

NORTH
Dakota Be Legendary.™

Environmental Quality



Biennial Report 2023-2025

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Our Vision

A sustainable, high-quality environment for current and future generations.

Our Mission

To conserve and protect the quality of North Dakota's air, land and water resources following science and the law.

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality works in cooperation with the general public, industry, and government at all levels to implement protective programs and standards to help maintain and improve our state's air, water, and land resources.

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Who We ARE



The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has primacy for major environmental programs in North Dakota.



What is primacy?

Primacy means Environmental Quality has primary responsibility for ensuring implementation of many federal environmental regulations in the state. This agency has primacy on all North Dakota lands except tribal and reservation lands, where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has jurisdiction for enforcing federal environmental law.

Who We SERVE



We are public servants here for the betterment of our state.

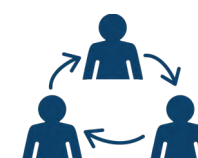
Our scientists, engineers, chemists and other staff are North Dakota residents. We work to ensure that our state continues to have clean air, land, and water --not only because it is our job, but because it is personally important to us, our families, and our friends.

Our Work Matters

Environmental Quality is responsible for safeguarding North Dakota's air, land and water resources. This state agency has 175 employees who work closely with local, state and federal entities to address public and environmental health concerns and implement protection policies and programs. It consists of the Office of the Director and six divisions: Accounting, Air Quality, Chemistry, Municipal Facilities, Waste Management and Water Quality.



Environmental Quality staff inspect thousands of facilities each year to ensure that environmental laws are being followed.



All ND Citizens

We are a responsive and forward-facing agency. We pride ourselves in our accessibility and seek out opportunities for citizen involvement and tribal collaboration.



Partners with Industry

We conduct regular inspections and compliance outreach activities with our industry partners. This yields a high compliance rate, keeping our air, water, and land resources clean.



Other State Agencies

We collaborate with many other state agencies such as Water Resources, Ag, Game & Fish, Mineral Resources, Commerce, PSC, PFA and more to maximize the benefits of our environment.



Government Leadership

We serve as scientific support for our legislature and other appointed and elected officials of all capacities in our state and tribal nations.



Local Communities

We assist our community water systems through compliance outreach and SRF funds. We assist cities, counties, and tribes in their pursuit of improved environmental quality.



Outdoor Enthusiasts

Our clean air, wide open terrain, and many lakes and streams provide boundless health and recreation opportunities for citizens and visitors alike.

Disbursed
nearly
\$274
million in SRF
funds

What We're Proud Of

Environmental Excellence

North Dakota consistently ranks high among states in environmental quality measures.

Industry Collaboration

We enforce ever-changing industry regulations while maintaining open communication. These relationships enable us to maintain a high industry compliance rate.



High Compliance In Public Drinking Water Systems

North Dakota has one of the nation's highest drinking water compliance rates, with over 99% of public water systems meeting all health-based standards.



Highly Trained Staff

Our ability to maintain a focused team of highly technical staff that is nimble and innovative enough to keep up with the rules and regulations of an ever-evolving environmental landscape.



Monitoring & Inspections

We maintain environmental compliance while addressing expanding industry challenges. We make sure environmental quality is maintained to the enjoyment of state citizens and visitors alike.



Responsiveness

We strive to be accessible to the public, transparent in our decisions, and accountable for our actions. We pride ourselves in finding innovative solutions to complex problems.

Legislative Changes 69th Assembly



Regulation of odors in AFOs/zoning authority

SB 2174 provided neutral testimony on setback and zoning updates for livestock facilities. The agency participated in the Model Zoning Task Force, reviewed odor footprint tools, and supported continued discussion on consistent, science-based setback standards.



Water/Wastewater Operator Certification

SB 2110 updates North Dakota's operator certification program by aligning the certification year with the calendar year, allowing third-party exam testing, adjusting fees through Administrative Code, and modernizing penalties to include civil options. These changes streamline the program and address stakeholder requests.



Modernized Above-Ground Storage Tank Oversight

HB 1058 supported the modernization of above-ground storage tank (AST) regulation by updating inspection requirements, clarifying permitting processes, and enhancing the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality's authority to ensure safe management of ASTs.



State Laboratory Construction Update

Construction of the new North Dakota State Laboratory on the northeast area of the Capitol grounds continues to progress on schedule. The 100,000-square-foot, \$70 million facility is being built to support both the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The lab is designed to replace the nearly 50-year-old existing facility and will significantly strengthen the state's capacity in public health testing, environmental monitoring, emergency response, and regulatory compliance. The new building includes flexible, scalable laboratory space, modern mechanical systems designed for high-quality air handling, and a dedicated training laboratory to support ongoing workforce development. Construction began in April 2024 and remains on track for projected completion in June 2026. Once operational, the facility will house approximately 50 team members and provide long-term capacity to protect North Dakota's public health and environmental quality.



Total Agency Budget =
\$121,395,479

Authorized Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)
Positions =175

General Fund	\$17,208,332
Federal Fund	\$80,717,659
Special Fund	\$23,469,488

We are accessible to our customers,
transparent in our operations and final
outcomes, and accountable for our decisions.

Success is measured by maintaining high
compliance rates and finding innovative
technical solutions to complex problems.



Divison Connections

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Air Quality: Jim Semerad
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Program Email Contacts

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Boiler Inspection: NDboilerInsp@nd.gov

General & Media Inquiries: DEQ@nd.gov

Combined Environmental Regulatory Information System (CERIS): CERIS-ND.gov

Hazardous Waste: HazardousWaste@nd.gov

Lead in Schools: LeadInSchools@nd.gov

Nondiscrimination/Environmental Justice: deqEJ@nd.gov

Oil & Gas Permits: DEQ-OilGasPermits@nd.gov

Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Fund (PTRCF): NDptrcf@nd.gov

Radiation: RAM@nd.gov

Spills: Spills@nd.gov

State & Local Emissions Inventory (SLEIS): DEQ-SLEIS@nd.gov

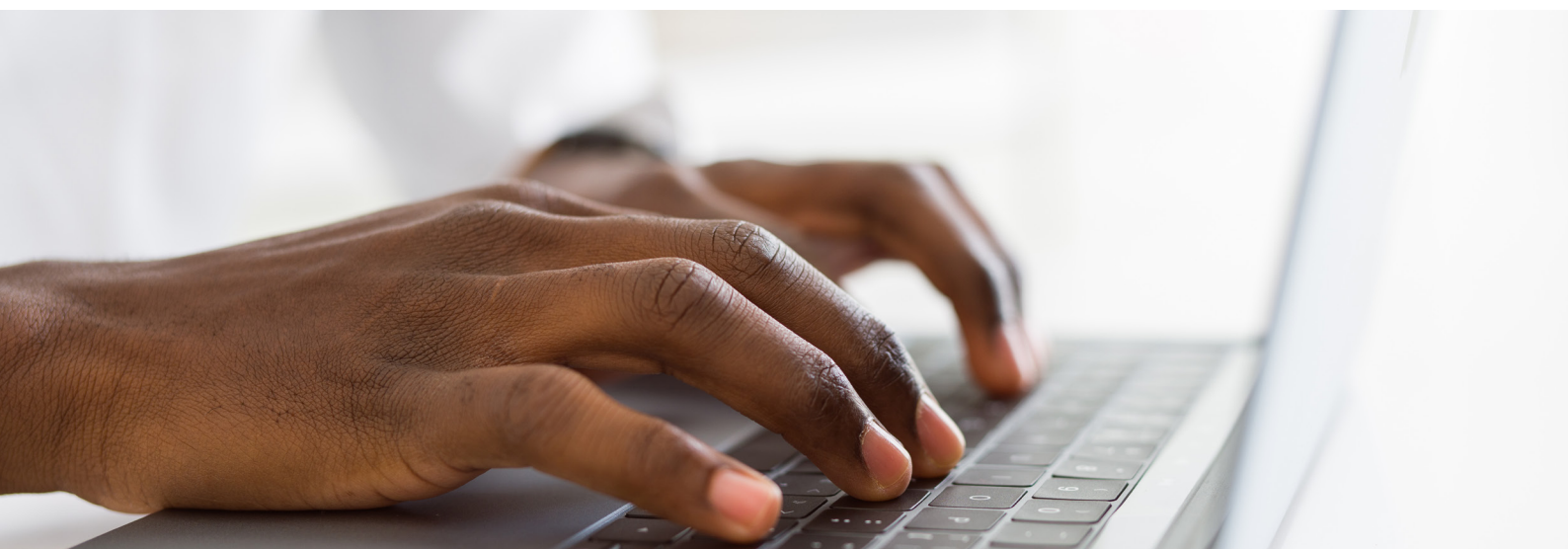
Solid Waste: SolidWaste@nd.gov

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Underground Storage Tanks: NDust@nd.gov

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What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

~ Jane Goodall

