Land Quality Bureau

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Land Quality Bureau works to protect Iowa's groundwater, flood plains and land resources through technical assistance and oversight to industries and organizations. Areas of responsibility include: contaminated sites, underground petroleum storage tanks such as those at gas stations, proper solid waste management at landfills, construction activities in Iowa flood plains, safety of dams on Iowa waterways, geographic information systems (GIS) coordination, and development of sustainable environmental practices through financial and professional assistance.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS SECTION

Funding Sources:
85 percent Federal
15 percent non-GF State (tank registration fees)

Programs, Services & Activities:

Underground Storage Tanks Program (UST)-
Registers and maintains records of active UST sites including financial responsibility. Oversees operation, maintenance and closure of UST systems with the goal of preventing petroleum releases.

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Program (LUST)-
Oversees risk assessment of petroleum releases at LUST sites. Ensures adequate cleanup or corrective action at sites where releases are detected.

Certification of CGWPs and UST Professionals-
These include environmental consultants, third party compliance inspectors, and tank installers and removers.

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FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT & DAM SAFETY

Funding Sources:
20 percent Federal
80 percent General Fund (flood plain appropriation)

Programs, Services & Activities:

Flood Plain Development Permits- Regulates construction on all state flood plains and floodways to protect life and property and to promote orderly development and wise use of flood plains.

Dam Safety- Responsible for the state's dam safety program. Reviews and approves the construction of new dams, maintains inventory of existing dams meeting minimum size criteria, and periodically inspects major dams.

National Flood Insurance Program- Works with cities and counties to develop and administer local flood plain management programs, coordinates the National Flood Insurance Program, and assists the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Iowa Emergency Management Division in responding to flood disasters.

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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Funding Sources:
20 percent Federal
20 percent General Fund (flood plain appropriation)
60 percent Solid Waste Tonnage Fees, Water Quality, other state grants

Programs, Services & Activities:

Natural Resource Geographic Information System (NRGIS)-
Develops, manages and distributes DNR's NRGIS, including data collection and analysis required for various resource investigations, to support decision-making and fulfill information requests from the public. GIS support and training is also provided to other sections of the DNR.

Flood Plain Mapping
Partners with FEMA and contractors to update floodplain mapping products to supply communities and individuals with the best understanding of their flood risk.

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FINANCIAL & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SECTION

Funding Sources:

90 percent Solid Waste Tonnage Fee, HHM Retailer Permit Fees, AG's office penalties on referral cases
10 percent Federal

Programs, Services & Activities:

Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)- Provides waste reduction and recycling project grants and loans.

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM)- Provides financial assistance for the establishment and support for statewide collection and education network addressing the proper use and disposal of HHMs.

Pollution Prevention Services (P2)- Provides confidential, non-regulatory environmental technical assistance at no cost to Iowa's business and industry, institutions and governmental agencies with 100 or more employees. Administers the P2 program.

Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE)- Free, confidential and non-regulatory program that matches businesses' by-products with those who can use them as resources.

Derelict Building Grant Program- Works with cities with populations of 5,000 or fewer who need assistance with addressing abandoned buildings, while diverting construction and demolition materials from landfills.

Comprehensive Planning / Solid Waste Environmental Management System (EMS)- Provides non-regulatory reviews and suggestions for waste management improvement. Iowa's Solid Waste EMS encourages responsible environmental management and solid waste disposal to enhance efforts promoting environmental stewardship.

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SOLID WASTE AND CONTAMINATED SITES SECTION

Funding Sources:

50 percent non-GF State (State Solid Waste Tonnage Fee)
35 percent Federal
15 percent non-GF State (primarily hazardous waste fees)

Programs, Services & Activities:

Solid Waste Permitting Program- Regulates solid waste management facilities and activities including landfills, transfer stations, waste processing sites, compost operations and certain recycling operations.

Beneficial Use Determinations- Determines if a specific use of a solid industrial by-product constitutes reuse rather than disposal, and upon review is determined not to adversely affect human health or the environment.

Emerging and Problem Wastestreams- Manages programs and initiatives for properly managing problem wastes such as oil filters, mercury containing devices, mass animal mortalities and electronics.

Special Waste Authorization- Provides safe and proper management for disposal of wastes which present a threat to human health or the environment or a waste with inherent properties which make the disposal of the waste in a sanitary landfill difficult to manage.

Beverage Container Deposit Law- Administers redemption center approval program and general legal oversight.

Federal Superfund- National Priority List Sites, CERCLA Remedial & Removal Sites. In cooperation with U.S. EPA, addresses sites contaminated by hazardous materials or wastes including removal and remedial components generally targeted at more seriously contaminated sites.

State Contaminated Site Program- Addresses contamination situations at sites not covered by other state or federal programs.

Brownfields- Works cooperatively with communities and economic development stakeholders to assess, safely clean and sustainably reuse abandoned or idled industrial and commercial facilities where redevelopment is hindered by real or perceived environmental contamination.

State Voluntary Land Recycling Program- Allows owners or other stakeholders of a property to voluntarily assess and implement remedial actions at a site that is perceived to be contaminated. The DNR provides a certificate for a site following assessment and implementation of appropriate cleanup remedies to assure protection of public health and the environment.

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