



Monitoring the quality of North Dakota's water resources is essential.

OUR VISION

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



Eight ambient air monitoring stations are maintained throughout the state.

*Did you know...*

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

And that's a good thing. Primacy means the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has (1) responsibility for ensuring that state and many federal environmental laws are implemented and (2) authority to enforce those laws and related regulations. NDDEQ has primacy on all lands within the state borders except tribal and reservation lands where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has jurisdiction for federal environmental regulations.

*Did you know...*

**Some of the functions of the NDDEQ have been around since the 1920s.**

That's right. In 1923, the State Board of Health reorganized to the State Department of Health, including a Division of Sanitary Engineering, precursor to the department's Environmental Health Section and today's NDDEQ. Responsibilities included regulating swimming pools, public water supplies, milk inspection and sewage disposal systems.

Dr. A. A. Whittemore, the secretary of the State Department of Health didn't sugarcoat his language in his 1924 Report of the State Department of Health:

*"Sanitary engineering is one of the most important divisions... which we have as a life saver in the line of prevention of disease."<sup>1</sup>*

One-hundred years later, safe drinking water and proper disposal of waste are still primary responsibilities of the NDDEQ, but the department no longer inspects swimming pools or conducts milk inspections. Those duties have transferred to other entities.

*Did you know...*

**North Dakota has had a primary environmental regulatory agency in North Dakota since 1995.**

That's correct! In 1995, the same year that the State Department of Health and Consolidated Laboratories was changed to the State Department of Health (S. L. 1995, Ch. 243), the State Department of Health was designated as the primary state environmental agency (S. L. 1995, Ch. 244).

<sup>1</sup> Eighteenth Biennial Report of the State Department of Health of North Dakota for the period ended June 30, 1924. A. A. Whittemore, M.D., State Health Officer, pp. 13.



A variety of inspections are conducted to help safeguard the environment.

## OUR MISSION

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



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

### *Did you know...*

**This isn't the first time there has been a name change for an agency.**

It's true. As national and regional priorities shift, there have been changes and reorganizations of departments, sections and divisions of what is now known as the North Dakota Department of Health. The department's Environmental Health Section was tasked with safeguarding the quality of the state's natural resources. The mission remains the same for NDDEQ.

### *Did you know...*

**The NDDEQ is organized in five divisions and employs more than 150 people.**

Divisions in the NDDEQ are Air Quality, Chemistry, Municipal Facilities, Waste Management and Water Quality. The staff includes scientists, engineers, biologists, chemists, geologists and administrative and legal personnel. We collaborate with other state, federal and local groups, as well as our international neighbors in Canada to protect the environment.

### *Did you know...*

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

That's right! In the last 12 months, NDDEQ staff completed more than 3,000 inspections. NDDEQ scientists and engineers permit, monitor or inspect more than 10,000 regulated facilities within the state. Our staff work closely with agriculture and energy industries, as well as other regulated industries, to make sure facilities comply with North Dakota's environmental regulations. For more information, see <https://deq.nd.gov/enforcement/>.

### *Did you know...*

**NDDEQ's Division of Chemistry laboratory receives thousands of samples and completes more than 100,000 tests annually on water, soil and other materials.**

In 2018, the Division of Chemistry laboratory received 7,798 samples, to be exact. Samples are the actual number of sample bottles brought into the laboratory. And a variety of individual tests may be run on one sample. A water sample from a public drinking water source, for example, can have more than 20 different parameters measured, including lead, copper and iron content. To see the full list of parameters, visit the Division of Chemistry's website at <https://deq.nd.gov/chemistry/services.aspx>.