

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:

To earn the confidence of and be granted credibility by the general public of Nebraska.

Mission Statement:

To accomplish this Vision, the Department must demonstrate its dedication to its mission of ensuring and protecting the quality of the natural environment both today and for future generations. The protection of the air, water, and land of Nebraska is quintessential to the quality of life in Nebraska and is an integral piece of the equation which will project Nebraska into the twenty-first century.

The mission of the Department is soundly based in Nebraska statutes which 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.

Goals:

To achieve the vision and fulfill the mission the Department of Environmental Quality has identified critical objectives which must be rigorously pursued.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	2,682,358	4,370,729	4,213,244	3,382,456	4,177,809	3,600,467
Cash Fund	23,243,032	27,833,484	25,595,564	25,524,235	26,560,431	26,614,784
Federal Fund	12,310,022	29,650,140	22,534,268	22,901,583	19,992,273	20,584,296
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	38,235,412	61,854,353	52,343,076	51,808,274	50,730,513	50,799,547

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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 FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	3,317,367	1,649,683	510,056	510,618	510,056	511,289
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	3,317,367	1,649,683	510,056	510,618	510,056	511,289

Performance Measures:

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Program 513 - Environmental Quality

Program Objectives:

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

The mission of the Department is soundly based in Nebraska statutes which 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 listed below.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	2,526,420	3,204,211	3,321,166	3,382,456	3,420,981	3,600,467
Cash Fund	14,953,596	21,572,155	21,437,297	21,354,139	20,809,104	20,837,113
Federal Fund	8,308,526	10,110,479	9,939,514	10,304,669	9,917,273	10,504,502
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	25,788,542	34,886,845	34,697,977	35,041,264	34,147,358	34,942,082

Performance Measures:

	FY1995-96	FY1996-97	FY1997-98	FY1998-99
Scrap tire permits	11	33	26	28
Integrated waste management permitted facilities	70	85	94	92
Air quality construction permits	48	33	32	4
NPDES facilities permitted	53	74	52	216
Livestock waste control facilities permitted:				
Construction permits	104	124	139	125
Operating permits	99	80	70	75

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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 FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	155,938	0	300,000	0	300,000	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	3,876,065	12,098,588	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,032,003	12,098,588	5,300,000	5,000,000	5,300,000	5,000,000

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.

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Program 528 - Drinking Water Loan Fund

Program Objectives:

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund provides low-interest loans to owners of public water supply systems for construction of these systems. A portion of the loans may be forgiven for qualifying disadvantaged communities.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	1,166,518	592,078	0	456,828	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	7,366,073	7,519,754	7,519,754	5,000,000	5,000,000
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	0	8,532,591	8,111,832	7,519,754	5,456,828	5,000,000

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.

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Program 585 - Low Level Waste Disposal Act

Program Objectives:

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Program's purpose is to conduct a technical review of the license application for a proposed low-level radioactive waste disposal facility near Butte, Nebraska. The program is in the public participation process following announcement on August 6, 1998, of an intent to deny the application.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	4,972,069	4,611,646	3,648,211	3,659,478	5,241,271	5,266,382
Federal Fund	125,431	75,000	75,000	77,160	75,000	79,794
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	5,097,500	4,686,646	3,723,211	3,736,638	5,316,271	5,346,176

Performance Measures:

The program's primary responsibility has been to conduct a technical review of a license application for a proposed low-level radioactive waste disposal facility near Butte in Boyd County, Nebraska. In October 1997 the agency issued the preliminary results of its review in two documents: 1) the Draft Safety Evaluation Report and 2) the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A 90-day public comment period on the two documents ended in February 1998. On August 6, 1998, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health & Human Services Regulation & Licensure announced intent to deny the application. A hearing is scheduled for November 1998 after which a final license decision will be made.

The 2000-2001 biennium will see the conclusion of the public participation and decision-making processes. Two public hearing and comment periods will have been completed.