

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 Environmental Quality Council considers amendments to regulations at a hearing on Oct. 16, 2014.

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 regulations 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 FY2015.

Council Members

Representing	Council member	Term expires
Agricultural Crop Production	Rod Gangwish Shelton	June 22, 2017
Ag Processing Industry	Douglas Anderson Aurora	June 22, 2015
Automotive/Petroleum Industry	John Dilsaver Ralston	June 22, 2017
Biologist	Mark Czaplewski Grand Island	June 22, 2017
Chemical Industry	Jeremy Buhl Omaha	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, 2017
Heavy Industry	John Kinter Norfolk	June 22, 2019
Labor	Robert Hall Wahoo	June 22, 2017
Livestock Industry	Alden Zuhlke Plainview	June 22, 2017
Minority Populations	Mohamed Dahab Lincoln	June 22, 2017
Municipal Government	Vacant	June 22, 2019
Municipal Government	Lance Hedquist South Sioux City	June 22, 2017
Physician	Ronald Sheppard Callaway	June 22, 2019
Power Generating Industry	Joseph Citta, Jr., Columbus	June 22, 2017
Professional Engineer	Dennis Grams Lincoln	June 22, 2019

**FY 2015
Environmental Quality Council Actions**

Council Meeting Date	Regulation	Action
October 16, 2014	Amendment of Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations	Approved
	Amendment of Title 117 – Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards	Approved
February 11, 2015	Amendment of Title 195 – Chemigation Regulations	Approved
	Program Priority System for the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Fund	Approved
	Rulemaking Petition to Amend Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations	Approved
June 4, 2015	Amendment of Title 195 – Chemigation Regulations	Approved
	2016 Intended Use Plan for Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Approved
	Amendment to Title 129 – Nebraska Air Quality Regulations	Approved