

CHAPTER 3:

Environmental Quality Council

The Environmental Quality Council was established through the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act as the body that adopts rules and regulations which set air, water and land quality standards in order to protect the public health and welfare of the state. They adopt regulations that guide the activities and responsibilities of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). In addition, the Governor appoints the NDEQ Director based on candidates recommended by the Council.



The Council has 17 members who are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. Appointments require legislative approval. Council members are appointed to represent: the food manufacturing industry; conservation interests; the agricultural processing industry; the automobile or petroleum industry; the chemical industry; heavy industry; the power generating industry; crop production; labor; the livestock industry; county government; municipal government (two members, one of which represents cities not of the primary or metropolitan class); a professional engineer; a biologist; a representative of minority interests; and a doctor with knowledge about the human health aspects of air, water and land pollution.

The Council is required by statute to meet at least twice each year. NDEQ publishes notice of these meetings, together with an agenda and a description of proposed business items to be considered. The Council holds public hearings on the proposed regulations at these meetings. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed regulations and/or testify at the public hearing. The Council considers these comments and testimony prior to making a decision on whether to adopt, modify, or deny new state environmental regulations and amendments to existing regulations. The Council can also consider rule-making petitions submitted by the public.

Although the Council is responsible for review and adoption of rules and regulations, it does not have involvement in NDEQ's administrative functions or day-to-day responsibilities. The NDEQ Director is responsible for administration of NDEQ and the rules and regulations adopted by the Council.

Following are two tables. The first lists the council members, the second summarizes Council actions during FY2017.

Council Members

Representing	Council member	Term expires
Agricultural Crop Production	Rod Gangwish Shelton	June 22, 2021
Ag Processing Industry	Douglas Anderson Aurora	June 22, 2019
Automotive/Petroleum Industry	John Dilsaver Ralston	June 22, 2021
Biologist	Mark Czaplewski Grand Island	June 22, 2021
Chemical Industry	Jeremy Buhl Omaha	June 22, 2019
City Government	James Hawks North Platte	June 22, 2019
Conservation	John C. Turnbull York	June 22, 2019
County Government	Hilary Maricle Albion	June 22, 2019
Food Products Manufacturing	Michelle Bucklin Omaha	June 22, 2021
Heavy Industry	John Kinter Norfolk	June 22, 2019
Labor	Robert Hall Wahoo	June 22, 2021
Livestock Industry	Alden Zuhlke Plainview	June 22, 2021
Minority Populations	Mohamed Dahab Lincoln	June 22, 2021
Municipal Government	Lance Hedquist South Sioux City	June 22, 2021
Physician	Ronald Sheppard Callaway	June 22, 2019
Power Generating Industry	Joseph Citta, Jr., Columbus	June 22, 2021
Professional Engineer	Dennis Grams Lincoln	June 22, 2019

**FY 2017
Environmental Quality Council Actions**

Council Meeting Date	Regulation	Action
November 15, 2016	Amendment to Title 119 – Nebraska Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Issuance of Permits Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	Approved
	NDEQ Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program 2017 Funding Percentage Allocations	Approved
June 13, 2017	2017 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Approved
	Proposed Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan for State FY 2018	Approved
	Amendments to Title 129 – Nebraska Air Quality Regulations	Approved