



Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

General Overview

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) was renamed from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in 2019 following the issuance of Executive Order (E.O.) 2019-2. In 2011, E.O. 2011-1 separated the former DEQ from the former Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE). E.O. 2011-1 effectively undid E.O. 2009-45, which had created the DNRE by combining the DEQ with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The current DNR and EGLE have existed separately and together throughout their respective histories; from 1995 through 2009, and 2011 to the present they have been separate, the remainder of the time they have been combined.

Currently, EGLE has 1,631.0 appropriated (full-time equated) FTE positions, many of which are located in Lansing, with the balance spread throughout the regional and district offices throughout the State.

Major Divisions and Programs

Office of the Great Lakes. The Office was established by the Great Lakes Protection Act as the lead agency within State government for the development of policies, programs, and procedures to protect, enhance, and manage the Great Lakes. It was transferred to EGLE from the DNR via Executive Order 2019-2.

Water Resource Division. This division issues surface water discharge permits, monitors water quality standards, investigates complaints, and reviews wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Additionally, it oversees regulations pertaining to shoreline protection, marinas, dams, roads, and dredging/filling of lakes, streams, and wetlands.

Air Quality Division. This division enforces compliance with Federal and State statutes, issues air quality permits, inspects air emission sources, and monitors outdoor air quality.

Remediation and Redevelopment Division. This division provides for cleanup activities on contaminated sites, financial and technical assistance to local governments, and liability protection for pre-existing site contamination.

Underground Storage Tank Authority. This division supports a program which provides matching funds to property owners or operators who have a leaking underground storage tank on their property. The program was established pursuant to Public Act 416 of 2014.

Renewing Michigan's Environment. This division supports non-petroleum cleanups, recycling, and waste management activities. The program was established pursuant to Public Act 588 of 2018.

Office of Climate and Energy. Following the issuance of E.O. 2019-2, the Michigan Agency for Energy was transferred to the newly established Office of Climate and Energy within EGLE. The division is a federally-designated agency that offers energy efficiency and renewable energy assistance to public and private sector organizations.

Drinking Water and Environmental Health. This division supports activities associated with regulatory oversight of public water supplies in the State and is the primary enforcement authority for the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The division also provides support for a variety of programs and regulatory activities, including inspections and new construction review of manufactured housing developments, regulation of subdivision on-site septic and water supply systems, and the approval and licensing of campgrounds and public swimming pools.

Materials Management Division. This division regulates hazardous and solid waste, issues permits, provides funding for scrap tire cleanup, assists with solid waste planning, and monitors radioactive nuclear waste facilities.

Geologic Resources Division. This division supports the regulatory function of oil and gas resources in the State, including processing applications and issuing permits to drill or deepen oil, gas, or brine disposal wells in the State. The division oversees sand dune, metallic minerals, mineral well, and nonferrous metallic mineral mining.