	5,266,935	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	75,000	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	3,218,455	9,338,935	3,022,200	3,031,676	3,492,200	3,511,383

Performance Measures:

The Program's primary responsibility will be to represent the state's interests in the lawsuit brought against it by the major generators, the Central Interstate Compact Commission and US Ecology in addition to the withdrawal proceedings initiated by the Compact Commission.

The 2002-2003 biennium could see the conclusion of the legal action and potential conclusion of the decision-making processes surrounding the Department's decision to deny US Ecology's license application.