



Compacting waste at a landfill

Responsibilities of the Division of Waste Management include:

- Overseeing the handling, storage, transport, treatment and disposal of waste and radioactive materials.
- Enforcing Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitles C and D regulations, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Part 61, and regulatory authority granted through agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Working with other divisions on significant issues involving:
 - ~ Air quality (burning, dust)
 - ~ Water quality (leachate management, groundwater)
 - ~ Municipal facilities (infrastructure abandonment)
 - ~ Chemistry (sampling and analysis)
- Encouraging recycling activities and beneficial reuse through promotion and education. (Recycling activities are not regulated.)

One of the most important assets available to us in North Dakota is our natural environment.

The programs in the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Waste Management work to protect and improve the state's natural environment for all.

This is done by enforcing state and federal environmental laws to regulate where and how materials are stored and their ultimate disposal.

By the Numbers

Hazardous Waste

- 25 large, 91 small and 765 very small quantity hazardous waste generators
- 5 permitted facilities
- 107 hazardous material assessments and 67 cleanups at 108 Brownfields sites since 2003

Radiation Control

- 181 radioactive materials licenses
- More than 800 x-ray registrants and 2,450 x-ray machines registered

Solid Waste

- ~1,900 permitted waste haulers
- 243 inert waste landfills
- 11 oilfield special waste landfill facilities
- 8 coal combustion residuals facilities and 15 special waste facilities
- 7 industrial waste facilities
- 13 municipal solid waste landfills and 32 transfer stations

Underground Storage Tanks

- Regulates the underground storage of petroleum hydrocarbon products in tanks with volumes of more than 110 gallons
- 873 facilities including 2,294 tanks
- 81 leaking tank sites cleaned up in the last 10 years
- 100 to 150 gas stations randomly sampled each year to ensure fuel quality
- 825 antifreeze product labels assessed annually for compliance with consumer notification requirements



Removing an underground storage tank



Proper design during landfill closures will minimize long-term environmental impacts.

Before



After



Proper removal of lead-based paint protects the public, especially children, from exposure.

Feel free to use this information, but please credit the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

The Division of Waste Management employs approximately 32 staff in the following programs:

Hazardous Waste Program *(including Brownfields and PCBs)*

The Hazardous Waste Program provides for the comprehensive regulation of hazardous waste from “cradle-to-grave” to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to enhance the state’s environment. The program regulates the generation, treatment, recycling, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste and used oil through permitting and inspection activities.

It also administers the Brownfields Program whereby federal Brownfields State Response grants can be used for environmental assessment and hazardous material cleanup activities. These grants can help with converting contaminated (or potentially contaminated), underdeveloped, unproductive property into productive real estate.

North Dakota has entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct inspections of facilities for proper disposal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) wastes, which are regulated under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Inspection reports are sent to EPA Region VIII for compliance evaluation and enforcement actions.

Radiation Control and Indoor Air Programs

The Radiation Control Program regulates the use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing devices to protect the public and the environment. It licenses/registers and inspects radioactive material users and x-ray facilities.

The Indoor Air Program conducts radon testing in schools and local, state and federal government buildings in North Dakota. It assists North Dakotans in testing their own homes for radon, understanding test results, and providing resources for radon mitigation in homes with elevated radon levels. It also licenses contractors and certifies workers for asbestos and lead-based paint (LBP) abatement activities. The program enforces emission standards for asbestos and ensures management of LBP materials in pre-1978 target housing and child-occupied facilities to minimize exposure.

Solid Waste Program *(including Abandoned Auto Fund)*

The Solid Waste Program administers regulations on industrial, inert, municipal and special waste facilities, including permitting their design, operation and eventual closure. It oversees waste haulers, infectious waste treatment and disposal, and land treatment of waste materials. The program provides educational assistance to encourage the reduction, recycling and beneficial reuse of solid waste.

The program administers the state Abandoned Auto Fund. Local governments can apply for reimbursement for the costs of collecting and recycling abandoned automobiles, other vehicles and scrap metal.

Underground Storage Tanks Program

Staff members in the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program work with owners and operators of underground storage tanks to ensure that compliance, leak detection, new installations, upgrades and tank closures are in accordance with North Dakota’s rules. The UST Program also uses federal funds to conduct investigations and remediation activities at leaking underground storage tank sites where the owner/operator is unable to pay for these activities, when they are available.