

# Environmental Quality



## General Overview

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was re-established in 2011 following the issuance of Executive Order (E.O.) 2011-1 which separated the 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 DEQ have existed separately and been combined 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 the DEQ has 1,284.5 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.

**Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA).** The OEA provides technical assistance and compliance assistance with the goal of preventing the violation of environmental laws through the dissemination of information and education of the regulated community.

**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.

**Resource Management Division.** This division covers a number of areas including environmental health activities provided primarily through local health departments, groundwater protections such as wellhead protection and regulation, swimming pool, campground, and mobile home regulation are housed in this division. This division also implements oil, gas, mineral production, and sand dunes. It also oversees metallic mineral mining and reclamation. The Resource Management Division also regulates hazardous and solid waste, issues permits, provides funding for scrap tire cleanup, assists with solid waste planning, regulates and monitors radioactive nuclear waste facilities, and houses the Recycling Initiative program.

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