

LEGISLATIVE BILL 302

Approved by the Governor March 21, 2019

Introduced by Hughes, 44; at the request of the Governor.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to state government; to amend sections 2-15,100, 2-3241, 2-4215, 13-1701, 13-2008, 13-2009, 13-2042.01, 37-806, 46-2,109, 46-602, 46-606, 46-704, 46-705, 46-706, 46-711, 46-721, 46-722, 46-723, 46-724, 46-725, 46-726, 46-728, 46-729, 46-730, 46-731, 46-732, 46-733, 46-743, 46-749, 46-750, 46-1102, 46-1108, 46-1109, 46-1217, 46-1301, 46-1502, 46-1642, 54-744.01, 54-2417, 54-2421, 54-2429, 57-705, 58-221, 60-6,363, 60-6,364, 60-6,367, 60-6,368, 66-203, 66-204, 66-301, 66-302, 66-303, 66-304, 66-489.02, 66-1004, 66-1009, 66-1105, 66-1344, 66-1504, 66-1518, 66-1529.02, 66-2001, 69-2011, 69-2502, 70-1003, 70-1032, 71-2433, 71-3503, 71-5302, 71-5316, 72-804, 72-805, 76-2602, 76-2608, 77-27,150, 77-27,151, 77-27,152, 77-27,153, 77-27,154, 77-27,187.01, 77-27,236, 81-1108.55, 81-1502, 81-1503, 81-1504.01, 81-1505.01, 81-1506, 81-1537, 81-1540, 81-1561, 81-15,118, 81-15,120, 81-15,123, 81-15,124, 81-15,124.01, 81-15,124.02, 81-15,124.04, 81-15,124.05, 81-15,125, 81-15,126, 81-15,127, 81-15,129, 81-15,159, 81-15,159.02, 81-15,166, 81-15,170, 81-15,177, 81-15,178, 81-15,179, 81-15,180, 81-15,183, 81-15,184, 81-15,185, 81-15,185.01, 81-15,185.02, 81-15,185.03, 81-15,186, 81-15,196, 81-15,210, 81-15,213, 81-15,229, 81-15,235, 81-15,242, 81-15,243, 81-15,245, 81-1607, 81-1609, 81-1611, 81-1612, 81-1613, 81-1616, 81-1617, 81-1618, 81-1620, 81-1625, 81-1635, 81-1636, 81-1637, 81-1638, 81-1640, 81-1641, 84-166, 86-570, and 88-550, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 2-969, 2-1501, 2-1507, 2-2626, 2-4604, 46-2,139, 46-683.01, 46-707, 46-1224, 46-1304, 49-506, 54-703, 57-1407, 57-1502, 57-1503, 81-2,294, 81-1316, 81-1504, 81-1505, 81-15,149, 81-15,159.01, 81-15,160, 81-1604, 81-1606, 81-1607.01, 81-3449, 81-3453, and 84-602.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; to merge the State Energy Office with the Department of Environmental Quality; to rename the department, the director, and certain funds; to provide, change, transfer, and eliminate powers and duties; to provide for a permit for discharge of certain materials; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; to repeal the original sections; to outright repeal section 69-2505, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 81-1601, 81-1602, 81-1603, and 81-1605, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) On and after July 1, 2019, the State Energy Office shall be merged into the Department of Environmental Quality which shall be renamed as the Department of Environment and Energy and the Director of Environmental Quality shall be renamed as the Director of Environment and Energy.

(2) On and after July 1, 2019, positions of employment in the State Energy Office related to the powers, duties, and functions transferred to the Department of Environment and Energy pursuant to this legislative bill are transferred to the Department of Environment and Energy. For purposes of the transition, employees of the State Energy Office shall be considered employees of the Department of Environment and Energy and shall retain their rights under the state personnel system or pertinent bargaining agreement, and their service shall be deemed continuous. This section does not grant employees any new rights or benefits not otherwise provided by law or bargaining agreement or preclude the department or the director from exercising any of the prerogatives of management set forth in section 81-1311 or as otherwise provided by law. This section is not an amendment to or substitute for the provisions of any existing bargaining agreements.

Sec. 2. Any appropriation and salary limit provided in any legislative bill enacted by the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session, to Agency No. 71, State Energy Office, in the following program classification, shall be null and void, and any such amounts are hereby appropriated to Agency No. 84, Department of Environment and Energy: Program No. 106, Energy Office Administration. Any financial obligations of the State Energy Office that remain unpaid as of June 30, 2019, and that are subsequently certified as valid encumbrances to the accounting division of the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to sections 81-138.01 to 81-138.04, shall be paid by the Department of Environment and Energy from the unexpended balance of appropriations existing in such program classifications on June 30, 2019.

Sec. 3. On and after July 1, 2019, whenever the State Energy Office or the Department of Environmental Quality is referred to or designated by any contract or other document in connection with the duties and functions of the Department of Environment and Energy, such reference or designation shall apply to the Department of Environment and Energy. All contracts entered into by the State Energy Office or the Department of Environmental Quality prior to July 1, 2019, in connection with the duties and functions of the Department of Environment and Energy are hereby recognized, with the Department of Environment and Energy succeeding to all rights and obligations under such

contracts. Any cash funds, custodial funds, gifts, trusts, grants, and any appropriations of funds from prior fiscal years available to satisfy obligations incurred under such contracts shall be transferred and appropriated to such department for the payments of such obligations. All documents and records transferred, or copies of the same, may be authenticated or certified by such department for all legal purposes.

Sec. 4. No suit, action, or other proceeding, judicial or administrative, lawfully commenced prior to July 1, 2019, or which could have been commenced prior to that date, by or against the State Energy Office or the Department of Environmental Quality, or the director or any employee thereof in such director's or employee's official capacity or in relation to the discharge of his or her official duties, shall abate by reason of the transfer of duties and functions from the State Energy Office to the Department of Environment and Energy or the renaming of the Department of Environmental Quality as the Department of Environment and Energy.

Sec. 5. On and after July 1, 2019, unless otherwise specified, whenever any provision of law refers to the State Energy Office or the Department of Environmental Quality in connection with duties and functions of the Department of Environment and Energy, such law shall be construed as referring to the Department of Environment and Energy.

Sec. 6. On July 1, 2019, all items of property, real and personal, including office furniture and fixtures, books, documents, and records of the State Energy Office pertaining to the duties and functions transferred to the Department of Environment and Energy pursuant to this legislative bill shall become the property of such department.

Sec. 7. Section 2-969, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

2-969 The Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force is created. The Governor shall appoint the members of the task force. The members shall include one surface water project representative from each river basin that has ever been determined to be fully appropriated pursuant to section 46-714 or 46-720 or is designated as overappropriated pursuant to section 46-713 by the Department of Natural Resources; one surface water project representative from a river basin that has not been determined to be fully appropriated pursuant to section 46-714 or 46-720 or is not designated as overappropriated pursuant to section 46-713 by the Department of Natural Resources; one representative from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the Department of Natural Resources, the office of the State Forester, the Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Nebraska; three representatives selected from a list of at least ten individuals nominated by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts; two representatives selected from a list of at least five individuals nominated by the Nebraska Weed Control Association; one riparian landowner from each of the state's congressional districts; and one representative from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. In addition to such members, any member of the Legislature may serve as a nonvoting, ex officio member of the task force at his or her option. For administrative and budgetary purposes only, the task force shall be housed within the Department of Agriculture.

Sec. 8. Section 2-1501, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

2-1501 As used in sections 2-1501 to 2-15,123, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) Commission means the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission;
- (2) State means the State of Nebraska;
- (3) Agency of this state means the government of this state and any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the government of this state;
- (4) United States or agencies of the United States means the United States of America, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and any other agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States of America;
- (5) Government or governmental means the government of this state, the government of the United States, and any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of either of them;
- (6) Lands, easements, and rights-of-way means lands and rights or interests in lands whereon channel improvements, channel rectifications, or water-retarding or gully-stabilization structures are located, including those areas for flooding and flowage purposes, spoil areas, borrow pits, access roads, and similar purposes;
- (7) Local organization means any natural resources district, drainage district, irrigation district, or other public district, county, city, or state agency;
- (8) Subwatershed means a portion of a watershed project as divided by the department on a complete hydrologic unit;
- (9) Rechanneling means the channeling of water from one watercourse to another watercourse by means of open ditches;
- (10) Watercourse means any depression two feet or more below the surrounding land serving to give direction to a current of water at least nine months of the year, having a bed and well-defined banks and, upon order of the commission, also includes any particular depression which would not otherwise be within the definition of watercourse;
- (11) Director means the Director of Natural Resources;
- (12) Department means the Department of Natural Resources; and

(13) Combined sewer overflow project means a municipal project to reduce overflows from a combined sewer system pursuant to a long-term control plan approved by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

Sec. 9. Section 2-1507, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

2-1507 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Water Sustainability Fund be equitably distributed statewide to the greatest extent possible for the long term and give priority funding status to projects which are the result of federal mandates.

(2) Distributions to assist municipalities with the cost of constructing, upgrading, developing, and replacing sewer infrastructure facilities as part of a combined sewer overflow project shall be based on a demonstration of need and shall equal ten percent of the total annual appropriation to the Water Sustainability Fund if (a) applicants have applied for such funding as required under section 2-1509 and (b) any such application has been recommended for further consideration by the director and is subsequently approved for allocation by the commission pursuant to subsection (1) of section 2-1511. If more than one municipality demonstrates a need for funds pursuant to this subsection, funds shall be distributed proportionally based on population.

(3) Any money in the Water Sustainability Fund may be allocated by the commission to applicants in accordance with sections 2-1506 to 2-1513. Such money may be allocated in the form of grants or loans for water sustainability programs, projects, or activities undertaken within the state. The allocation of funds to a program, project, or activity in one form shall not of itself preclude additional allocations in the same or any other form to the same program, project, or activity.

(4) When the commission has approved an allocation of funds to a program, project, or activity, the Department of Natural Resources shall establish a subaccount in the Water Sustainability Fund and credit the entire amount of the allocation to the subaccount. Individual subaccounts shall be established for each program, project, or activity approved by the commission. The commission may approve a partial allocation to a program, project, or activity based upon available unallocated funds in the Water Sustainability Fund, but the amount of unfunded allocations shall not exceed eleven million dollars. Additional allocations to a program, project, or activity shall be credited to the same subaccount as the original allocation. Subaccounts shall not be subject to transfer out of the Water Sustainability Fund, except that the commission may authorize the transfer of excess or unused funds from a subaccount and into the unreserved balance of the fund.

(5) A natural resources district is eligible for funding from the Water Sustainability Fund only if the district has adopted or is currently participating in the development of an integrated management plan pursuant to subdivision (1)(a) or (b) of section 46-715.

(6) The commission shall utilize the resources and expertise of and collaborate with the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Nebraska, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board, and the Game and Parks Commission on funding and planning for water programs, projects, or activities.

(7) A biennial report shall be made to the Clerk of the Legislature describing the work accomplished by the use of funds towards the goals of the Water Sustainability Fund beginning on December 31, 2015. The report submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

Sec. 10. Section 2-15,100, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

2-15,100 The state water planning and review process shall be conducted under the guidance and general supervision of the director. The director shall be assisted in the state water planning and review process by the Game and Parks Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the Governor's Policy Research Office, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the Water Center of the University of Nebraska, and the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska. In addition, the director may obtain assistance from any private individual, organization, political subdivision, or agency of the state or federal government.

Sec. 11. Section 2-2626, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

2-2626 The department shall have the following powers, functions, and duties:

(1) To administer, implement, and enforce the Pesticide Act and serve as the lead state agency for the regulation of pesticides. The department shall involve the natural resources districts and other state agencies, including the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the Department of Natural Resources, or the Department of Health and Human Services, in matters relating to water quality. Nothing in the act shall be interpreted in any way to affect the powers of any other state agency or of any natural resources district to regulate for ground water quality or surface water quality as otherwise provided by law;

(2) To be responsible for the development and implementation of a state management plan and pesticide management plans. The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall be responsible for the adoption of standards for pesticides in surface water and ground water, and the Department of Health and Human Services shall be responsible for the adoption of standards for pesticides in drinking water. These standards shall be established as

action levels in the state management plan and pesticide management plans at which prevention and mitigation measures are implemented. Such action levels may be set at or below the maximum contaminant level set for any product as set by the federal agency under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f et seq., as the act existed on January 1, 2013. The Department of Agriculture shall cooperate with and use existing expertise in other state agencies when developing the state management plan and pesticide management plans and shall not hire a hydrologist within the department for such purpose;

(3) After notice and public hearing, to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations providing lists of state-limited-use pesticides for the entire state or for a designated area within the state, subject to the following:

(a) A pesticide shall be included on a list of state-limited-use pesticides if:

(i) The Department of Agriculture determines that the pesticide, when used in accordance with its directions for use, warnings, and cautions and for uses for which it is registered, may without additional regulatory restrictions cause unreasonable adverse effects on humans or the environment, including injury to the applicator or other persons because of acute dermal or inhalation toxicity of the pesticides;

(ii) The water quality standards set by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ or the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to this section are exceeded; or

(iii) The Department of Agriculture determines that the pesticide requires additional restrictions to meet the requirements of the Pesticide Act, the federal act, or any plan adopted under the Pesticide Act or the federal act;

(b) The Department of Agriculture may regulate the time and conditions of use of a state-limited-use pesticide and may require that it be purchased or possessed only:

(i) With permission of the department;

(ii) Under direct supervision of the department or its designee in certain areas and under certain conditions;

(iii) In specified quantities and concentrations or at specified times; or

(iv) According to such other restrictions as the department may set by regulation;

(c) The Department of Agriculture may require a person authorized to distribute or use a state-limited-use pesticide to maintain records of the person's distribution or use and may require that the records be kept separate from other business records;

(d) The state management plan and pesticide management plans shall be coordinated with the Department of Agriculture and other state agency plans and with other state agencies and with natural resources districts;

(e) The state management plan and pesticide management plans may impose progressively more rigorous pesticide management practices as pesticides are detected in ground water or surface water at increasing fractions of the standards adopted by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ or the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(f) A pesticide management plan may impose progressively more rigorous pesticide management practices to address any unreasonable adverse effect of pesticides on humans or the environment. When appropriate, a pesticide management plan may establish action levels for imposition of such progressively more rigorous management practices based upon measurable indicators of the adverse effect on humans or the environment;

(4) To adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary for the enforcement and administration of the Pesticide Act. The regulations shall include, but not be limited to, regulations providing for:

(a) The collection of samples, examination of records, and reporting of information by persons subject to the act;

(b) The safe handling, transportation, storage, display, distribution, use, and disposal of pesticides and their containers;

(c) Labeling requirements of all pesticides required to be registered under provisions of the act, except that such regulations shall not impose any requirements for federally registered labels contrary to those required pursuant to the federal act;

(d) Classes of devices which shall be subject to the Pesticide Act;

(e) Reporting and record-keeping requirements for persons distributing or using pesticide products made available under 7 U.S.C. 136i-1 of the federal act and for persons required to keep records under the Pesticide Act;

(f) Methods to be used in the application of pesticides when the Department of Agriculture finds that such regulations are necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of the Pesticide Act. Such regulations may include methods to be used in the application of a restricted-use pesticide, may relate to the time, place, manner, methods, materials, amounts, and concentrations in connection with the use of the pesticide, may restrict or prohibit use of the pesticides in designated areas during specified periods of time, and may provide specific examples and technical interpretations of subdivision (4) of section 2-2646. The regulations shall encompass all reasonable factors which the department deems necessary to prevent damage or injury by drift or misapplication to (i) plants, including forage plants, or adjacent or nearby property, (ii) wildlife in the adjoining or nearby areas, (iii) fish and other aquatic life in waters in reasonable proximity to the area to be treated, (iv) surface water or ground water, and (v) humans, animals, or beneficial insects. In adopting and promulgating such regulations, the department shall give consideration to pertinent research findings and recommendations of other

agencies of the state, the federal government, or other reliable sources. The department may, by regulation, require that notice of a proposed use of a pesticide be given to landowners whose property is adjacent to the property to be treated or in the immediate vicinity thereof if the department finds that such notice is necessary to carry out the purpose of the act;

(g) State-limited-use pesticides for the state or for designated areas in the state;

(h) Establishment of the amount of any fee or fine as directed by the act;

(i) Establishment of the components of any state management plan or pesticide management plan;

(j) Establishment of categories for licensed pesticide applicators in addition to those established in 40 C.F.R. 171, as the regulation existed on January 1, 2013; and

(k) Establishment of a process for the issuance of permits for emergency-use pesticides made available under 7 U.S.C. 136p of the federal act;

(5) To enter any public or private premises at any reasonable time to:

(a) Inspect and sample any equipment authorized or required to be inspected under the Pesticide Act or to inspect the premises on which the equipment is kept or stored;

(b) Inspect or sample any area exposed or reported to be exposed to a pesticide or where a pesticide use has occurred;

(c) Inspect and sample any area where a pesticide is disposed of or stored;

(d) Observe the use and application of and sample any pesticide;

(e) Inspect and copy any records relating to the distribution or use of any pesticide or the issuance of any license, permit, or registration under the act; or

(f) Inspect, examine, or take samples from any application equipment, building, or place owned, controlled, or operated by any person engaging in an activity regulated by the act if, from probable cause, it appears that the application equipment, building, or place contains a pesticide;

(6) To sample, inspect, make analysis of, and test any pesticide found within this state;

(7) To issue and enforce a written or printed order to stop the sale, removal, or use of a pesticide if the Department of Agriculture has reason to believe that the pesticide is in violation of any provision of the act. The department shall present the order to the owner or custodian of the pesticide. The person who receives the order shall not distribute, remove, or use the pesticide until the department determines that the pesticide is in compliance with the act. This subdivision shall not limit the right of the department to proceed as authorized by any other provision of the act;

(8)(a) To sue in the name of the director to enjoin any violation of the act. Venue for such action shall be in the county in which the alleged violation occurred, is occurring, or is threatening to occur; and

(b) To request the county attorney or the Attorney General to bring suit to enjoin a violation or threatened violation of the act;

(9) To impose or levy an administrative fine of not more than five thousand dollars for each violation on any person who has violated any provision, requirement, condition, limitation, or duty imposed by the act or rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the act. A violation means each action which violates any separate or distinct provision, requirement, condition, limitation, or duty imposed by the act or rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the act;

(10) To cause a violation warning letter to be served upon the alleged violator or violators pursuant to the act;

(11) To take reasonable measures to assess and collect all fees and fines prescribed by the act and the rules or regulations adopted under the act;

(12) To access, inspect, and copy all books, papers, records, bills of lading, invoices, and other information relating to the use, manufacture, repackaging, and distribution of pesticides necessary for the enforcement of the act;

(13) To seize, for use as evidence, without formal warrant if probable cause exists, any pesticide which is in violation of the act or is not approved by the Department of Agriculture or which is found to be used or distributed in the violation of the act or the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated under it;

(14) To declare as a pest any form of plant or animal life, other than humans and other than bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms on or in living humans or other living animals, which is injurious to health or the environment;

(15) To adopt classifications of restricted-use pesticides as determined by the federal agency under the federal act. In addition to the restricted-use pesticides classified by the administrator, the Department of Agriculture may also determine state-limited-use pesticides for the state or for designated areas within the state as provided in subdivision (3) of this section;

(16) To receive grants-in-aid from any federal entity, and to enter into cooperative agreements with any federal entity, any agency of this state, any subdivision of this state, any agency of another state, any Indian tribe, or any private person for the purpose of obtaining consistency with or assistance in the implementation of the Pesticide Act. The Department of Agriculture may reimburse any such entity from the Pesticide Administrative Cash Fund for the work performed under the cooperative agreement. The department may delegate its administrative responsibilities under the act to cities of the metropolitan and

primary classes if it reasonably believes that such cities can perform the responsibilities in a manner consistent with the act and the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated under it;

(17) To prepare and adopt such plans as are necessary to implement any requirements of the federal agency under the federal act;

(18) To request the assistance of the Attorney General or the county attorney in the county in which a violation of the Pesticide Act has occurred with the prosecution or enforcement of any violation of the act;

(19) To enter into a settlement agreement with any person regarding the disposition of any license, permit, registration, or administrative fine;

(20) To issue a cease and desist order pursuant to section 2-2649;

(21) To deny an application or cancel, suspend, or modify the registration of a pesticide pursuant to section 2-2632;

(22) To issue, cancel, suspend, modify, or place on probation any license or permit issued pursuant to the act; and

(23) To make such reports to the federal agency as are required under the federal act.

Sec. 12. Section 2-3241, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

2-3241 Each district shall have the power and authority to provide technical and other assistance as may be necessary or desirable in rural areas to abate the lowering of water quality in the state caused by sedimentation, effluent from feedlots, and runoff from cropland areas containing agricultural chemicals. Such assistance shall be coordinated with the programs and the stream quality standards as established by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality.

Sec. 13. Section 2-4215, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

2-4215 In exercising any powers granted by the Conservation Corporation Act, the corporation shall coordinate its activities with the land and water resources policies, programs, and planning efforts of the state, particularly the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources, and with the several natural resources districts throughout the state.

Sec. 14. Section 2-4604, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

2-4604 (1) The director shall, in cooperation with the commission, the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, develop and coordinate a comprehensive state erosion and sediment control program designed to reduce soil erosion in this state to tolerable levels. The program, which shall be reasonable and attainable, shall include:

(a) The soil-loss tolerance level for the various types of soils in the state;

(b) State goals and a state strategy for reducing soil losses on all lands in the state to an amount no more than the applicable soil-loss tolerance level;

(c) Guidelines for establishing priorities for implementation of the program at the state and local levels;

(d) Types of assistance to be provided by the state to districts, cities, and counties in the implementation of the state and local erosion and sediment control programs; and

(e) Such other elements as the director deems appropriate in accordance with the objectives of the Erosion and Sediment Control Act, including any recommendations for further legislative or administrative action.

(2) The state erosion and sediment control program may be revised by the director and the commission at any time. Before approving any such changes, the director and the commission shall conduct at least four public hearings or meetings to receive information from interested persons in different parts of the state.

Sec. 15. Section 13-1701, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-1701 For purposes of sections 13-1701 to 13-1714 and 76-2,119:

(1) Applicant shall mean any person as defined in section 81-1502 who is required to obtain a permit from the department for a solid waste disposal area or a solid waste processing facility but shall not include any person applying for renewal of such a permit or any person as defined in such section who proposes to dispose of waste which he or she generates on property which he or she owns as of January 1, 1991;

(2) Department shall mean the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality;

(3) Solid waste disposal area shall mean an area used for the disposal of solid waste from more than one residential premises or from one or more recreational, commercial, industrial, manufacturing, or governmental operations; and

(4) Solid waste processing facility shall mean an incinerator or a compost plant receiving material, other than yard waste, in quantities greater than one thousand cubic yards annually.

Sec. 16. Section 13-2008, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-2008 Department shall mean the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality.

Sec. 17. Section 13-2009, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-2009 Director shall mean the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality.

Sec. 18. Section 13-2042.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-2042.01 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall rebate to the municipality or county of origin ten cents of the disposal fee required by section 13-2042 for solid waste disposed of at landfills regulated by the department or transported for disposal out of state from a solid waste processing facility holding a permit under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act and when such solid waste originated in a municipality or county with a purchasing policy approved by the department. The fee shall be rebated on a schedule agreed upon between the municipality or county and the department. The schedule shall be no more often than quarterly and no less often than annually.

(2) Any municipality or county may apply to the department for the rebate authorized in subsection (1) of this section if the municipality or county has a written purchasing policy in effect requiring a preference for purchasing products, materials, or supplies which are manufactured or produced from recycled material. The policy shall provide that the preference shall not operate when it would result in the purchase of products, materials, or supplies which are of inadequate quality as determined by the municipality or county. Upon receipt of an application, the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall submit the application to the materiel division of the Department of Administrative Services for review. The materiel division shall review the application for compliance with this section and any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section and to determine the probable effectiveness in assuring that a preference is given to products, materials, or supplies which are manufactured or produced from recycled material. The materiel division shall provide a report of its findings to the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality within thirty days after receiving the review request. The Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall approve the application or suggest modifications to the application within sixty days after receiving the application based on the materiel division's report, any analysis by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, and any factors affecting compliance with this section or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

(3) A municipality or county shall file a report complying with the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section with the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality before April 1 of each year documenting purchasing practices for the past calendar year in order to continue receiving the rebate. The report shall include, but not be limited to, quantities of products, materials, or supplies purchased which were manufactured or produced from recycled material. The department shall provide copies of each report to the materiel division in a timely manner. If the department determines that a municipality or county is not following the purchasing policy presented in the approved application or that the purchasing policy presented in the approved application is not effective in assuring that a preference is given to products, materials, or supplies which are manufactured or produced from recycled material, the department shall suspend the rebate until it determines that the municipality or county is giving a preference to products, materials, or supplies which are manufactured or produced from recycled material pursuant to a written purchasing policy approved by the department subsequent to the suspension. The materiel division may make recommendations to the department regarding suspensions and reinstatements of rebates. The Department of Administrative Services may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing procedures for reviewing applications and for annual reports.

(4) Any suspension of the rebate or denial of an application made under this section may be appealed. The appeal shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(5) The council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing criteria for application procedures, for accepting and denying applications, for required reports, and for suspending and reinstating the rebate. The materiel division shall recommend to the council criteria for accepting and denying applications and for suspending and reinstating the rebate. The materiel division may make other recommendations to the council regarding rules and regulations authorized under this section.

Sec. 19. Section 37-806, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

37-806 (1) Any species of wildlife or wild plants determined to be an endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act shall be an endangered species under the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act, and any species of wildlife or wild plants determined to be a threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act shall be a threatened species under the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. The commission may determine that any such threatened species is an endangered species throughout all or any portion of the range of such species within this state.

(2) In addition to the species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the commission shall by regulation determine whether any species of wildlife or wild plants normally occurring within this state is an endangered or threatened species as a result of any of

the following factors:

- (a) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- (b) Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, educational, or other purposes;
- (c) Disease or predation;
- (d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- (e) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence within this state.

(3)(a) The commission shall make determinations required by subsection (2) of this section on the basis of the best scientific, commercial, and other data available to the commission.

(b) Except with respect to species of wildlife or wild plants determined to be endangered or threatened species under subsection (1) of this section, the commission may not add a species to nor remove a species from any list published pursuant to subsection (5) of this section unless the commission has first:

(i) Provided public notice of such proposed action by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in that portion of the subject species' range in which it is endangered or threatened or, if the subject species' range extends over more than five counties, in a newspaper of statewide circulation distributed in the county;

(ii) Provided notice of such proposed action to and allowed comment from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, and the Department of Natural Resources;

(iii) Provided notice of such proposed action to and allowed comment from each natural resources district and public power district located in that portion of the subject species' range in which it is endangered or threatened;

(iv) Notified the Governor of any state sharing a common border with this state, in which the subject species is known to occur, that such action is being proposed;

(v) Allowed at least sixty days following publication for comment from the public and other interested parties;

(vi) Held at least one public hearing on such proposed action in each game and parks commissioner district of the subject species' range in which it is endangered or threatened;

(vii) Submitted the scientific, commercial, and other data which is the basis of the proposed action to scientists or experts outside and independent of the commission for peer review of the data and conclusions. If the commission submits the data to a state or federal fish and wildlife agency for peer review, the commission shall also submit the data to scientists or experts not affiliated with such an agency for review. For purposes of this section, state fish and wildlife agency does not include a postsecondary educational institution; and

(viii) For species proposed to be added under this subsection but not for species proposed to be removed under this subsection, developed an outline of the potential impacts, requirements, or regulations that may be placed on private landowners, or other persons who hold state-recognized property rights on behalf of themselves or others, as a result of the listing of the species or the development of a proposed program for the conservation of the species as required in subsection (1) of section 37-807.

The inadvertent failure to provide notice as required by subdivision (3) (b) of this section shall not prohibit the listing of a species and shall not be deemed to be a violation of the Administrative Procedure Act or the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act.

(c) When the commission is proposing to add or remove a species under this subsection, public notice under subdivision (3)(b)(i) of this section shall include, but not be limited to, (i) the species proposed to be listed and a description of that portion of its range in which the species is endangered or threatened, (ii) a declaration that the commission submitted the data which is the basis for the listing for peer review and developed an outline if required under subdivision (b)(viii) of this subsection, and (iii) a declaration of the availability of the peer review, including an explanation of any changes or modifications the commission has made to its proposal as a result of the peer review, and the outline required under subdivision (b)(viii) of this subsection, if applicable, for public examination.

(d) In cases when the commission determines that an emergency situation exists involving the continued existence of such species as a viable component of the wild fauna or flora of the state, the commission may add species to such lists after having first published a public notice that such an emergency situation exists together with a summary of facts which support such determination.

(4) In determining whether any species of wildlife or wild plants is an endangered or threatened species, the commission shall take into consideration those actions being carried out by the federal government, by other states, by other agencies of this state or political subdivisions thereof, or by any other person which may affect the species under consideration.

(5) The commission shall issue regulations containing a list of all species of wildlife and wild plants normally occurring within this state which it determines, in accordance with subsections (1) through (4) of this section, to be endangered or threatened species and a list of all such species. Each list shall refer to the species contained therein by scientific and common name or names, if any, and shall specify with respect to each such species over what

portion of its range it is endangered or threatened.

(6) Except with respect to species of wildlife or wild plants determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the commission shall, upon the petition of an interested person, conduct a review of any listed or unlisted species proposed to be removed from or added to the lists published pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, but only if the commission publishes a public notice that such person has presented substantial evidence which warrants such a review.

(7) Whenever any species of wildlife or wild plants is listed as a threatened species pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, the commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to provide for the conservation of such species. The commission may prohibit, with respect to any threatened species of wildlife or wild plants, any act prohibited under subsection (8) or (9) of this section.

(8) With respect to any endangered species of wildlife, it shall be unlawful, except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, for any person subject to the jurisdiction of this state to:

(a) Export any such species from this state;

(b) Take any such species within this state;

(c) Possess, process, sell or offer for sale, deliver, carry, transport, or ship, by any means whatsoever except as a common or contract motor carrier under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission or the Interstate Commerce Commission, any such species; or

(d) Violate any regulation pertaining to the conservation of such species or to any threatened species of wildlife listed pursuant to this section and promulgated by the commission pursuant to the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act.

(9) With respect to any endangered species of wild plants, it shall be unlawful, except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, for any person subject to the jurisdiction of this state to:

(a) Export any such species from this state;

(b) Possess, process, sell or offer for sale, deliver, carry, transport, or ship, by any means whatsoever, any such species; or

(c) Violate any regulation pertaining to such species or to any threatened species of wild plants listed pursuant to this section and promulgated by the commission pursuant to the act.

(10) Any endangered species of wildlife or wild plants which enters this state from another state or from a point outside the territorial limits of the United States and which is being transported to a point within or beyond this state may be so entered and transported without restriction in accordance with the terms of any federal permit or permit issued under the laws or regulations of another state.

(11) The commission may permit any act otherwise prohibited by subsection (8) of this section for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species.

(12) Any law, regulation, or ordinance of any political subdivision of this state which applies with respect to the taking, importation, exportation, possession, sale or offer for sale, processing, delivery, carrying, transportation other than under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission, or shipment of species determined to be endangered or threatened species pursuant to the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act shall be void to the extent that it may effectively (a) permit that which is prohibited by the act or by any regulation which implements the act or (b) prohibit that which is authorized pursuant to an exemption or permit provided for in the act or in any regulation which implements the act. The Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act shall not otherwise be construed to void any law, regulation, or ordinance of any political subdivision of this state which is intended to conserve wildlife or wild plants.

Sec. 20. Section 46-2,109, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-2,109 Each natural resources district and the Game and Parks Commission shall conduct studies to identify specific stream segments which the district or commission considers to have a critical need for instream flows. Such studies shall quantify the instream flow needs in the identified stream segments. Any district or the Game and Parks Commission may request the assistance of the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, the Game and Parks Commission, the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, the Department of Natural Resources, or any other state agency in order to comply with this section.

Sec. 21. Section 46-2,139, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

46-2,139 The Storm Water Management Plan Program is created. The purpose of the program is to facilitate and fund the duties of cities and counties under the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., as such act existed on January 1, 2006, regarding storm water runoff under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements. The Storm Water Management Plan Program shall function as a grant program administered by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, using funds appropriated for the program. The department shall deduct from funds appropriated amounts sufficient to reimburse itself for its costs of administration of the grant program. Any city or county when applying for a grant under the program shall have a storm water management plan approved by the department which meets the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Grant applications

shall be made to the department on forms prescribed by the department. Grant funds shall be distributed by the department as follows:

(1) Not less than eighty percent of the funds available for grants under this section shall be provided to cities and counties in urbanized areas, as identified in 77 Federal Register 18652-18669, that apply for grants and meet the requirements of this section. Grants made pursuant to this subdivision shall be distributed proportionately based on the population of applicants within such category, as determined by the most recent federal census update or recount certified by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. For the purpose of distributing grant funds to a county pursuant to this subdivision, the proportion shall be based on the county population, less the population of city applicants within that county. Any funds available for grants under this subdivision and not awarded by the end of a calendar year shall be available for grants in the following year; and

(2) Not more than twenty percent of the funds available for grants under this section shall be provided to cities and counties outside of urbanized areas, as identified in 77 Federal Register 18652-18669, with populations greater than ten thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal census update or recount certified by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, that apply for grants and meet the requirements of this section. Grants under this subdivision shall be distributed proportionately based on the population of applicants within this category as determined by the most recent federal census update or recount certified by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. For the purpose of distributing grant funds to a county pursuant to this subdivision, the proportion shall be based on the county population, less the population of city applicants within that county. Any funds available for grants pursuant to this subdivision which have not been awarded at the end of each calendar year shall be available for awarding grants pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section.

Any city or county receiving a grant under subdivision (1) or (2) of this section shall contribute matching funds equal to twenty percent of the grant amount.

Sec. 22. Section 46-602, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-602 (1) Each water well completed in this state on or after July 1, 2001, excluding test holes and dewatering wells to be used for less than ninety days, shall be registered with the Department of Natural Resources as provided in this section within sixty days after completion of construction of the water well. The licensed water well contractor as defined in section 46-1213 constructing the water well, or the owner of the water well if the owner constructed the water well, shall file the registration on a form made available by the department and shall also file with the department the information from the well log required pursuant to section 46-1241. The department shall, by January 1, 2002, provide licensed water well contractors with the option of filing such registration forms electronically. No signature shall be required on forms filed electronically. The fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224 shall be the source of funds for any required fee to a contractor which provides the online services for such registration. Any discount in the amount paid the state by a credit card, charge card, or debit card company or a third-party merchant bank for such registration fees shall be deducted from the portion of the registration fee collected pursuant to section 46-1224.

(2)(a) If the newly constructed water well is a replacement water well, the registration form shall include (i) the registration number of the water well being replaced, if applicable, and (ii) the date the original water well was decommissioned or a certification that the water well will be decommissioned within one hundred eighty days or a certification that the original water well will be modified and equipped to pump fifty gallons per minute or less and will be used only for livestock, monitoring, observation, or any other nonconsumptive use or de minimis use approved by the applicable natural resources district.

(b) For purposes of this section, replacement water well means a water well which is constructed to provide water for the same purpose as the original water well and is operating in accordance with any applicable permit from the department and any applicable rules and regulations of the natural resources district and, if the purpose is for irrigation, the replacement water well delivers water to the same tract of land served by the original water well and (i) replaces a decommissioned water well within one hundred eighty days after the decommissioning of the original water well, (ii) replaces a water well that has not been decommissioned but will not be used after construction of the new water well and the original water well will be decommissioned within one hundred eighty days after such construction, except that in the case of a municipal water well, the original municipal water well may be used after construction of the new water well but shall be decommissioned within one year after completion of the replacement water well, or (iii) the original water well will continue to be used but will be modified and equipped within one hundred eighty days after such construction of the replacement water well to pump fifty gallons per minute or less and will be used only for livestock, monitoring, observation, or any other nonconsumptive or de minimis use approved by the applicable natural resources district.

(c) No water well shall be registered as a replacement water well until the Department of Natural Resources has received a properly completed notice of decommissioning for the water well being replaced on a form made available by

the department, or properly completed notice, prepared in accordance with subsection (7) of this section, of the modification and equipping of the original water well to pump fifty gallons per minute or less for use only for livestock, monitoring, observation, or any other nonconsumptive or de minimis use approved by the applicable natural resources district. Such notices, as required, shall be completed by (i) the licensed water well contractor as defined in section 46-1213 who decommissions the water well or modifies and equips the water well, (ii) the licensed pump installation contractor as defined in section 46-1209 who decommissions the water well or modifies and equips the water well, or (iii) the owner if the owner decommissions a driven sandpoint well which is on land owned by him or her for farming, ranching, or agricultural purposes or as his or her place of abode. The Department of Health and Human Services shall, by rule and regulation, determine which contractor or owner shall be responsible for such notice in situations in which more than one contractor or owner may be required to provide notice under this subsection.

(3) For a series of two or more water wells completed and pumped into a common carrier as part of a single site plan for irrigation purposes, a registration form and a detailed site plan shall be filed for each water well. The registration form shall include the registration numbers of other water wells included in the series if such water wells are already registered.

(4) A series of water wells completed for purposes of installation of a ground heat exchanger for a structure for utilizing the geothermal properties of the ground shall be considered as one water well. One registration form and a detailed site plan shall be filed for each such series.

(5) One registration form shall be required along with a detailed site plan which shows the location of each such water well in the site and a log from each such water well for water wells constructed as part of a single site plan for (a) monitoring ground water, obtaining hydrogeologic information, or extracting contaminants from the ground, (b) water wells constructed as part of remedial action approved by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ pursuant to section 66-1525, 66-1529.02, or 81-15,124, and (c) water well owners who have a permit issued pursuant to the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act and also have an underground injection control permit issued by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

(6) The Department of Natural Resources shall be notified by the owner of any change in the ownership of a water well required to be registered under this section. Notification shall be in such form and include such evidence of ownership as the Director of Natural Resources by rule and regulation directs. The department shall use such notice to update the registration on file. The department shall not collect a fee for the filing of the notice.

(7) The licensed water well contractor or licensed pump installation contractor responsible therefor shall notify the department within sixty days on a form provided by the department of any pump installation or any modifications to the construction of the water well or pump, after the initial registration of the well. For a change of use resulting in modification and equipping of an original water well which is being replaced in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, the licensed water well contractor or licensed pump installation contractor shall notify the department within sixty days on a form provided by the department of the water well and pump modifications and equipping of the original water well. A water well owner shall notify the department within sixty days on a form provided by the department of any other changes or any inaccuracies in recorded water well information, including, but not limited to, changes in use. The department shall not collect a fee for the filing of the notice.

(8) Whenever a water well becomes an illegal water well as defined in section 46-706, the owner of the water well shall either correct the deficiency that causes the well to be an illegal water well or shall cause the proper decommissioning of the water well in accordance with rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act. The licensed water well contractor who decommissions the water well, the licensed pump installation contractor who decommissions the water well, or the owner if the owner decommissions a driven sandpoint well which is on land owned by him or her for farming, ranching, or agricultural purposes or as his or her place of abode, shall provide a properly completed notice of decommissioning to the Department of Natural Resources within sixty days. The Department of Health and Human Services shall, by rule and regulation, determine which contractor or owner shall be responsible for such notice in situations in which more than one contractor or owner may be required to provide notice under this subsection. The Department of Natural Resources shall not collect a fee for the filing of the notice.

(9) Except for water wells which are used solely for domestic purposes and were constructed before September 9, 1993, and for test holes and dewatering wells used for less than ninety days, each water well which was completed in this state before July 1, 2001, and which is not registered on that date shall be an illegal water well until it is registered with the Department of Natural Resources. Such registration shall be completed by a licensed water well contractor or by the current owner of the water well, shall be on forms provided by the department, and shall provide as much of the information required by subsections (1) through (5) of this section for registration of a new water well as is possible at the time of registration.

(10) Water wells which are or were used solely for injecting any fluid other than water into the underground water reservoir, which were constructed

before July 16, 2004, and which have not been properly decommissioned on or before July 16, 2004, shall be registered on or before July 1, 2005.

(11) Water wells described in subdivision (1)(b) of section 46-601.01 shall be registered with the Department of Natural Resources as provided in subsection (1) of this section within sixty days after the water well is constructed. Water wells described in subdivision (1)(b) of section 46-601.01 which were constructed prior to May 2, 2007, shall be registered within one hundred eighty days after such date.

Sec. 23. Section 46-606, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-606 (1) The Director of Natural Resources shall collect in advance a registration fee of forty dollars and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224 for each water well registered under section 46-602 except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) of this section.

(2) For water wells permitted pursuant to the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act, the director shall collect in advance a registration fee of forty dollars and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224 for each of the first ten such water wells registered under section 46-602, and for each group of ten or fewer such water wells registered thereafter, the director shall collect in advance a registration fee of forty dollars and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224.

(3) For a series of water wells completed for purposes of installation of a ground heat exchanger for a structure for utilizing the geothermal properties of the ground, the director shall collect in advance a fee of forty dollars for each such series and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224.

(4) For water wells constructed as part of a single site plan for monitoring ground water, obtaining hydrogeologic information, or extracting contaminants from the ground, the director shall collect in advance a registration fee of forty dollars and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224 for each of the first five such water wells registered under section 46-602, and for each group of five or fewer such water wells registered thereafter, the director shall collect in advance a registration fee of forty dollars and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224. However, if such water wells are a part of remedial action approved by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality pursuant to section 66-1525, 66-1529.02, or 81-15,124, the fee set pursuant to this subsection shall be collected as if only one water well was being registered and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224 shall be collected.

(5)(a) For a series of two or more water wells completed and pumped into a common carrier as part of a single site plan for irrigation purposes, the director shall collect in advance a registration fee of forty dollars and the fee required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224 for each of the first two such wells registered under section 46-602.

(b) Any additional water wells which are part of a series registered under this subsection shall not be subject to a new well registration fee.

(6) The director shall remit the fees collected to the State Treasurer for credit to the appropriate fund. From the registration fees required by subsections (1) through (5) of this section, the State Treasurer shall credit to the Department of Natural Resources Cash Fund the amount determined by the Department of Natural Resources to be necessary to pay for the costs of processing notices filed pursuant to section 46-230, the costs of water resources update notices required by section 76-2,124, and the costs for making corrections to water well registration data authorized by subsections (6) and (7) of section 46-602 and shall credit the remainder of the registration fees required by subsections (1) through (5) of this section to the Water Well Decommissioning Fund. The State Treasurer shall credit the fees required by subsection (3) of section 46-1224 to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Fund.

Sec. 24. Section 46-683.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

46-683.01 If during construction or operation a permitholder determines (1) that an additional amount of water is or will be required for the proposed use set forth in a permit issued pursuant to section 46-683 or (2) that there is a need to amend any condition set forth in the permit, the permitholder may file an application to amend the permit. Following a hearing conducted in the manner prescribed by section 46-680, the director shall issue a written order containing specific findings of fact either granting or denying the proposed amendment in accordance with the public interest considerations enumerated in section 46-683. An application to amend a permit shall not be approved if the amendment would increase the daily peak withdrawal or the annual volume by more than twenty-five percent from the amounts approved in the original permit, except for an amendment to increase the maximum daily volumetric flow rate or annual volume to levels authorized under a permit issued by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality pursuant to section 81-1504 and subsection (9) of section 81-1505.

Sec. 25. Section 46-704, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-704 The Legislature also finds that:

(1) The levels of nitrate nitrogen and other contaminants in ground water in certain areas of the state are increasing;

(2) Long-term solutions should be implemented and efforts should be made to prevent the levels of ground water contaminants from becoming too high and to reduce high levels sufficiently to eliminate health hazards;

(3) Agriculture has been very productive and should continue to be an important industry to the State of Nebraska;

(4) Natural resources districts have the legal authority to regulate certain activities and, as local entities, are the preferred regulators of activities which may contribute to ground water contamination in both urban and rural areas;

(5) The Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality should be given authority to regulate sources of contamination when necessary to prevent serious deterioration of ground water quality;

(6) The powers given to districts and the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality should be used to stabilize, reduce, and prevent the increase or spread of ground water contamination; and

(7) There is a need to provide for the orderly management of ground water quality in areas where available data, evidence, and other information indicate that present or potential ground water conditions require the designation of such areas as management areas.

Sec. 26. Section 46-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-705 Nothing in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act shall be construed to limit the powers of the Department of Health and Human Services provided in the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act.

Nothing in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act relating to the contamination of ground water is intended to limit the powers of the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality provided in Chapter 81, article 15.

Sec. 27. Section 46-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-706 For purposes of the Municipal and Rural Domestic Ground Water Transfers Permit Act, the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, and sections 46-601 to 46-613.02, 46-636, 46-637, and 46-651 to 46-655, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Person means a natural person, a partnership, a limited liability company, an association, a corporation, a municipality, an irrigation district, an agency or a political subdivision of the state, or a department, an agency, or a bureau of the United States;

(2) Ground water means that water which occurs in or moves, seeps, filters, or percolates through ground under the surface of the land;

(3) Contamination or contamination of ground water means nitrate nitrogen or other material which enters the ground water due to action of any person and causes degradation of the quality of ground water sufficient to make such ground water unsuitable for present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial uses;

(4) District means a natural resources district operating pursuant to Chapter 2, article 32;

(5) Illegal water well means (a) any water well operated or constructed without or in violation of a permit required by the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, (b) any water well not in compliance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the act, (c) any water well not properly registered in accordance with sections 46-602 to 46-604, or (d) any water well not in compliance with any other applicable laws of the State of Nebraska or with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to such laws;

(6) To commence construction of a water well means the beginning of the boring, drilling, jetting, digging, or excavating of the actual water well from which ground water is to be withdrawn;

(7) Management area means any area so designated by a district pursuant to section 46-712 or 46-718, by the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality pursuant to section 46-725, or by the Interrelated Water Review Board pursuant to section 46-719. Management area includes a control area or a special ground water quality protection area designated prior to July 19, 1996;

(8) Management plan means a ground water management plan developed by a district and submitted to the Director of Natural Resources for review pursuant to section 46-711;

(9) Ground water reservoir life goal means the finite or infinite period of time which a district establishes as its goal for maintenance of the supply and quality of water in a ground water reservoir at the time a ground water management plan is adopted;

(10) Board means the board of directors of a district;

(11) Acre-inch means the amount of water necessary to cover an acre of land one inch deep;

(12) Subirrigation or subirrigated land means the natural occurrence of a ground water table within the root zone of agricultural vegetation, not exceeding ten feet below the surface of the ground;

(13) Best management practices means schedules of activities, maintenance procedures, and other management practices utilized for purposes of irrigation efficiency, to conserve or effect a savings of ground water, or to prevent or reduce present and future contamination of ground water. Best management practices relating to contamination of ground water may include, but not be limited to, irrigation scheduling, proper rate and timing of fertilizer application, and other fertilizer and pesticide management programs. In determining the rate of fertilizer application, the district shall consult with the University of Nebraska or a certified crop advisor certified by the American Society of Agronomy;

(14) Point source means any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, vessel, other floating craft, or other conveyance, over which the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ has regulatory authority and from which a substance which can cause or contribute to contamination of ground water is or may be discharged;

(15) Allocation, as it relates to water use for irrigation purposes, means the allotment of a specified total number of acre-inches of irrigation water per irrigated acre per year or an average number of acre-inches of irrigation water per irrigated acre over any reasonable period of time;

(16) Rotation means a recurring series of use and nonuse of irrigation wells on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly basis;

(17) Water well has the same meaning as in section 46-601.01;

(18) Surface water project sponsor means an irrigation district created pursuant to Chapter 46, article 1, a reclamation district created pursuant to Chapter 46, article 5, or a public power and irrigation district created pursuant to Chapter 70, article 6;

(19) Beneficial use means that use by which water may be put to use to the benefit of humans or other species;

(20) Consumptive use means the amount of water that is consumed under appropriate and reasonably efficient practices to accomplish without waste the purposes for which the appropriation or other legally permitted use is lawfully made;

(21) Dewatering well means a well constructed and used solely for the purpose of lowering the ground water table elevation;

(22) Emergency situation means any set of circumstances that requires the use of water from any source that might otherwise be regulated or prohibited and the agency, district, or organization responsible for regulating water use from such source reasonably and in good faith believes that such use is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, including, if applicable, compliance with federal or state water quality standards;

(23) Good cause shown means a reasonable justification for granting a variance for a consumptive use of water that would otherwise be prohibited by rule or regulation and which the granting agency, district, or organization reasonably and in good faith believes will provide an economic, environmental, social, or public health and safety benefit that is equal to or greater than the benefit resulting from the rule or regulation from which a variance is sought;

(24) Historic consumptive use means the amount of water that has previously been consumed under appropriate and reasonably efficient practices to accomplish without waste the purposes for which the appropriation or other legally permitted use was lawfully made;

(25) Monitoring well means a water well that is designed and constructed to provide ongoing hydrologic or water quality information and is not intended for consumptive use;

(26) Order, except as otherwise specifically provided, includes any order required by the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, by rule or regulation, or by a decision adopted by a district by vote of the board of directors of the district taken at any regularly scheduled or specially scheduled meeting of the board;

(27) Overall difference between the current and fully appropriated levels of development means the extent to which existing uses of hydrologically connected surface water and ground water and conservation activities result in the water supply available for purposes identified in subsection (3) of section 46-713 to be less than the water supply available if the river basin, subbasin, or reach had been determined to be fully appropriated in accordance with section 46-714;

(28) Test hole means a hole designed solely for the purposes of obtaining information on hydrologic or geologic conditions;

(29) Variance means (a) an approval to deviate from a restriction imposed under subsection (1), (2), (8), or (9) of section 46-714 or (b) the approval to act in a manner contrary to existing rules or regulations from a governing body whose rule or regulation is otherwise applicable;

(30) Certified irrigated acres means the number of acres or portion of an acre that a natural resources district has approved for irrigation from ground water in accordance with law and with rules adopted by the district; and

(31) Certified water uses means beneficial uses of ground water for purposes other than irrigation identified by a district pursuant to rules adopted by the district.

Sec. 28. Section 46-707, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

46-707 (1) Regardless of whether or not any portion of a district has been designated as a management area, in order to administer and enforce the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act and to effectuate the policy of the state to conserve ground water resources, a district may:

(a) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to discharge the administrative duties assigned in the act;

(b) Require such reports from ground water users as may be necessary;

(c) Require the reporting of water uses and irrigated acres by landowners and others with control over the water uses and irrigated acres for the purpose of certification by the district;

(d) Require meters to be placed on any water wells for the purpose of

acquiring water use data;

(e) Require decommissioning of water wells that are not properly classified as active status water wells as defined in section 46-1204.02 or inactive status water wells as defined in section 46-1207.02;

(f) Conduct investigations and cooperate or contract with agencies of the United States, agencies or political subdivisions of this state, public or private corporations, or any association or individual on any matter relevant to the administration of the act;

(g) Report to and consult with the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ on all matters concerning the entry of contamination or contaminating materials into ground water supplies; and

(h) Issue cease and desist orders, following three days' notice to the person affected stating the contemplated action and in general the grounds for the action and following reasonable opportunity to be heard, to enforce any of the provisions of the act or of orders or permits issued pursuant to the act, to initiate suits to enforce the provisions of orders issued pursuant to the act, and to restrain the construction of illegal water wells or the withdrawal or use of water from illegal water wells.

Before any rule or regulation is adopted pursuant to this subsection, a public hearing shall be held within the district. Notice of the hearing shall be given as provided in section 46-743.

(2) In addition to the powers enumerated in subsection (1) of this section, a district may impose an immediate temporary stay for a period of one hundred eighty days on the construction of any new water well and on any increase in the number of acres historically irrigated, without prior notice or hearing, upon adoption of a resolution by the board finding that such temporary immediate stay is necessary. The district shall hold at least one public hearing on the matter within the district during such one hundred eighty days, with the notice of the hearing given as provided in section 46-743, prior to making a determination as to imposing a permanent stay or conditions in accordance with subsections (1) and (6) of section 46-739. Within forty-five days after a hearing pursuant to this subsection, the district shall decide whether to exempt from the immediate temporary stay the construction of water wells for which permits were issued prior to the date of the resolution commencing the stay but for which construction had not begun prior to such date. If construction of such water wells is allowed, all permits that were valid when the stay went into effect shall be extended by a time period equal to the length of the stay and such water wells shall otherwise be completed in accordance with section 46-738. Water wells listed in subsection (3) of section 46-714 and water wells of public water suppliers are exempt from this subsection.

(3) In addition to the powers enumerated in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, a district may assess a fee against a person requesting a variance to cover the administrative cost of consideration of the variance, including, but not limited to, costs of copying records and the cost of publishing a notice in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties of the district, radio announcements, or other means of communication deemed necessary in the area where the property is located.

Sec. 29. Section 46-711, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-711 (1) The Director of Natural Resources shall review any ground water management plan or plan modification submitted by a district to ensure that the best available studies, data, and information, whether previously existing or newly initiated, were utilized and considered and that such plan is supported by and is a reasonable application of such information. If a management area is proposed and the primary purpose of the proposed management area is protection of water quality, the director shall consult with the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ regarding approval or denial of the management plan. The director shall consult with the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska and such other state or federal agencies the director shall deem necessary when reviewing plans. Within ninety days after receipt of a plan, the director shall transmit his or her specific findings, conclusions, and reasons for approval or disapproval to the district submitting the plan.

(2) If the Director of Natural Resources disapproves a ground water management plan, the district which submitted the plan shall, in order to establish a management area, submit to the director either the original or a revised plan with an explanation of how the original or revised plan addresses the issues raised by the director in his or her reasons for disapproval. Once a district has submitted an explanation pursuant to this section, such district may proceed to schedule a hearing pursuant to section 46-712.

Sec. 30. Section 46-721, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-721 Each state agency and political subdivision shall promptly report to the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ any information which indicates that contamination is occurring.

Sec. 31. Section 46-722, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-722 If, as a result of information provided pursuant to section 46-721 or studies conducted by or otherwise available to the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and following preliminary investigation, the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ makes a preliminary determination (1) that there is reason to believe that contamination of ground

water is occurring or likely to occur in an area of the state in the reasonably foreseeable future and (2) that the natural resources district or districts in which the area is located have not designated a management area or have not implemented adequate controls to prevent such contamination from occurring, the department shall, in cooperation with any appropriate state agency and district, conduct a study to determine the source or sources of the contamination and the area affected by such contamination and shall issue a written report within one year of the initiation of the study. During the study, the department shall consider the relevant water quality portions of the management plan developed by each district pursuant to sections 46-709 to 46-711, whether the district has designated a management area encompassing the area studied, and whether the district has adopted any controls for the area.

Sec. 32. Section 46-723, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-723 If the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality determines from the study conducted pursuant to section 46-722 that one or more sources of contamination are point sources, he or she shall expeditiously use the procedures authorized in the Environmental Protection Act to stabilize or reduce the level and prevent the increase or spread of such contamination.

Sec. 33. Section 46-724, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-724 If the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality determines from the study conducted pursuant to section 46-722 that one or more sources of contamination are not point sources and if a management area, a purpose of which is protection of water quality, has been established which includes the affected area, the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall consider whether to require the district which established the management area to adopt an action plan as provided in sections 46-725 to 46-729.

If the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality determines that one or more of the sources are not point sources and if such a management area has not been established or does not include all the affected area, he or she shall, within thirty days after completion of the report required by section 46-722, consult with the district within whose boundaries the area affected by such contamination is located and fix a time and place for a public hearing to consider the report, hear any other evidence, and secure testimony on whether a management area should be designated or whether an existing area should be modified. The hearing shall be held within one hundred twenty days after completion of the report. Notice of the hearing shall be given as provided in section 46-743, and the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with such section.

At the hearing, all interested persons shall be allowed to appear and present testimony. The Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Natural Resources, and the appropriate district may offer as evidence any information in their possession which they deem relevant to the purpose of the hearing. After the hearing and after any studies or investigations conducted by or on behalf of the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality as he or she deems necessary, the director shall determine whether a management area shall be designated.

Sec. 34. Section 46-725, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-725 (1) When determining whether to designate or modify the boundaries of a management area or to require a district which has established a management area, a purpose of which is protection of water quality, to adopt an action plan for the affected area, the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall consider:

(a) Whether contamination of ground water has occurred or is likely to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future;

(b) Whether ground water users, including, but not limited to, domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural users, are experiencing or will experience within the foreseeable future substantial economic hardships as a direct result of current or reasonably anticipated activities which cause or contribute to contamination of ground water;

(c) Whether methods are available to stabilize or reduce the level of contamination;

(d) Whether, if a management area has been established which includes the affected area, the controls adopted by the district pursuant to section 46-739 as administered and enforced by the district are sufficient to address the ground water quality issues in the management area; and

(e) Administrative factors directly affecting the ability to implement and carry out regulatory activities.

(2) If the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality determines that no such area should be established, he or she shall issue an order declaring that no management area shall be designated.

(3) If the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality determines that a management area shall be established, that the boundaries of an existing management area shall be modified, or that the district shall be required to adopt an action plan, he or she shall consult with relevant state agencies and with the district or districts affected and determine the boundaries of the area, taking into account the effect on political subdivisions and the socioeconomic and administrative factors directly affecting the ability to implement and carry out local ground water management,

control, and protection. The report by the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall include the specific reasons for the creation of the management area or the requirement of such an action plan and a full disclosure of the possible causes.

(4) When the boundaries of an area have been determined or modified, the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall issue an order designating the area as a management area, specifying the modified boundaries of the management area, or requiring such an action plan. Such an order shall include a geographic and stratigraphic definition of the area. Such order shall be published in the manner provided in section 46-744.

Sec. 35. Section 46-726, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-726 (1) Within one hundred eighty days after the designation of a management area or the requiring of an action plan for a management area, a purpose of which is protection of water quality, the district or districts within whose boundaries the area is located shall prepare an action plan designed to stabilize or reduce the level and prevent the increase or spread of ground water contamination. Whenever a management area or the affected area of such a management area encompasses portions of two or more districts, the responsibilities and authorities delegated in this section shall be exercised jointly and uniformly by agreement of the respective boards of all districts so affected.

(2) Within thirty days after an action plan has been prepared, a public hearing on such plan shall be held by the district. Notice of the hearing shall be given as provided in section 46-743, and the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with such section.

(3) Within thirty days after the hearing, the district shall adopt and submit an action plan to the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality. Notice of the district's order adopting an action plan shall be published as required by section 46-744.

Sec. 36. Section 46-728, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-728 (1) In adopting or amending an action plan authorized by subsection (2) of this section, the district's considerations shall include, but not be limited to, whether it reasonably appears that such action will mitigate or eliminate the condition which led to designation of the management area or the requirement of an action plan for a management area or will improve the administration of the area.

(2) The Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall approve or deny the adoption or amendment of an action plan within one hundred twenty days after the date the plan is submitted by the district. He or she may hold a public hearing to consider testimony regarding the action plan prior to the issuance of an order approving or disapproving the adoption or amendment. In approving the adoption or amendment of the plan in such an area, considerations shall include, but not be limited to, those enumerated in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If the director denies approval of an action plan by the district, the order shall list the reason the action plan was not approved. A district may submit a revised action plan within sixty days after denial of its original action plan to the director for approval subject to section 46-731.

Sec. 37. Section 46-729, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-729 Following approval of the action plan by the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, the district shall cause a copy of the order adopted pursuant to section 46-728 to be published in the manner provided in section 46-744.

Sec. 38. Section 46-730, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-730 Each district in which a management area has been designated or an action plan for a management area has been required pursuant to section 46-725 shall, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, establish a program to monitor the quality of the ground water in the area and shall if appropriate provide each landowner or operator of an irrigation system with current information available with respect to fertilizer and chemical usage for the specific soil types present and cropping patterns used.

Sec. 39. Section 46-731, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-731 (1) The power to specify controls authorized by section 46-739 shall vest in the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality if (a) at the end of one hundred eighty days following the designation of a management area or the requiring of an action plan for a management area pursuant to section 46-725, a district encompassed in whole or in part by the management area has not completed and adopted an action plan, (b) a district does not submit a revised action plan within sixty days after denial of its original action plan, or (c) the district submits a revised action plan which is not approved by the director.

(2) If the power to specify controls in such a management area is vested in the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, he or she shall within ninety days adopt and promulgate by rule and regulation such measures as he or she deems necessary for carrying out the intent of the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. He or she shall conduct one or more public hearings prior to the adoption of controls. Notice of any

such additional hearings shall be given in the manner provided in section 46-743. The enforcement of controls adopted pursuant to this section shall be the responsibility of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

Sec. 40. Section 46-732, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-732 The controls in the action plan approved by the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ pursuant to section 46-728 shall be exercised by the district for the period of time necessary to stabilize or reduce the level of contamination and prevent the increase or spread of ground water contamination. An action plan may be amended by the same method utilized in the adoption of the action plan.

Sec. 41. Section 46-733, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-733 A district may petition the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to remove the director's designation of the area as a management area or the requirement of an action plan for a management area or to modify the boundaries of a management area designated pursuant to section 46-725. If the director determines that the level of contamination in a management area has stabilized at or been reduced to a level which is not detrimental to beneficial uses of ground water, he or she may remove the designation or action plan requirement or modify the boundaries of the management area.

Sec. 42. Section 46-743, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-743 Any public hearing required under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) The hearing shall be located within or in reasonable proximity to the area proposed for designation as a management area or affected by the proposed rule or regulation;

(2) Notice of the hearing shall be published in a newspaper published or of general circulation in the affected area at least once each week for three consecutive weeks, the last publication of which shall be not less than seven days prior to the hearing;

(3) As to the designation of a management area, adoption or amendment of an action plan or integrated management plan, or adoption or amendment of controls, the notice shall provide, as applicable, a general description of (a) the contents of the plan, (b) the geographic area which will be considered for inclusion in the management area, and (c) a general description of all controls proposed for adoption or amendment and shall identify all locations where a copy of the full text of the proposed plan or controls may be obtained;

(4) For all other rules and regulations, the notice shall provide a general description of the contents of the rules and regulations proposed for adoption or amendment and shall identify all locations where a copy of the full text of the proposed rules and regulations may be obtained;

(5) The full text of all controls, rules, or regulations shall be available to the public upon request not later than the date of first publication;

(6) All interested persons shall be allowed to appear and present testimony; and

(7) The hearing shall include testimony of a representative of the Department of Natural Resources and, if the primary purpose of the proposed management area is protection of water quality, testimony of a representative of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and shall include the results of any relevant water quality studies or investigations conducted by the district.

Sec. 43. Section 46-749, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-749 In the administration of the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, all actions of the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the Director of Natural Resources, and the districts shall be consistent with the provisions of section 46-613.

Sec. 44. Section 46-750, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-750 Any person aggrieved by any order of the district, the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, or the Director of Natural Resources issued pursuant to the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act may appeal the order. The appeal shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sec. 45. Section 46-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-1102 The Legislature finds that the use of chemigation throughout the state is increasing and that, although chemigation provides a viable alternative to other means of chemical application, if an irrigation distribution system is not properly equipped or if a chemical is not used with proper precautions, there exists a potential to contaminate the water.

The Legislature also finds that complete information as to the occurrences and use of chemigation in this state is essential to the development of a sound state water management policy.

For these reasons, the Legislature deems it necessary to provide the natural resources districts and the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ with the authority to document, monitor, regulate, and enforce chemigation practices in Nebraska.

Sec. 46. Section 46-1108, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-1108 Department shall mean the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

Sec. 47. Section 46-1109, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-1109 Director shall mean the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

Sec. 48. Section 46-1217, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-1217 (1) There is hereby created a Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Board. The board shall be composed of ten members, six of whom shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: (a) A licensed water well contractor representing irrigation water well contractors, (b) a licensed water well contractor representing domestic water well contractors, (c) a licensed water well contractor representing municipal and industrial water well contractors, (d) a licensed pump installation contractor, (e) a manufacturer or supplier of water well or pumping equipment, and (f) a holder of a license issued under the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act employed by a natural resources district. The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designated representative, the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ or his or her designated representative, the Director of Natural Resources or his or her designated representative, and the director of the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska or his or her designated representative shall also serve as members of the board.

(2) Each member shall be a resident of the state. Each industry representative shall have had at least five years of experience in the business of his or her category prior to appointment and shall be actively engaged in such business at the time of appointment and while serving on the board. Each member representing a category subject to licensing under the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act shall be licensed by the department pursuant to such act. In making appointments, the Governor may consider recommendations made by the trade associations of each category.

Sec. 49. Section 46-1224, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

46-1224 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) through (4) of this section, the board shall set reasonable fees in an amount calculated to recover the costs incurred by the department and the board in administering and carrying out the purposes of the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act. Such fees shall be paid to the department and remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Fund, which fund is hereby created. Such fund shall be used by the department and the board for the purpose of administering the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act. Additionally, such fund shall be used to pay any required fee to a contractor which provides the online services for registration of water wells. Any discount in the amount paid the state by a credit card, charge card, or debit card company or a third-party merchant bank for such registration fees shall be deducted from the portion of the registration fee collected pursuant to this section. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(2) Fees for credentialing individuals under the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act shall be established and collected as provided in sections 38-151 to 38-157.

(3) The board shall set a fee of not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than forty dollars for each water well which is required to be registered and which is designed and constructed to pump fifty gallons per minute or less and each monitoring and observation well and a fee of not less than forty dollars and not more than eighty dollars for each water well which is required to be registered and which is designed and constructed to pump more than fifty gallons per minute. For water wells permitted pursuant to the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act, the fee set pursuant to this subsection shall be collected for each of the first ten such water wells registered, and for each group of ten or fewer such water wells registered thereafter, the fee shall be collected as if only one water well was being registered. For a series of two or more water wells completed and pumped into a common carrier, as defined in section 46-601.01, as part of a single site plan for irrigation purposes, the fee set pursuant to this subsection shall be collected for each of the first two such water wells registered. For a series of water wells completed for purposes of installation of a ground heat exchanger for a structure for utilizing the geothermal properties of the ground, the fee set pursuant to this subsection shall be collected as if only one water well was being registered. For water wells constructed as part of a single site plan for monitoring ground water, obtaining hydrogeologic information, or extracting contaminants from the ground and for water wells constructed as part of remedial action approved by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ pursuant to section 66-1525, 66-1529.02, or 81-15,124, the fee set pursuant to this subsection shall be collected for each of the first five such water wells registered, and for each group of five or fewer such water wells registered thereafter, the fee shall be collected as if only one water well was being registered. The fees shall be remitted to the Director of Natural Resources

with the registration form required by section 46-602 and shall be in addition to the fee in section 46-606. The director shall remit the fee to the State Treasurer for credit to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Fund.

(4) The board shall set an application fee for a declaratory ruling or variance of not less than fifty dollars and not more than one hundred dollars. The fee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Fund.

Sec. 50. Section 46-1301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-1301 The Legislature finds that (1) existing monitoring of ground water quality performed by natural resources districts is excellent and deserves recognition, (2) substantial efforts have been undertaken by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to monitor surface water quality, and (3) it is within the state's capacity to develop a comprehensive, integrated statewide water quality monitoring system.

Sec. 51. Section 46-1304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

46-1304 The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall prepare a report outlining the extent of ground water quality monitoring conducted by natural resources districts during the preceding calendar year. The department shall analyze the data collected for the purpose of determining whether or not ground water quality is degrading or improving and shall present the results electronically to the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature beginning December 1, 2001, and each year thereafter. The districts shall submit in a timely manner all ground water quality monitoring data collected to the department or its designee. The department shall use the data submitted by the districts in conjunction with all other readily available and compatible data for the purposes of the annual ground water quality trend analysis.

Sec. 52. Section 46-1502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-1502 For purposes of the Wellhead Protection Area Act:

(1) Controlling entity means a city, a village, a natural resources district, a rural water district, any other entity, including, but not limited to, a privately owned public water supply system, or any combination thereof operating under an agreement pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or the Joint Public Agency Act that operates a public water supply system;

(2) Department means the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~;

(3) Director means the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~; and

(4) Wellhead protection area means the surface and subsurface area surrounding a water well or well field, supplying a public water system, through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach such water well or well field.

Sec. 53. Section 46-1642, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

46-1642 An applicant for a permit for a livestock waste control facility which includes a dam, holding pond, or lagoon for which approval by the Department of Natural Resources is not otherwise required but for which approval by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ under section 54-2429 is required shall submit an application for approval along with plans, drawings, and specifications to the Department of Natural Resources and obtain approval from the Department of Natural Resources before beginning construction. The Department of Natural Resources shall approve or deny the dam, holding pond, or lagoon pursuant to this section within sixty days after such application is submitted.

Sec. 54. Section 49-506, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

49-506 After the Secretary of State has made the distribution provided by section 49-503, he or she shall deliver additional copies of the session laws and the journal of the Legislature pursuant to this section in print or electronic format as he or she determines, upon recommendation by the Clerk of the Legislature and approval of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

One copy of the session laws shall be delivered to the Lieutenant Governor, the State Treasurer, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, the State Court Administrator, the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Banking and Finance, the State Department of Education, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the Department of Insurance, the Department of Labor, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Natural Resources, the Military Department, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, each of the Nebraska state colleges, the Game and Parks Commission, the Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, the Public Service Commission, the State Real Estate Commission, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Public Employees Retirement Board, the Risk Manager, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Public Counsel, the materiel division of the Department of Administrative Services, the State Records Administrator, the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services, the Tax

Equalization and Review Commission, the inmate library at all state penal and correctional institutions, the Commission on Public Advocacy, and the Library of Congress; two copies to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court, the Commission of Industrial Relations, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, one of which shall be for use by the community colleges; three copies to the Department of Health and Human Services; four copies to the Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse; five copies to the Attorney General; nine copies to the Revisor of Statutes; sixteen copies to the Supreme Court and the Legislative Council; and thirty-five copies to the University of Nebraska College of Law.

One copy of the journal of the Legislature shall be delivered to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Treasurer, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, the State Court Administrator, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Tax Equalization and Review Commission, the Commission on Public Advocacy, and the Library of Congress; two copies to the Secretary of State, the Commission of Industrial Relations, and the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court; four copies to the Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse; five copies to the Attorney General and the Revisor of Statutes; eight copies to the Clerk of the Legislature; thirteen copies to the Supreme Court and the Legislative Council; and thirty-five copies to the University of Nebraska College of Law. The remaining copies shall be delivered to the State Librarian who shall use the same, so far as required for exchange purposes, in building up the State Library and in the manner specified in sections 49-507 to 49-509.

Sec. 55. Section 54-703, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

54-703 (1) The Department of Agriculture and all inspectors and persons appointed and authorized to assist in the work of the department shall enforce the Exotic Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act and sections 54-701 to 54-753.05 and 54-797 to 54-7,103 as designated.

(2) The department and any officer, agent, employee, or appointee of the department shall have the right to enter upon the premises of any person who has, or is suspected of having, any animal thereon, including any premises where the carcass or carcasses of dead livestock may be found or where a facility for the disposal or storage of dead livestock is located, for the purpose of making any and all inspections, examinations, tests, and treatments of such animal, to inspect livestock carcass disposal practices, and to declare, carry out, and enforce any and all quarantines.

(3) The department, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and the Department of Health and Human Services, may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations reflecting best management practices for the burial of carcasses of dead livestock.

(4) The Department of Agriculture may further adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to promptly and efficiently enforce and effectuate the general purpose and provisions of sections 54-701 to 54-753.05 and 54-797 to 54-7,103.

Sec. 56. Section 54-744.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

54-744.01 (1) Livestock carcasses may be disposed of in a research or demonstration facility for innovative livestock disposal methods registered with the Department of Agriculture, except that a research or demonstration facility of liquefaction shall not be registered under this section and liquefaction shall not be permitted as a method of livestock disposal. The registration of a facility under this section shall contain a description of the facility, the location and proposed duration of the research or demonstration, and a description of the method of disposal to be utilized. The department may register up to five such research or demonstration facilities conducted in conjunction with private livestock operations which meet all of the following conditions:

(a) The project is designed and conducted by one or more research faculty of the University of Nebraska;

(b) The project does not duplicate other research or demonstration projects;

(c) The project sponsors submit annual reports on the project and a final report at the conclusion of the project;

(d) The project employs adequate safeguards against disease transmission or environmental contamination; and

(e) The project meets any other conditions deemed prudent by the director.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department register at least one research or demonstration facility for innovative livestock disposal methods which shall be located upon the premises of an animal feeding operation as defined in section 54-2417. Before registering such facility, the department shall first consult with the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Agriculture may revoke the registration of the facility at any time if the director has reason to believe that the facility no longer meets the conditions for registration.

(3) Only the carcasses of livestock that have died upon the animal feeding operation premises where a research or demonstration facility for innovative livestock disposal methods is located may be disposed of at such facility. Carcasses from other locations shall not be transported to such facility for disposal.

(4) A facility registered under this section is exempt from the

requirements for disposal of solid waste under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act.

Sec. 57. Section 54-2417, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

54-2417 For purposes of the Livestock Waste Management Act:

(1) Animal feeding operation means a location where beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, swine, sheep, poultry, or other livestock have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of forty-five days or more in any twelve-month period and crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the location. Two or more animal feeding operations under common ownership are deemed to be a single animal feeding operation if they are adjacent to each other or if they utilize a common area or system for the disposal of livestock waste. Animal feeding operation does not include aquaculture as defined in section 2-3804.01;

(2) Best management practices means schedules of activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures, and other management practices found to be the most effective methods based on the best available technology achievable for specific sites to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state and control odor where appropriate. Best management practices also includes operating procedures and practices to control site runoff, spillage, leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage;

(3) Construct means the initiation of physical onsite activities;

(4) Construction and operating permit means the state permit to construct and operate a livestock waste control facility, including conditions imposed on the livestock waste control facility and the associated animal feeding operation;

(5) Construction approval means an approval issued prior to December 1, 2006, by the department allowing construction of a livestock waste control facility;

(6) Council means the Environmental Quality Council;

(7) Department means the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~;

(8) Discharge means the spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping of pollutants into any waters of the state or in a place which will likely reach waters of the state;

(9) Existing livestock waste control facility means a livestock waste control facility in existence prior to April 15, 1998, that does not hold a permit and which has requested an inspection prior to January 1, 2000;

(10) Livestock waste control facility means any structure or combination of structures utilized to control livestock waste at an animal feeding operation until it can be used, recycled, or disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner. Such structures include, but are not limited to, diversion terraces, holding ponds, debris basins, liquid manure storage pits, lagoons, and other such devices utilized to control livestock waste;

(11) Major modification means an expansion or increase to the lot area or feeding area; change in the location of the animal feeding operation; change in the methods of waste treatment, waste storage, or land application of waste; increase in the number of animals; change in animal species; or change in the size or location of the livestock waste control facility;

(12) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit means either a general permit or an individual permit issued by the department pursuant to subsection (11) of section 81-1505. A general permit authorizes categories of disposal practices or livestock waste control facilities and covers a geographic area corresponding to existing geographic or political boundaries, though it may exclude specified areas from coverage. General permits are limited to the same or similar types of animal feeding operations or livestock waste control facilities which require the same or similar monitoring and, in the opinion of the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, are more appropriately controlled under a general permit than under an individual permit;

(13) New animal feeding operation means an animal feeding operation constructed after July 16, 2004;

(14) New livestock waste control facility means any livestock waste control facility for which a construction permit, an operating permit, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, a construction approval, or a construction and operating permit, or an application therefor, is submitted on or after April 15, 1998;

(15) Operating permit means a permit issued prior to December 1, 2006, by the department after the completion of the livestock waste control facility in accordance with the construction approval and the submittal of a completed certification form to the department;

(16) Person has the same meaning as in section 81-1502; and

(17) Waters of the state has the same meaning as in section 81-1502.

Sec. 58. Section 54-2421, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

54-2421 A map delineating segments and watershed boundaries for cold water class A streams, as designated prior to May 25, 1999, and prepared by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and the Department of Natural Resources, shall be maintained by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and used by the department for determinations made concerning cold water class A streams and stream watersheds under the Livestock Waste Management Act unless changed by the council. Beginning on May 25, 1999,

the council may designate and may redesignate previously designated waters of this state as cold water class A streams for purposes of the act based on the determination by the council that the waters provide or could provide habitat of sufficient water volume or flow, water quality, substrate composition, and water temperature capable of maintaining year-round populations of cold water biota, including reproduction of a salmonoid (trout) population. The council shall not designate or redesignate a stream as a cold water class A stream unless the stream has supported the reproduction of a salmonoid (trout) population within the previous five years. The department shall revise and maintain the cold water class A stream and stream watershed map to incorporate all designations and redesignations of the council.

Sec. 59. Section 54-2429, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

54-2429 (1) An applicant for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or a construction and operating permit under the Environmental Protection Act or the Livestock Waste Management Act shall, before issuance by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, obtain any necessary approvals from the Department of Natural Resources under the Safety of Dams and Reservoirs Act and certify such approvals to the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality. The Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, with the concurrence of the Department of Natural Resources, may require the applicant to obtain approval from the Department of Natural Resources for any dam, holding pond, or lagoon structure which would not otherwise require approval under the Safety of Dams and Reservoirs Act but which in the event of a failure could result in a significant discharge into waters of the state and have a significant impact on the environment. The Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality may provide for the payment of such costs of the Department of Natural Resources with revenue generated under section 54-2428.

(2) An applicant required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit is subject to the requirements of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.

(3) An applicant who has a large concentrated animal feeding operation, as defined in 40 C.F.R. 122 and 123, as such regulations existed on January 1, 2004, and who is required to obtain a construction and operating permit is subject to the requirements of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.

(4) An applicant who has a small or medium animal feeding operation, as defined in 40 C.F.R. 122 and 123, as such regulations existed on January 1, 2004, and who is required to obtain a construction and operating permit, but not required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, is exempt from the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.

(5) The department may require an engineering evaluation or assessment performed by a licensed professional engineer for a livestock waste control facility if after an inspection: (a) The department determines that the facility has (i) visible signs of structural breakage below the permanent pool, (ii) signs of discharge or proven discharge due to structural weakness, (iii) improper maintenance, or (iv) inadequate capacity; or (b) the department has reason to believe that an animal feeding operation with a livestock waste control facility has violated or threatens to violate the Environmental Protection Act, the Livestock Waste Management Act, or any rules or regulations adopted and promulgated under such acts. Animal feeding operations not required to have a permit under the Environmental Protection Act, the Livestock Waste Management Act, or the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to such acts are exempt from the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.

Sec. 60. Section 57-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

57-705 (1) All severance taxes levied by Chapter 57, article 7, shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner. He or she shall remit all such money received to the State Treasurer. All such money received by the State Treasurer shall be credited to a fund to be known as the Severance Tax Fund. An amount equal to one percent of the gross severance tax receipts, excluding those receipts from tax derived from oil and natural gas severed from school lands, credited to the fund shall be credited by the State Treasurer, upon the first day of each month, and shall inure to the Severance Tax Administration Fund to be used for the expenses of administering Chapter 57, article 7. Transfers may be made from the Severance Tax Administration Fund to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature. The balance of the Severance Tax Fund received from school lands shall be credited by the State Treasurer, upon the first day of each month, and shall inure to the permanent school fund.

(2) Of the balance of the Severance Tax Fund received from other than school lands (a) the Legislature may transfer an amount to be determined by the Legislature through the appropriations process up to three hundred thousand dollars for each year to the State Energy Office Cash Fund, (b) the Legislature may transfer an amount to be determined by the Legislature through the appropriations process up to thirty thousand dollars for each year to the Public Service Commission for administration of the Municipal Rate Negotiations Revolving Loan Fund, and (c) the remainder shall be credited and inure to the permanent school fund.

(3) The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the Severance Tax Administration Fund to the Department of Revenue Enforcement Fund on July 1, 2009, or as soon thereafter as administratively possible. The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the Severance Tax Administration Fund to the Department of Revenue

Enforcement Fund on July 1, 2010, or as soon thereafter as administratively possible.

Sec. 61. Section 57-1407, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

57-1407 (1) After receipt of an application under section 57-1405, the commission shall:

- (a) Within sixty days, schedule a public hearing;
- (b) Notify the pipeline carrier of the time, place, and purpose of the public hearing;
- (c) Publish a notice of the time, place, and purpose of the public hearing in at least one newspaper of general circulation in each county in which the major oil pipeline is to be constructed; and
- (d) Serve notice of the public hearing upon the governing bodies of the counties and municipalities through which the proposed route of the major oil pipeline would be located as specified in subdivision (2)(d) of section 57-1405.

(2) The commission may hold additional public meetings for the purpose of receiving input from the public at locations as close as practicable to the proposed route of the major oil pipeline. The commission shall make the public input part of the record.

(3) If requested by the commission, the following agencies shall file a report with the commission, prior to the hearing on the application, regarding information within the respective agencies' area of expertise relating to the impact of the major oil pipeline on any area within the respective agencies' jurisdiction, including in such report opinions regarding the advisability of approving, denying, or modifying the location of the proposed route of the major oil pipeline: The Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Transportation, the Game and Parks Commission, the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the State Fire Marshal, and the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. The agencies may submit a request for reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses incurred for any consultants hired pursuant to this subsection.

(4) An application under the Major Oil Pipeline Siting Act shall be approved if the proposed route of the major oil pipeline is determined by the Public Service Commission to be in the public interest. The pipeline carrier shall have the burden to establish that the proposed route of the major oil pipeline would serve the public interest. In determining whether the pipeline carrier has met its burden, the commission shall not evaluate safety considerations, including the risk or impact of spills or leaks from the major oil pipeline, but the commission shall evaluate:

- (a) Whether the pipeline carrier has demonstrated compliance with all applicable state statutes, rules, and regulations and local ordinances;
- (b) Evidence of the impact due to intrusion upon natural resources and not due to safety of the proposed route of the major oil pipeline to the natural resources of Nebraska, including evidence regarding the irreversible and irretrievable commitments of land areas and connected natural resources and the depletion of beneficial uses of the natural resources;
- (c) Evidence of methods to minimize or mitigate the potential impacts of the major oil pipeline to natural resources;
- (d) Evidence regarding the economic and social impacts of the major oil pipeline;
- (e) Whether any other utility corridor exists that could feasibly and beneficially be used for the route of the major oil pipeline;
- (f) The impact of the major oil pipeline on the orderly development of the area around the proposed route of the major oil pipeline;
- (g) The reports of the agencies filed pursuant to subsection (3) of this section; and
- (h) The views of the governing bodies of the counties and municipalities in the area around the proposed route of the major oil pipeline.

Sec. 62. Section 57-1502, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

57-1502 For purposes of sections 57-1501 to 57-1503:

(1) Department means the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality;

(2) Oil pipeline means a pipeline which is larger than eight inches in inside diameter and which is constructed in Nebraska for the transportation of petroleum, or petroleum components, products, or wastes, including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil, within, through, or across Nebraska, but does not include in-field and gathering lines; and

(3) Pipeline carrier means an individual, a company, a corporation, an association, or any other legal entity that engages in owning, operating, or managing an oil pipeline.

Sec. 63. Section 57-1503, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

57-1503 (1)(a) The department may:

(i) Evaluate any route for an oil pipeline within, through, or across the state and submitted by a pipeline carrier for the stated purpose of being included in a federal agency's or agencies' National Environmental Policy Act review process. Any such evaluation shall include at least one public hearing, provide opportunities for public review and comment, and include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the environmental, economic, social, and other impacts associated with the proposed route and route alternatives in Nebraska.

The department may collaborate with a federal agency or agencies and set forth the responsibilities and schedules that will lead to an effective and timely evaluation; or

(ii) Collaborate with a federal agency or agencies in a review under the National Environmental Policy Act involving a supplemental environmental impact statement for oil pipeline projects within, through, or across the state. Prior to entering into such shared jurisdiction and authority, the department shall collaborate with such agencies to set forth responsibilities and schedules for an effective and timely review process.

(b) A pipeline carrier that has submitted a route for evaluation or review pursuant to subdivision (1)(a) of this section shall reimburse the department for the cost of the evaluation or review within sixty days after notification from the department of the cost. The department shall remit any reimbursement to the State Treasurer for credit to the ~~Department of Environmental Quality~~ Cash Fund.

(2) The department may contract with outside vendors in the process of preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement or an evaluation conducted under subdivision (1)(a) of this section. The department shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that each vendor has no conflict of interest or relationship to any pipeline carrier that applies for an oil pipeline permit.

(3) In order for the process to be efficient and expeditious, the department's contracts with vendors pursuant to this section for a supplemental environmental impact statement or an evaluation conducted under subdivision (1)(a) of this section shall not be subject to the Nebraska Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act or sections 73-301 to 73-306 or 73-501 to 73-510.

(4) After the supplemental environmental impact statement or the evaluation conducted under subdivision (1)(a) of this section is prepared, the department shall submit it to the Governor. Within thirty days after receipt of the supplemental environmental impact statement or the evaluation conducted under subdivision (1)(a) of this section from the department, the Governor shall indicate, in writing, to the federal agency or agencies involved in the review or any other appropriate federal agency or body as to whether he or she approves any of the routes reviewed in the supplemental environmental impact statement or the evaluation conducted under subdivision (1)(a) of this section. If the Governor does not approve any of the reviewed routes, he or she shall notify the pipeline carrier that in order to obtain approval of a route in Nebraska the pipeline carrier is required to file an application with the Public Service Commission pursuant to the Major Oil Pipeline Siting Act.

(5) The department shall not withhold any documents or records relating to an oil pipeline from the public unless the documents or records are of the type that can be withheld under section 84-712.05 or unless federal law provides otherwise.

Sec. 64. Section 58-221, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

58-221 Residential energy conservation device shall mean any prudent means of reducing the demands for conventional fuels or increasing the supply or efficiency of these fuels in residential housing and shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Caulking and weather stripping of doors and windows;
- (2) Furnace efficiency modifications, including:
 - (a) Replacement burners, furnaces, heat pumps, or boilers or any combination thereof which, as determined by the Director of Environment and Energy the ~~State Energy Office~~, substantially increases the energy efficiency of the heating system;
 - (b) Any device for modifying flue openings which will increase the energy efficiency of the heating system; and
 - (c) Any electrical or mechanical furnace ignition system which replaces a standing gas pilot light;
- (3) A clock thermostat;
- (4) Ceiling, attic, wall, and floor insulation;
- (5) Water heater insulation;
- (6) Storm windows and doors, multiglazed windows and doors, and heat-absorbed or heat-reflective glazed window and door materials;
- (7) Any device which controls demand of appliances and aids load management;
- (8) Any device to utilize solar energy, biomass, or wind power for any residential energy conservation purpose including heating of water and space heating or cooling; and
- (9) Any other conservation device, renewable energy technology, and specific home improvement necessary to insure the effectiveness of the energy conservation measures as the Director of Environment and Energy the ~~State Energy Office~~ by rule or regulation identifies.

Sec. 65. Section 60-6,363, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

60-6,363 For purposes of sections 60-6,363 to 60-6,374:

- (1) Diesel-powered motor vehicle shall mean a self-propelled vehicle which is designed primarily for transporting persons or property on a highway and which is powered by an internal combustion engine of the compression ignition type;
- (2) Motor vehicle shall mean a self-propelled vehicle with a gross unloaded vehicle weight of ten thousand pounds or more or any combination of vehicles of a type subject to registration which is towed by such a vehicle;

(3) Smoke shall mean the solid or liquid matter, except water, discharged from a motor vehicle engine which obscures the transmission of light;

(4) Smokemeter shall mean a full-flow, light-extinction smokemeter of a type approved by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and operating on the principles described in the federal standards;

(5) Opacity shall mean the degree to which a smoke plume emitted from a diesel-powered motor vehicle engine will block the passage of a beam of light expressed as a percentage; and

(6) Smoke control system shall mean a system consisting of one or more devices and adjustments designed to control the discharge of smoke from diesel-powered motor vehicles.

Sec. 66. Section 60-6,364, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

60-6,364 Sections 60-6,363 to 60-6,374 shall apply to all diesel-powered motor vehicles operated within this state with the exception of the following:

(1) Emergency vehicles operated by federal, state, and local governmental authorities;

(2) Vehicles which are not required to be registered in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Registration Act;

(3) Vehicles used for research and development which have been approved by the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~;

(4) Vehicles being operated while undergoing maintenance;

(5) Vehicles operated under emergency conditions;

(6) Vehicles being operated in the course of training programs which have been approved by the director; and

(7) Other vehicles expressly exempted by the director.

Sec. 67. Section 60-6,367, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

60-6,367 (1) Officials of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and local enforcement officials shall have the authority to issue citations to suspected violators of sections 60-6,363 to 60-6,374 on the basis of their visual evaluation of the smoke emitted from a diesel-powered motor vehicle. A citation shall give the suspected violator a reasonable time to furnish evidence to the department that such alleged violation has been corrected or else such suspected violator shall be subject to the penalties set out in section 60-6,373. A suspected violator may demand that the suspected vehicle be tested by an approved smokemeter prior to a trial on the alleged violation.

(2) Smokemeter tests shall be conducted (a) by or under the supervision of a person or testing facility authorized by the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to conduct such tests and (b) by installing an approved smokemeter on the exhaust pipe and operating the suspected vehicle at engine revolutions per minute equivalent to the engine revolutions per minute at the time of the alleged violation.

(3) The results of smokemeter tests run in accordance with this section and after the alleged violation shall be admissible as evidence in legal proceedings.

Sec. 68. Section 60-6,368, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

60-6,368 (1) The Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall have the power, after public hearings on due notice, to adopt and promulgate, consistent with and in furtherance of the provisions of sections 60-6,363 to 60-6,374, rules and regulations in accordance with which he or she will carry out his or her responsibilities and obligations under such sections.

(2) Any rules or regulations promulgated by the director shall be consistent with the provisions of the federal standards, if any, relating to control of emissions from the diesel-powered motor vehicles affected by such rules and regulations. The director shall not require, as a condition for the sale of any diesel-powered motor vehicle covered by sections 60-6,363 to 60-6,374, the inspection, certification, or other approval of any feature or equipment designed for the control of noise or emissions from such diesel-powered motor vehicles if such feature or equipment has been certified, approved, or otherwise authorized pursuant to laws or regulations of any federal governmental body as sufficient to make lawful the sale of any diesel-powered motor vehicle covered by such sections.

Sec. 69. Section 66-203, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-203 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy ~~State Energy Office~~ shall offer a rebate for qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property.

(2)(a) The rebate for qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property as defined in subdivisions (4)(a) and (b) of section 66-202 is the lesser of fifty percent of the cost of the qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property or four thousand five hundred dollars for each motor vehicle.

(b) A qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property is not eligible for a rebate under this section if the person or entity applying for the rebate has claimed another rebate or grant for the same motor vehicle under any other state rebate or grant program.

(3) The rebate for qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property as defined in subdivision (4)(c) of section 66-202 is the lesser of fifty percent of the cost of the qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property or two thousand five hundred dollars for each qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property.

(4) No qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property shall qualify

for more than one rebate under this section.

Sec. 70. Section 66-204, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-204 (1) The Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Fund is created. The fund shall consist of grants, private contributions, and all other sources.

(2) The fund shall be used by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~State Energy Office~~ to provide rebates under the Nebraska Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Act up to the amount transferred under subsection (3) of this section. No more than thirty-five percent of the money in the fund annually shall be used as rebates for flex-fuel dispensers. The ~~department~~ State Energy Office may use the fund for necessary costs in the administration of the act up to an amount not exceeding ten percent of the fund annually.

(3) Within five days after August 30, 2015, the State Treasurer shall transfer five hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Fund to carry out the Nebraska Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Act.

(4) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(5) The State Treasurer shall transfer two hundred thousand dollars from the Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Fund to the General Fund on or before June 30, 2018, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

Sec. 71. Section 66-301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-301 For purposes of sections 66-301 to 66-304:

(1) Covered electric generating unit means a fossil fuel-fired electric generating unit existing within the state prior to August 30, 2015, that is subject to regulation under the federal emission guidelines;

(2) Federal emission guidelines means any final rules, regulations, guidelines, or other requirements that the United States Environmental Protection Agency may adopt for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from covered electric generating units under section 111(d) of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7411(d);

(3) State means the State of Nebraska; and

(4) State plan means any plan to establish and enforce carbon dioxide emission control measures that the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ may adopt to implement the obligations of the state under the federal emission guidelines.

Sec. 72. Section 66-302, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-302 The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall not submit a state plan for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from covered electric generating units to the United States Environmental Protection Agency until the department has prepared a report as required in section 66-303 ~~provided a copy of the state plan to the State Energy Office. The department shall provide such copy to the State Energy Office prior to the submission deadline for the state plan set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. If the United States Environmental Protection Agency extends the submission deadline, the department shall provide such copy to the State Energy Office at least one hundred twenty days prior to the extended submission deadline.~~ Nothing in this section shall prevent the department from complying with federally prescribed deadlines.

Sec. 73. Section 66-303, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-303 (1) ~~The Department of Environment and Energy After receiving the copy of the state plan under section 66-302, the State Energy Office shall also~~ prepare a report that assesses the effects of the state plan for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from covered electric generating units on:

(a) The electric power sector, including:

(i) The type and amount of electric generating capacity within the state that is likely to retire or switch to another fuel;

(ii) The stranded investment in electric generating capacity and other infrastructure;

(iii) The amount of investment necessary to offset retirements of electric generating capacity and maintain generation reserve margins;

(iv) Potential risks to electric reliability, including resource adequacy risks and transmission constraints; and

(v) The amount by which retail electricity prices within the state are forecast to increase or decrease; and

(b) Employment within the state, including direct and indirect employment effects within affected sectors of the state's economy.

(2) ~~The department State Energy Office shall complete the report required under this section at least within thirty days prior to submitting after receiving the copy of the state plan prepared pursuant to under section 66-302 and shall electronically submit to the Legislature a copy of such report.~~

(3) If the Legislature is in session when it receives the report, the Legislature may vote on a nonbinding legislative resolution endorsing or disapproving the state plan based on the findings of the report.

Sec. 74. Section 66-304, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-304 Upon submitting a state plan to the United States Environmental

Protection Agency, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall electronically submit to the Legislature a copy of the state plan.

Sec. 75. Section 66-489.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-489.02 (1) For tax periods beginning on and after July 1, 2009, at the time of filing the return required by section 66-488, the producer, supplier, distributor, wholesaler, or importer shall, in addition to the other taxes provided for by law, pay a tax at the rate of five percent of the average wholesale price of gasoline for the gallons of the motor fuels as shown by the return, except that there shall be no tax on the motor fuels reported if they are otherwise exempted by sections 66-482 to 66-4,149.

(2) The department shall calculate the average wholesale price of gasoline on April 1, 2009, and on each April 1 and October 1 thereafter. The average wholesale price on April 1 shall apply to returns for the tax periods beginning on and after July 1, and the average wholesale price on October 1 shall apply to returns for the tax periods beginning on and after January 1. The average wholesale price shall be determined using data available from the Department of Environment and Energy ~~State Energy Office~~ and shall be an average wholesale price per gallon of gasoline sold in the state over the previous six-month period, excluding any state or federal excise tax or environmental fees. The change in the average wholesale price between two six-month periods shall be adjusted so that the increase or decrease in the tax provided for in this section or section 66-6,109.02 does not exceed one cent per gallon.

(3) All sums of money received under this section shall be credited to the Highway Trust Fund. Credits and refunds of such tax allowed to producers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or importers shall be paid from the Highway Trust Fund. The balance of the amount credited, after credits and refunds, shall be allocated as follows:

(a) Sixty-six percent to the Highway Cash Fund for the Department of Transportation;

(b) Seventeen percent to the Highway Allocation Fund for allocation to the various counties for road purposes; and

(c) Seventeen percent to the Highway Allocation Fund for allocation to the various municipalities for street purposes.

Sec. 76. Section 66-1004, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-1004 Energy conservation measure shall mean installing or using any:

(1) Caulking or weatherstripping of doors or windows;

(2) Furnace efficiency modifications involving electric service;

(3) Clock thermostats;

(4) Water heater insulation or modification;

(5) Ceiling, attic, wall, or floor insulation;

(6) Storm windows or doors, multiglazed windows or doors, or heat absorbing or reflective glazed window and door material;

(7) Devices which control demand of appliances and aid load management;

(8) Devices to utilize solar energy, biomass, or wind power for any energy conservation purpose, including heating of water and space heating or cooling, which have been identified by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~State Energy Office~~ as an energy conservation measure for the purposes of sections 66-1001 to 66-1011;

(9) High-efficiency lighting and motors;

(10) Devices which are designed to increase energy efficiency, the utilization of renewable resources, or both; and

(11) Such other conservation measures as the department ~~State Energy Office~~ shall identify.

Sec. 77. Section 66-1009, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-1009 (1) A customer borrowing from a utility under a plan adopted pursuant to sections 66-1001 to 66-1011 shall be allowed to contract with the utility for a repayment plan and shall be offered a repayment period of not less than three years and not more than twenty years.

(2) Upon default on a loan by a customer, after expending reasonable efforts to collect, a utility may treat the entire unpaid contract amount as due, but services to a residential, agricultural, or commercial customer may not be terminated as a result of such default. Default occurs when any amount due a utility under a plan adopted pursuant to sections 66-1001 to 66-1011, 70-625, 70-704, 81-161, ~~81-1602~~, 81-1606 to 81-1626, and 84-162 to 84-167 is not paid within sixty days of the due date.

(3) Any customer obtaining a loan pursuant to section 66-1007 shall only use the funds to accomplish the purposes agreed upon at the time of the loan. If the borrower of any funds obtained pursuant to sections 66-1001 to 66-1011 uses such funds in a manner or for a purpose not authorized by this section, the total amount of the loan shall immediately become due and payable.

(4) Any amount due a utility on a loan pursuant to sections 66-1001 to 66-1011 which is not paid in full within sixty days of the due date shall become a lien as provided in this section on the real property concerned as to the full unpaid balance. No lien under this section shall be valid unless (a) the loan was signed by the party or parties shown on the indexes of the register of deeds to be the owners of record of such real property on the date of the loan and (b) the lien is filed not more than four months after the date of default, in the same office and in the same manner as mortgages in the county in which the real property is located. Such lien shall take effect and

be in force from and after the time of delivering the same to the register of deeds for recording, and not before, as to all creditors and subsequent purchasers in good faith without notice, and such lien shall be adjudged void as to all such creditors and subsequent purchasers without notice whose deeds, mortgages, or other instruments shall be first recorded, except that such lien shall be valid between the parties. A publicly owned utility shall not maintain possession of any property which it may acquire pursuant to a lien authorized by this section for a period of time longer than is reasonably necessary to dispose of such property.

(5) Any loan made under a plan adopted pursuant to sections 66-1001 to 66-1011 shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars, subject to any existing limitations under federal law. Any loan to be made by a utility which exceeds ten thousand dollars shall only be made in participation with a bank pursuant to a contract. The utility and the participating bank shall determine the terms and conditions of the contract.

(6) The Director of Environment and Energy State Energy Office may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out sections 66-1001 to 66-1011.

Sec. 78. Section 66-1105, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-1105 Any person who desires to withdraw ground water within the State of Nebraska for geothermal resource development shall, prior to commencing construction of any wells, obtain from the Director of Natural Resources a permit to authorize the withdrawal, transfer, and further use or reinjection of such ground water. The Department of Natural Resources shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the issuance of such permits, consistent with sections 66-1101 to 66-1106 and with Chapter 46, article 6. Such rules and regulations shall provide for consultation with the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality pursuant to the issuance of such permits and shall be compatible with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality under the Environmental Protection Act. Any geothermal fluids produced incident to the development and production of geothermal resources shall be reinjected into the same geologic formation from which they were extracted in substantially the same volume and substantially the same or higher quality as when extracted unless the permit issued in accordance with this section authorizes further uses or processing other than those incident to reinjection.

Sec. 79. Section 66-1344, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-1344 (1) Beginning June 1, 2000, during such period as funds remain in the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund, any ethanol facility shall receive a credit of seven and one-half cents per gallon of ethanol, before denaturing, for new production for a period not to exceed thirty-six consecutive months. For purposes of this subsection, new production means production which results from the expansion of an existing facility's capacity by at least two million gallons first placed into service after June 1, 1999, as certified by the facility's design engineer to the Department of Revenue. For expansion of an existing facility's capacity, new production means production in excess of the average of the highest three months of ethanol production at an ethanol facility during the twenty-four-month period immediately preceding certification of the facility by the design engineer. No credits shall be allowed under this subsection for expansion of an existing facility's capacity until production is in excess of twelve times the three-month average amount determined under this subsection during any twelve-consecutive-month period beginning no sooner than June 1, 2000. New production shall be approved by the Department of Revenue based on such ethanol production records as may be necessary to reasonably determine new production. This credit must be earned on or before December 31, 2003.

(2)(a) Beginning January 1, 2002, any new ethanol facility which is in production at the minimum rate of one hundred thousand gallons annually for the production of ethanol, before denaturing, and which has provided to the Department of Revenue written evidence substantiating that the ethanol facility has received the requisite authority from the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality and from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, on or before June 30, 2004, shall receive a credit of eighteen cents per gallon of ethanol produced for ninety-six consecutive months beginning with the first calendar month for which it is eligible to receive such credit and ending not later than June 30, 2012, if the facility is defined by subdivision (b)(i) of this subsection, and for forty-eight consecutive months beginning with the first calendar month for which it is eligible to receive such credit and ending not later than June 30, 2008, if the facility is defined by subdivision (b)(ii) of this subsection. The new ethanol facility shall provide an analysis to the Department of Revenue of samples of the product collected according to procedures specified by the department no later than July 30, 2004, and at least annually thereafter. The analysis shall be prepared by an independent laboratory meeting the International Organization for Standardization standard ISO/IEC 17025:1999. Prior to collecting the samples, the new ethanol facility shall notify the department which may observe the sampling procedures utilized by the new ethanol facility to obtain the samples to be submitted for independent analysis. The minimum rate shall be established for a period of at least thirty days. In this regard, the new ethanol facility must produce at least eight thousand two hundred nineteen gallons of ethanol within a thirty-day period. The ethanol must be finished product which is ready for sale to customers.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, new ethanol facility means a facility for the conversion of grain or other raw feedstock into ethanol and other byproducts of ethanol production which (i) is not in production on or before September 1, 2001, or (ii) has not received credits prior to June 1, 1999. A new ethanol facility does not mean an expansion of an existing ethanol plant that does not result in the physical construction of an entire ethanol processing facility or which shares or uses in a significant manner any existing plant's systems or processes and does not include the expansion of production capacity constructed after June 30, 2004, of a plant qualifying for credits under this subsection. This definition applies to contracts entered into after April 16, 2004.

(c) Not more than fifteen million six hundred twenty-five thousand gallons of ethanol produced annually at an ethanol facility shall be eligible for credits under this subsection. Not more than one hundred twenty-five million gallons of ethanol produced at an ethanol facility by the end of the ninety-six-consecutive-month period or forty-eight-consecutive-month period set forth in this subsection shall be eligible for credits under this subsection.

(3) The credits described in this section shall be given only for ethanol produced at a plant in Nebraska at which all fermentation, distillation, and dehydration takes place. No credit shall be given on ethanol produced for or sold for use in the production of beverage alcohol. Not more than ten million gallons of ethanol produced during any twelve-consecutive-month period at an ethanol facility shall be eligible for the credit described in subsection (1) of this section. The credits described in this section shall be in the form of a nonrefundable, transferable motor vehicle fuel tax credit certificate. No transfer of credits will be allowed between the ethanol producer and motor vehicle fuel licensees who are related parties.

(4) Ethanol production eligible for credits under this section shall be measured by a device approved by the Division of Weights and Measures of the Department of Agriculture. Confirmation of approval by the division shall be provided by the ethanol facility at the time the initial claim for credits provided under this section is submitted to the Department of Revenue and annually thereafter. Claims submitted by the ethanol producer shall be based on the total number of gallons of ethanol produced, before denaturing, during the reporting period measured in gross gallons.

(5) The Department of Revenue shall prescribe an application form and procedures for claiming credits under this section. In order for a claim for credits to be accepted, it must be filed by the ethanol producer within three years of the date the ethanol was produced or by September 30, 2012, whichever occurs first.

(6) Every producer of ethanol shall maintain records similar to those required by section 66-487. The ethanol producer must maintain invoices, meter readings, load-out sheets or documents, inventory records, including work-in-progress, finished goods, and denaturant, and other memoranda requested by the Department of Revenue relevant to the production of ethanol. On an annual basis, the ethanol producer shall also be required to furnish the department with copies of the reports filed with the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The maintenance of all of this information in a provable computer format or on microfilm is acceptable in lieu of retention of the original documents. The records must be retained for a period of not less than three years after the claim for ethanol credits is filed.

(7) For purposes of ascertaining the correctness of any application for claiming a credit provided in this section, the Tax Commissioner (a) may examine or cause to have examined, by any agent or representative designated by him or her for that purpose, any books, papers, records, or memoranda bearing upon such matters, (b) may by summons require the attendance of the person responsible for rendering the application or other document or any officer or employee of such person or the attendance of any other person having knowledge in the premises, and (c) may take testimony and require proof material for his or her information, with power to administer oaths or affirmations to such person or persons. The time and place of examination pursuant to this subsection shall be such time and place as may be fixed by the Tax Commissioner and as are reasonable under the circumstances. In the case of a summons, the date fixed for appearance before the Tax Commissioner shall not be less than twenty days from the time of service of the summons. No taxpayer shall be subjected to unreasonable or unnecessary examinations or investigations. All records obtained pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the confidentiality requirements and exceptions thereto as provided in section 77-27,119.

(8) To qualify for credits under this section, an ethanol producer shall provide public notice for bids before entering into any contract for the construction of a new ethanol facility. Preference shall be given to a bidder residing in Nebraska when awarding any contract for construction of a new ethanol facility if comparable bids are submitted. For purposes of this subsection, bidder residing in Nebraska means any person, partnership, foreign or domestic limited liability company, association, or corporation authorized to engage in business in the state with employees permanently located in Nebraska. If an ethanol producer enters into a contract for the construction of a new ethanol facility with a bidder who is not a bidder residing in Nebraska, such producer shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Revenue in its application for credits that no comparable bid was submitted by a responsible bidder residing in Nebraska. The department shall deny an

application for credits if it is determined that the contract was denied to a responsible bidder residing in Nebraska without cause.

(9) The pertinent provisions of Chapter 66, article 7, relating to the administration and imposition of motor fuel taxes shall apply to the administration and imposition of assessments made by the Department of Revenue relating to excess credits claimed by ethanol producers under the Ethanol Development Act. These provisions include, but are not limited to, issuance of a deficiency following an examination of records, an assessment becoming final after sixty days absent a written protest, presumptions regarding the burden of proof, issuance of deficiency within three years of original filing, issuance of notice by registered or certified mail, issuance of penalties and waiver thereof, issuance of interest and waiver thereof, and issuance of corporate officer or employee or limited liability company manager or member assessments. For purposes of determining interest and penalties, the due date will be considered to be the date on which the credits were used by the licensees to whom the credits were transferred.

(10) If a written protest is filed by the ethanol producer with the department within the sixty-day period in subsection (9) of this section, the protest shall: (a) Identify the ethanol producer; (b) identify the proposed assessment which is being protested; (c) set forth each ground under which a redetermination of the department's position is requested together with facts sufficient to acquaint the department with the exact basis thereof; (d) demand the relief to which the ethanol producer considers itself entitled; and (e) request that an evidentiary hearing be held to determine any issues raised by the protest if the ethanol producer desires such a hearing.

(11) For applications received after April 16, 2004, an ethanol facility receiving benefits under the Ethanol Development Act shall not be eligible for benefits under the Employment and Investment Growth Act, the Invest Nebraska Act, or the Nebraska Advantage Act.

Sec. 80. Section 66-1504, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-1504 Department shall mean the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

Sec. 81. Section 66-1518, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-1518 (1) The Environmental Quality Council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing reimbursements authorized under the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act. Such rules and regulations shall include:

(a) Procedures regarding the form and procedure for application for payment or reimbursement from the fund, including the requirement for timely filing of applications;

(b) Procedures for the requirement of submitting cost estimates for phases or stages of remedial actions, procurement requirements to be followed by responsible persons, and requirements for reuse of fixtures and tangible personal property by responsible persons during a remedial action;

(c) Procedures for investigation of claims for payment or reimbursement;

(d) Procedures for determining the amount and type of costs that are eligible for payment or reimbursement from the fund;

(e) Procedures for auditing persons who have received payments from the fund;

(f) Procedures for reducing reimbursements made for a remedial action for failure by the responsible person to comply with applicable statutory or regulatory requirements. Reimbursement may be reduced as much as one hundred percent; and

(g) Other procedures necessary to carry out the act.

(2) The Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall (a) estimate the cost to complete remedial action at each petroleum contaminated site where the responsible party has been ordered by the department to begin remedial action, and, based on such estimates, determine the total cost that would be incurred in completing all remedial actions ordered; (b) determine the total estimated cost of all approved remedial actions; (c) determine the total dollar amount of all pending claims for payment or reimbursement; (d) determine the total of all funds available for reimbursement of pending claims; and (e) include the determinations made pursuant to this subsection in the department's annual report to the Legislature.

(3) The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall make available to the public a current schedule of reasonable rates for equipment, services, material, and personnel commonly used for remedial action. The department shall consider the schedule of reasonable rates in reviewing all costs for the remedial action which are submitted in a plan. The rates shall be used to determine the amount of reimbursement for the eligible and reasonable costs of the remedial action, except that (a) the reimbursement for the costs of the remedial action shall not exceed the actual eligible and reasonable costs incurred by the responsible person or his or her designated representative and (b) reimbursement may be made for costs which exceed or are not included on the schedule of reasonable rates if the application for such reimbursement is accompanied by sufficient evidence for the department to determine and the department does determine that such costs are reasonable.

Sec. 82. Section 66-1529.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-1529.02 (1) The department may undertake remedial actions in response to a release first reported after July 17, 1983, and on or before June 30, 2020, with money available in the fund if:

(a) The responsible person cannot be identified or located;
(b) An identified responsible person cannot or will not comply with the remedial action requirements; or
(c) Immediate remedial action is necessary, as determined by the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, to protect human health or the environment.

(2) The department may pay the costs of a third-party claim meeting the requirements of subdivision (2)(f) of section 66-1525 with money available in the fund if the responsible person cannot or will not pay the third-party claim.

(3) Reimbursement for any damages caused by the department or a person acting at the department's direction while investigating or inspecting or during remedial action on property other than property on which a release or suspected release has occurred shall be considered as part of the cost of remedial action involving the site where the release or suspected release occurred. The costs shall be reimbursed from money available in the fund. If such reimbursement is deemed inadequate by the party claiming the damages, the party's claim for damages caused by the department shall be filed as provided in section 76-705.

(4) All expenses paid from the fund under this section, court costs, and attorney's fees may be recovered in a civil action in the district court of Lancaster County. The action may be brought by the county attorney or Attorney General at the request of the director against the responsible person. All recovered expenses shall be deposited into the fund.

Sec. 83. Section 66-2001, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

66-2001 (1) The Natural Gas Fuel Board is hereby established to advise the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office regarding the promotion of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel in Nebraska. The board shall provide recommendations relating to:

(a) Distribution, infrastructure, and workforce development for natural gas to be used as a motor vehicle fuel;
(b) Loans, grants, and tax incentives to encourage the use of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel for individuals and public and private fleets; and
(c) Such other matters as it deems appropriate.

(2) The board shall consist of eight members appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall make the initial appointments by October 1, 2012. The board shall include:

(a) One member representing a jurisdictional utility as defined in section 66-1802;

(b) One member representing a metropolitan utilities district;

(c) One member representing the interests of the transportation industry in the state;

(d) One member representing the interests of the business community in the state, specifically fueling station owners or operators;

(e) One member representing natural gas marketers or pipelines in the state;

(f) One member representing automobile dealerships or repair businesses in the state;

(g) One member representing labor interests in the state; and

(h) One member representing environmental interests in the state, specifically air quality.

(3) All appointments shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the members of the Legislature if the Legislature is in session, and if the Legislature is not in session, any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be temporary until the next session of the Legislature, at which time a majority of the members of the Legislature may approve or disapprove such appointment.

(4) Members shall be appointed for terms of four years, except that of the initial appointees the terms of the members representing a jurisdictional utility and a metropolitan utilities district shall expire on September 30, 2015, the terms of the members representing the transportation industry, the business community, natural gas marketers or pipelines, and automobile dealerships or repair businesses shall expire on September 30, 2014, and the terms of the members representing labor and environmental interests shall expire on September 30, 2013. Members may be reappointed. A member shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified.

(5) A vacancy on the board shall exist in the event of death, disability, resignation, or removal for cause of a member. Any vacancy on the board arising other than from the expiration of a term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. An appointment to fill a vacancy shall be made by the Governor with the approval of a majority of the Legislature, and any person so appointed shall have the same qualifications as the person whom he or she succeeds.

(6) The board shall meet at least once annually.

(7) The members shall not be reimbursed for expenses associated with carrying out their duties as members.

(8) The department State Energy Office shall provide administrative support to the board as necessary so that the board may carry out its duties.

Sec. 84. Section 69-2011, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

69-2011 On and after October 1, 1993, a person shall not sell or offer for sale at retail any disposable diaper which is constructed of a material which is not biodegradable or photodegradable if the Director of Environment and

~~Energy Environmental Quality~~ determines that biodegradable or photodegradable disposable diapers are readily available at a comparable price and quality. The determination of quality shall include a study of the environmental impact and fate of such disposable diapers. The director shall issue his or her determination to the Legislature on or before October 1, 1992. For purposes of this section (1) readily available shall mean available for purchase in sufficient quantities to meet demand through usual retail channels throughout the state and (2) comparable price and quality shall mean at a cost not in excess of five percent above the average price for products of comparable quality which are not biodegradable or photodegradable.

Sec. 85. Section 69-2502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

69-2502 For purposes of the Plastic Container Coding Act:

(1) Code shall mean a molded, imprinted, or raised symbol on or near the bottom of a plastic bottle or rigid plastic container;

(2) Department shall mean the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality;

(3) Plastic shall mean any material made of polymeric organic compounds and additives that can be shaped by flow;

(4) Plastic bottle shall mean a plastic container intended for a single use that:

(a) Has a neck smaller than the body of the container;

(b) Is designed for a screw-top, snap cap, or other closure; and

(c) Has a capacity of not less than sixteen fluid ounces or more than five gallons; and

(5) Rigid plastic container shall mean any formed or molded container intended for a single use, composed predominately of plastic resin, that has a relatively inflexible finite shape or form with a capacity of not less than eight ounces or more than five gallons. Rigid plastic container shall not include a plastic bottle.

Sec. 86. Section 70-1003, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

70-1003 (1) There is hereby established an independent board to be known as the Nebraska Power Review Board to consist of five members, one of whom shall be an engineer, one an attorney, one an accountant, and two laypersons. No person who is or who has within four years preceding his or her appointment been either a director, officer, or employee of any electric utility or an elective state officer shall be eligible for membership on the board. Members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor subject to the approval of the Legislature. Upon expiration of the terms of the members first appointed, the successors shall be appointed for terms of four years. No member of the board shall serve more than two consecutive terms. Any vacancy on the board arising other than from the expiration of a term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term, and any person appointed to fill a vacancy on the board shall be eligible for reappointment for two more consecutive terms. No more than three members of the board shall be registered members of that political party represented by the Governor.

(2) Each member of the board shall receive sixty dollars per day for each day actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of his or her duties, but not to exceed six thousand dollars in any one year, except for the member designated to represent the board on the Southwest Power Pool Regional State Committee or its equivalent successor, who shall receive two hundred fifty dollars for each day actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of his or her duties, not to exceed twenty thousand dollars in any one year. If the member designated to represent the board on the Southwest Power Pool Regional State Committee should for any reason no longer serve in that capacity during a year, the pay received while serving in such capacity shall not be used for purposes of calculating the six-thousand-dollar limitation for board members not serving in that capacity. When another board member acts as the proxy for the designated Southwest Power Pool Regional State Committee member, he or she shall receive the same pay as the designated member would have for that activity. Pay received while serving as proxy for such designated member shall not be used for purposes of determining whether the six-thousand-dollar limitation has been met for board members not serving as such designated member. Total pay to board members for activities related to the Southwest Power Pool shall not exceed an aggregate total of twenty-five thousand dollars in any one year. Each member shall be reimbursed for his or her actual and necessary expenses while so engaged as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The board shall have jurisdiction as provided in Chapter 70, article 10.

(3) The board shall elect from their members a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. Decisions of the board shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the board.

(4) The board shall employ an executive director and may employ such other staff necessary to carry out the duties pursuant to Chapter 70, article 10. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall be solely responsible to the board. The executive director shall be responsible for the administrative operations of the board and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned to him or her by the board. The board may obtain the services of experts and consultants necessary to carry out the board's duties pursuant to Chapter 70, article 10.

(5) The board shall publish and submit a biennial report with annual data to the Governor, with copies to be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and with the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office. The report

submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. The ~~department State Energy Office~~ shall consider the information in the Nebraska Power Review Board's report when the ~~department State Energy Office~~ prepares its own reports pursuant to sections 81-1606 and 81-1607. The report of the board shall include:

(a) The assessments for the fiscal year imposed pursuant to section 70-1020;

(b) The gross income totals for each category of the industry and the industry total;

(c) The number of suppliers against whom the assessment is levied, by category and in total;

(d) The projected dollar costs of generation, transmission, and microwave applications, approved and denied;

(e) The actual dollar costs of approved applications upon completion, and a summary of an informational hearing concerning any significant divergence between the projected and actual costs;

(f) A description of Nebraska's current electric system and information on additions to and retirements from the system during the fiscal year, including microwave facilities;

(g) A statistical summary of board activities and an expenditure summary;

(h) A roster of power suppliers in Nebraska and the assessment each paid; and

(i) Appropriately detailed historical and projected electric supply and demand statistics, including information on the total generating capacity owned by Nebraska suppliers and the total peak load demand of the previous year, along with an indication of how the industry will respond to the projected situation.

(6) The board may, in its discretion, hold public hearings concerning the conditions that may indicate that retail competition in the electric industry would benefit Nebraska's citizens and what steps, if any, should be taken to prepare for retail competition in Nebraska's electricity market. In determining whether to hold such hearings, the board shall consider the sufficiency of public interest.

(7) The board may, at any time deemed beneficial by the board, submit a report to the Governor with copies to be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature. The report filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and the committee shall be filed electronically. The report may include:

(a) Whether or not a viable regional transmission organization and adequate transmission exist in Nebraska or in a region which includes Nebraska;

(b) Whether or not a viable wholesale electricity market exists in a region which includes Nebraska;

(c) To what extent retail rates have been unbundled in Nebraska;

(d) A comparison of Nebraska's wholesale electricity prices to the prices in the region; and

(e) Any other information the board believes to be beneficial to the Governor, the Legislature, and Nebraska's citizens when considering whether retail electric competition would be beneficial, such as, but not limited to, an update on deregulation activities in other states and an update on federal deregulation legislation.

(8) The board may establish working groups of interested parties to assist the board in carrying out the powers set forth in subsections (6) and (7) of this section.

Sec. 87. Section 70-1032, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

70-1032 The scope of the study provided for under sections 70-1029 to 70-1033 shall receive input from a working group that may include, but not be limited to, members of the Legislature, ~~the State Energy Office~~, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Environment and Energy, public power districts and other Nebraska electric providers, renewable energy development companies, municipalities, the Southwest Power Pool, the Western Area Power Administration, other transmission system owners, transmission operators, transmission developers, environmental interests, and other interested parties.

Sec. 88. Section 71-2433, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-2433 A property owner with knowledge of a clandestine drug lab on his or her property shall report such knowledge and location as soon as practicable to the local law enforcement agency or to the Nebraska State Patrol. A law enforcement agency that discovers a clandestine drug lab in the State of Nebraska shall report the location of such lab to the Nebraska State Patrol within thirty days after making such discovery. Such report shall include the date of discovery of such lab, the county where the property containing such lab is located, and a legal description of the property or other description or address of such property sufficient to clearly establish its location. As soon as practicable after such discovery, the appropriate law enforcement agency shall provide the Nebraska State Patrol with a complete list of the chemicals, including methamphetamine, its precursors, solvents, and related reagents, found at or removed from the location of such lab. Upon receipt, the Nebraska State Patrol shall promptly forward a copy of such report and list to the department, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the municipality or county where the lab is located, the director of the local public health department serving such municipality or county, and the property owner or owners.

Sec. 89. Section 71-3503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-3503 For purposes of the Radiation Control Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Radiation means ionizing radiation and nonionizing radiation as follows:

(a) Ionizing radiation means gamma rays, X-rays, alpha and beta particles, high-speed electrons, neutrons, protons, and other atomic or nuclear particles or rays but does not include sound or radio waves or visible, infrared, or ultraviolet light; and

(b) Nonionizing radiation means (i) any electromagnetic radiation which can be generated during the operations of electronic products to such energy density levels as to present a biological hazard to occupational and public health and safety and the environment, other than ionizing electromagnetic radiation, and (ii) any sonic, ultrasonic, or infrasonic waves which are emitted from an electronic product as a result of the operation of an electronic circuit in such product and to such energy density levels as to present a biological hazard to occupational and public health and safety and the environment;

(2) Radioactive material means any material, whether solid, liquid, or gas, which emits ionizing radiation spontaneously. Radioactive material includes, but is not limited to, accelerator-produced material, byproduct material, naturally occurring material, source material, and special nuclear material;

(3) Radiation-generating equipment means any manufactured product or device, component part of such a product or device, or machine or system which during operation can generate or emit radiation except devices which emit radiation only from radioactive material;

(4) Sources of radiation means any radioactive material, any radiation-generating equipment, or any device or equipment emitting or capable of emitting radiation or radioactive material;

(5) Undesirable radiation means radiation in such quantity and under such circumstances as determined from time to time by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the department;

(6) Person means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, group, agency, political subdivision of this state, any other state or political subdivision or agency thereof, and any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of the foregoing;

(7) Registration means registration with the department pursuant to the Radiation Control Act;

(8) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

(9) Administrator means the administrator of radiation control designated pursuant to section 71-3504;

(10) Electronic product means any manufactured product, device, assembly, or assemblies of such products or devices which, during operation in an electronic circuit, can generate or emit a physical field of radiation;

(11) License means:

(a) A general license issued pursuant to rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the department without the filing of an application with the department or the issuance of licensing documents to particular persons to transfer, acquire, own, possess, or use quantities of or devices or equipment utilizing radioactive materials;

(b) A specific license, issued to a named person upon application filed with the department pursuant to the Radiation Control Act and rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the act, to use, manufacture, produce, transfer, receive, acquire, own, or possess quantities of or devices or equipment utilizing radioactive materials; or

(c) A license issued to a radon measurement specialist, radon mitigation specialist, radon measurement business, or radon mitigation business;

(12) Byproduct material means:

(a) Any radioactive material, except special nuclear material, yielded in or made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incident to the process of producing or utilizing special nuclear material;

(b) The tailings or wastes produced by the extraction or concentration of uranium or thorium from any ore processed primarily for its source material content, including discrete surface wastes resulting from uranium or thorium solution extraction processes. Underground ore bodies depleted by such solution extraction operations do not constitute byproduct material;

(c)(i) Any discrete source of radium-226 that is produced, extracted, or converted after extraction for use for a commercial, medical, or research activity; or

(ii) Any material that (A) has been made radioactive by use of a particle accelerator and (B) is produced, extracted, or converted after extraction for use for a commercial, medical, or research activity; and

(d) Any discrete source of naturally occurring radioactive material, other than source material, that:

(i) The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Secretary of Energy, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, and the head of any other appropriate federal agency, determines would pose a threat similar to the threat posed by a discrete source of radium-226 to the public health and safety or the common defense and security;

and

(ii) Is extracted or converted after extraction for use in a commercial, medical, or research activity;

(13) Source material means:

(a) Uranium or thorium or any combination thereof in any physical or chemical form; or

(b) Ores which contain by weight one-twentieth of one percent or more of uranium, thorium, or any combination thereof. Source material does not include special nuclear material;

(14) Special nuclear material means:

(a) Plutonium, uranium 233, or uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or in the isotope 235 and any other material that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission pursuant to the provisions of section 51 of the federal Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, determines to be special nuclear material but does not include source material; or

(b) Any material artificially enriched by any material listed in subdivision (14)(a) of this section but does not include source material;

(15) Users of sources of radiation means:

(a) Physicians using radioactive material or radiation-generating equipment for human use;

(b) Natural persons using radioactive material or radiation-generating equipment for education, research, or development purposes;

(c) Natural persons using radioactive material or radiation-generating equipment for manufacture or distribution purposes;

(d) Natural persons using radioactive material or radiation-generating equipment for industrial purposes; and

(e) Natural persons using radioactive material or radiation-generating equipment for any other similar purpose;

(16) Civil penalty means any monetary penalty levied on a licensee or registrant because of violations of statutes, rules, regulations, licenses, or registration certificates but does not include criminal penalties;

(17) Closure means all activities performed at a waste handling, processing, management, or disposal site, such as stabilization and contouring, to assure that the site is in a stable condition so that only minor custodial care, surveillance, and monitoring are necessary at the site following termination of licensed operation;

(18) Decommissioning means final operational activities at a facility to dismantle site structures, to decontaminate site surfaces and remaining structures, to stabilize and contain residual radioactive material, and to carry out any other activities to prepare the site for postoperational care;

(19) Disposal means the permanent isolation of low-level radioactive waste pursuant to the Radiation Control Act and rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to such act;

(20) Generate means to produce low-level radioactive waste when used in relation to low-level radioactive waste;

(21) High-level radioactive waste means:

(a) Irradiated reactor fuel;

(b) Liquid wastes resulting from the operation of the first cycle solvent extraction system or equivalent and the concentrated wastes from subsequent extraction cycles or the equivalent in a facility for reprocessing irradiated reactor fuel; and

(c) Solids into which such liquid wastes have been converted;

(22) Low-level radioactive waste means radioactive waste not defined as high-level radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel, or byproduct material as defined in subdivision (12)(b) of this section;

(23) Management of low-level radioactive waste means the handling, processing, storage, reduction in volume, disposal, or isolation of such waste from the biosphere in any manner;

(24) Source material mill tailings or mill tailings means the tailings or wastes produced by the extraction or concentration of uranium or thorium from any ore processed primarily for its source material content, including discrete surface wastes resulting from underground solution extraction processes, but not including underground ore bodies depleted by such solution extraction processes;

(25) Source material milling means any processing of ore, including underground solution extraction of unmined ore, primarily for the purpose of extracting or concentrating uranium or thorium therefrom and which results in the production of source material and source material mill tailings;

(26) Spent nuclear fuel means irradiated nuclear fuel that has undergone at least one year of decay since being used as a source of energy in a power reactor. Spent nuclear fuel includes the special nuclear material, byproduct material, source material, and other radioactive material associated with fuel assemblies;

(27) Transuranic waste means radioactive waste material containing alpha-emitting radioactive elements, with radioactive half-lives greater than five years, having an atomic number greater than 92 in concentrations in excess of one hundred nanocuries per gram;

(28) Licensed practitioner means a person licensed to practice medicine, dentistry, podiatry, chiropractic, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or as an osteopathic physician;

(29) X-ray system means an assemblage of components for the controlled production of X-rays, including, but not limited to, an X-ray high-voltage generator, an X-ray control, a tube housing assembly, a beam-limiting device,

and the necessary supporting structures. Additional components which function with the system are considered integral parts of the system;

(30) Licensed facility operator means any person or entity who has obtained a license under the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Act to operate a facility, including any person or entity to whom an assignment of a license is approved by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality; and

(31) Deliberate misconduct means an intentional act or omission by a person that (a) would intentionally cause a licensee, registrant, or applicant for a license or registration to be in violation of any rule, regulation, or order of or any term, condition, or limitation of any license or registration issued by the department under the Radiation Control Act or (b) constitutes an intentional violation of a requirement, procedure, instruction, contract, purchase order, or policy under the Radiation Control Act by a licensee, a registrant, an applicant for a license or registration, or a contractor or subcontractor of a licensee, registrant, or applicant for a license or registration.

Sec. 90. Section 71-5302, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-5302 (1) The director shall adopt and promulgate necessary minimum drinking water standards, in the form of rules and regulations, to insure that drinking water supplied to consumers through all public water systems shall not contain amounts of chemical, radiological, physical, or bacteriological material determined by the director to be harmful to human health.

(2) The director may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to require the monitoring of drinking water supplied to consumers through public water systems for chemical, radiological, physical, or bacteriological material determined by the director to be potentially harmful to human health.

(3) In determining what materials are harmful or potentially harmful to human health and in setting maximum levels for such harmful materials, the director shall be guided by:

(a) General knowledge of the medical profession and related scientific fields as to materials and substances which are harmful to humans if ingested through drinking water; and

(b) General knowledge of the medical profession and related scientific fields as to the maximum amounts of such harmful materials which may be ingested by human beings, over varying lengths of time, without resultant adverse effects on health.

(4) Subject to section 71-5310, state drinking water standards shall apply to each public water system in the state, except that such standards shall not apply to a public water system:

(a) Which consists only of distribution and storage facilities and does not have any collection and treatment facilities;

(b) Which obtains all of its water from, but is not owned or operated by, a public water system to which such standards apply;

(c) Which does not sell water to any person; and

(d) Which is not a carrier which conveys passengers in interstate commerce.

(5) The director may adopt alternative monitoring requirements for public water systems in accordance with section 1418 of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as such section existed on May 22, 2001.

(6) The director may adopt a system for the ranking of safe drinking water projects with known needs or for which loan applications have been received by the director or the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality. In establishing the ranking system the director shall consider, among other things, the risk to human health, compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as the act existed on May 22, 2001, and assistance to systems most in need based upon affordability criteria adopted by the director. This priority system shall be reviewed annually by the director.

Sec. 91. Section 71-5316, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-5316 For purposes of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Safe Drinking Water Act means the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as the act existed on May 22, 2001;

(2) Construction means any of the following: Preliminary planning to determine the feasibility of a safe drinking water project for a public water system; engineering, architectural, legal, fiscal, or economic investigations or studies; surveys, designs, plans, working drawings, specifications, procedures, or other necessary preliminary actions; erection, building, acquisition, alteration, remodeling, improvement, or extension of public water systems; or the inspection or supervision of any of such items;

(3) Council means the Environmental Quality Council;

(4) Department means the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality;

(5) Director means the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality;

(6) Operate and maintain means all necessary activities, including the normal replacement of equipment or appurtenances, to assure the dependable and economical function of a public water system in accordance with its intended purpose;

(7) Owner means any person owning or operating a public water system;

(8) Public water system has the definition found in section 71-5301; and

(9) Safe drinking water project means the structures, equipment, surroundings, and processes required to establish and operate a public water system.

Sec. 92. Section 72-804, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

72-804 (1) Any new state building shall meet or exceed the requirements of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.

(2) Any new lighting, heating, cooling, ventilating, or water heating equipment or controls in a state-owned building and any new building envelope components installed in a state-owned building shall meet or exceed the requirements of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.

(3) The State Building Administrator of the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office, may specify:

(a) A more recent edition of the International Energy Conservation Code;

(b) Additional energy efficiency or renewable energy requirements for buildings; and

(c) Waivers of specific requirements which are demonstrated through life-cycle cost analysis to not be in the state's best interest. The agency receiving the funding shall be required to provide a life-cycle cost analysis to the State Building Administrator.

Sec. 93. Section 72-805, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

72-805 The 2009 International Energy Conservation Code applies to all new buildings constructed in whole or in part with state funds after August 27, 2011. The Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office shall review building plans and specifications necessary to determine whether a building will meet the requirements of this section. The department State Energy Office shall provide a copy of its review to the agency receiving funding. The agency receiving the funding shall verify that the building as constructed meets or exceeds the code. The verification shall be provided to the department State Energy Office. The Director of Environment and Energy may State Energy Office shall, in consultation with the State Building Administrator of the Department of Administrative Services, adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

Sec. 94. Section 76-2602, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

76-2602 In the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act:

(1) Activity and use limitations means restrictions or obligations created under the act with respect to real property.

(2) Agency means the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality or any other Nebraska or federal agency that determines or approves the environmental response project pursuant to which the environmental covenant is created.

(3) Common interest community means a condominium, cooperative, or other real property with respect to which a person, by virtue of the person's ownership of a parcel of real property, is obligated to pay property taxes or insurance premiums, or for maintenance, or improvement of other real property described in a recorded covenant that creates the common interest community.

(4) Environmental covenant means a servitude arising under an environmental response project that imposes activity and use limitations.

(5) Environmental response project means a plan or work performed for environmental remediation of real property and conducted:

(A) Under a federal or state program governing environmental remediation of real property, including the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act;

(B) Incident to closure of a solid or hazardous waste management unit, if the closure is conducted with approval of an agency; or

(C) Under a state voluntary cleanup program authorized by the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act.

(6) Holder means the grantee of an environmental covenant as specified in subsection (a) of section 76-2603.

(7) Person means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(8) Record, used as a noun, means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(9) State means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Sec. 95. Section 76-2608, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

76-2608 (a) An environmental covenant, any amendment or termination of the covenant under section 76-2609 or 76-2610, and any subordination agreement must be recorded in every county in which any portion of the real property subject to the covenant is located. For purposes of indexing, a holder shall be treated as a grantee.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of section 76-2609, an environmental covenant is subject to the laws of this state governing recording and priority of interests in real property.

(c) A copy of a document recorded under subsection (a) of this section shall also be provided to the Department of Environment and Energy

~~Environmental Quality~~ if the department has not signed the covenant.

(d) The department shall make available to the public a listing of all documents under subsection (a) of this section or documents under subsection (c) of this section which have been provided to the department.

Sec. 96. Section 77-27,150, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-27,150 (1) An application for a refund of Nebraska sales and use taxes paid for any air or water pollution control facility may be filed with the Tax Commissioner by the owner of such facility in such manner and in such form as may be prescribed by the commissioner. The application for a refund shall contain: (a) Plans and specifications of such facility including all materials incorporated therein; (b) a descriptive list of all equipment acquired by the applicant for the purpose of industrial or agricultural waste pollution control; (c) the proposed operating procedure for the facility; (d) the acquisition cost of the facility for which a refund is claimed; and (e) a copy of the final findings of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ issued pursuant to section 77-27,151.

(2) The Tax Commissioner shall offer an applicant a hearing upon request of such applicant. The hearing shall not affect the authority of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to determine whether or not industrial or agricultural waste pollution control exists within the meaning of the Air and Water Pollution Control Tax Refund Act.

(3) A claim for refund received without a copy of the final findings of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ issued pursuant to section 77-27,151 shall not be considered a valid claim and shall be returned to the applicant.

(4) Notice of the Tax Commissioner's refusal to issue a refund shall be mailed to the applicant.

Sec. 97. Section 77-27,151, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-27,151 If the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ finds that a facility or multiple facilities at a single location are designed and operated primarily for control, capture, abatement, or removal of industrial or agricultural waste from air or water and are suitable, are reasonably adequate, and meet the intent and purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall so notify the owner of the facility in writing of its findings that the facility, multiple facilities, or the specified portions of any facility are approved. The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall also notify the Tax Commissioner of its findings and the extent of commercial or productive value derived from any materials captured or recovered by the facility.

Sec. 98. Section 77-27,152, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-27,152 (1) The Tax Commissioner, after giving notice by mail to the applicant and giving an opportunity for a hearing, shall modify or revoke the refund whenever the following appears: (a) The refund was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation regarding the payment of tax on materials incorporated into the facility or facilities; or (b) the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ has modified its findings regarding the facility covered by the refund.

(2) The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ may modify its findings when it determines any of the following: (a) The refund was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation regarding the facility or planned operation of the facility; (b) the applicant has failed substantially to operate the facility for the purpose and degree of control specified in the application or an amended application; or (c) the facility covered by the refund is no longer used for the primary purpose of pollution control.

(3) On the mailing to the refund applicant of notice of the action of the Tax Commissioner modifying or revoking the refund, the refund shall cease to be in force or shall remain in force only as modified. When a refund is revoked because a refund was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation, all taxes which would have been payable if no certificate had been issued shall be immediately due and payable with the maximum interest and penalties prescribed by the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967. No statute of limitations shall operate in the event of fraud or misrepresentation.

Sec. 99. Section 77-27,153, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-27,153 (1) A party aggrieved by the issuance, refusal to issue, revocation, or modification of a pollution control tax refund may appeal from the finding and order of the Tax Commissioner. The finding and order shall not affect the authority of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to determine whether or not industrial or agricultural waste pollution control exists within the meaning of the Air and Water Pollution Control Tax Refund Act. The appeal shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(2) The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall make its findings for the Air and Water Pollution Control Tax Refund Act in accordance with its normal administrative procedures. Nothing in the act is intended to affect the department's authority to make findings and to determine whether or not industrial or agricultural waste pollution control exists within the meaning of the act.

Sec. 100. Section 77-27,154, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

amended to read:

77-27,154 The Tax Commissioner may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that are necessary for the administration of the Air and Water Pollution Control Tax Refund Act. Such rules and regulations shall not abridge the authority of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to determine whether or not industrial or agricultural waste pollution control exists within the meaning of the act.

Sec. 101. Section 77-27,187.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-27,187.01 For purposes of the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Any term has the same meaning as used in the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967;

(2) Equivalent employees means the number of employees computed by dividing the total hours paid in a year to employees by the product of forty times the number of weeks in a year;

(3) Livestock means all animals, including cattle, horses, sheep, goats, hogs, dairy animals, chickens, turkeys, and other species of game birds and animals raised and produced subject to permit and regulation by the Game and Parks Commission or the Department of Agriculture;

(4) Livestock modernization or expansion means the construction, improvement, or acquisition of buildings, facilities, or equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, production, and waste management. Livestock modernization or expansion does not include any improvements made to correct a violation of the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Livestock Waste Management Act, a rule or regulation adopted and promulgated pursuant to such acts, or any order of the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ undertaken within five years after a complaint issued from the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ under section 81-1507;

(5) Livestock production means the active use, management, and operation of real and personal property (a) for the commercial production of livestock, (b) for the commercial breeding, training, showing, or racing of horses or for the use of horses in a recreational or tourism enterprise, and (c) for the commercial production of dairy and eggs. The activity will be considered commercial if the gross income derived from an activity for two or more of the taxable years in the period of seven consecutive taxable years which ends with the taxable year exceeds the deductions attributable to such activity or, if the operation has been in existence for less than seven years, if the activity is engaged in for the purpose of generating a profit;

(6) Qualified employee leasing company means a company which places all employees of a client-lessee on its payroll and leases such employees to the client-lessee on an ongoing basis for a fee and, by written agreement between the employee leasing company and a client-lessee, grants to the client-lessee input into the hiring and firing of the employees leased to the client-lessee;

(7) Related taxpayers includes any corporations that are part of a unitary business under the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 but are not part of the same corporate taxpayer, any business entities that are not corporations but which would be a part of the unitary business if they were corporations, and any business entities if at least fifty percent of such entities are owned by the same persons or related taxpayers and family members as defined in the ownership attribution rules of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

(8) Taxpayer means a corporate taxpayer or other person subject to either an income tax imposed by the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 or a franchise tax under Chapter 77, article 38, or a partnership, limited liability company, subchapter S corporation, cooperative, including a cooperative exempt under section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, limited cooperative association, or joint venture that is or would otherwise be a member of the same unitary group if incorporated, which is, or whose partners, members, or owners representing an ownership interest of at least ninety percent of the control of such entity are, subject to or exempt from such taxes, and any other partnership, limited liability company, subchapter S corporation, cooperative, including a cooperative exempt under section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, limited cooperative association, or joint venture when the partners, members, or owners representing an ownership interest of at least ninety percent of the control of such entity are subject to or exempt from such taxes; and

(9) Year means the taxable year of the taxpayer.

Sec. 102. Section 77-27,236, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-27,236 (1) A taxpayer who makes an investment after January 1, 2008, and prior to January 1, 2015, in a biodiesel facility shall receive a nonrefundable income tax credit as provided in this section.

(2) The credit provided in subsection (1) of this section shall be equal to thirty percent of the amount invested by the taxpayer in a biodiesel facility. The credit shall be taken over at least four taxable years subject to the following conditions:

(a) No more than ten percent of the credit provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall be taken in each of the first two taxable years the biodiesel facility produces B100 and no more than fifty percent of the credit provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall be taken in the third taxable year the biodiesel facility produces B100. The credit allowed under subsection (1) of this section shall not exceed fifty percent of the taxpayer's

liability in any tax year;

(b) Any amount of credit not allowed because of the limitations in this section may be carried forward for up to fifteen taxable years after the taxable year in which the investment was made. The aggregate maximum income tax credit a taxpayer may obtain is two hundred fifty thousand dollars;

(c) The investment shall be at risk in the biodiesel facility. The investment shall be in the form of a purchase of an ownership interest or the right to receive payment of dividends from the biodiesel facility and shall remain in the business for at least three years. The Tax Commissioner may recapture any credits used if the investment does not remain invested for the three-year period. An investment placed in escrow does not qualify under this subdivision;

(d) The entire amount of the investment shall be expended by the biodiesel facility for plant, equipment, research and development, marketing and sales activity, or working capital;

(e) A partnership, a subchapter S corporation, a limited liability company that for tax purposes is treated like a partnership, a cooperative, including a cooperative exempt under section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any other pass-through entity that invests in a biodiesel facility shall be considered to be the taxpayer for purposes of the credit limitations. Except for the limitation under subdivision (2)(a) of this section, the amount of the credit allowed to a pass-through entity shall be determined at the partnership, corporate, cooperative, or other organizational level. The amount of the credit determined at the partnership, corporate, cooperative, or other organizational level shall be allowed to the partners, members, or other owners in proportion to their respective ownership interests in the pass-through entity;

(f) The credit shall be taken only if (i) the biodiesel facility produces B100, (ii) the biodiesel facility in which the investment was made produces at a rate of at least seventy percent of its rated capacity continuously for at least one week during the first taxable year the credit is taken and produces at a rate of at least seventy percent of its rated capacity over a six-month period during each of the next two taxable years the credit is taken, (iii) all processing takes place at the biodiesel facility in which the investment was made and which is located in Nebraska, and (iv) at least fifty-one percent of the ownership interest of the biodiesel facility is held by Nebraska resident individuals or Nebraska entities; and

(g) The biodiesel facility shall provide the Department of Revenue written evidence substantiating that the biodiesel facility has received the requisite authority from the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ and from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The biodiesel facility shall annually provide an analysis to the Department of Revenue of samples of the product collected according to procedures specified by the department. The analysis shall be prepared by an independent laboratory meeting standards of the International Organization for Standardization. Prior to collecting the samples, the biodiesel facility shall notify the department which may observe the sampling procedures utilized by the biodiesel facility to obtain the samples to be submitted for independent analysis.

(3) Any biodiesel facility for which credits are granted shall, whenever possible, employ workers who are residents of the State of Nebraska.

(4) Trade secrets, academic and scientific research work, and other proprietary or commercial information which may be filed with the Tax Commissioner shall not be considered to be public records as defined in section 84-712.01 if the release of such trade secrets, work, or information would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose. Any person seeking release of the trade secrets, work, or information as a public record shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that the release would not violate this section.

(5) For purposes of this section:

(a) Biodiesel facility means a plant or facility related to the processing, marketing, or distribution of biodiesel; and

(b) B100 means pure biodiesel containing mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, designated as B100, and meeting the American Society for Testing and Materials standard, ASTM D6751.

Sec. 103. Section 81-2,294, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-2,294 (1) The Director of Agriculture shall appoint a committee of experts, not to exceed ten persons, to advise the Department of Agriculture on the development of the assessment matrix described in subsection (2) of this section. Experts shall include representation from county board members, county zoning administrators, livestock production agriculture, the University of Nebraska, and other experts as may be determined by the director. The committee shall review the matrix annually and recommend to the department changes as needed.

(2) The Department of Agriculture shall, in consultation with the committee created under subsection (1) of this section, develop an assessment matrix which may be used by county officials to determine whether to approve or disapprove a conditional use permit or special exception application. The matrix shall be developed within one year after August 30, 2015. In the development of the assessment matrix, the department shall:

(a) Consider matrices already developed by the counties and other states;

(b) Design the matrix to produce quantifiable results based on the scoring

of objective criteria according to an established value scale. Each criterion shall be assigned points corresponding to the value scale. The matrix shall consider risks and factors mitigating risks if the livestock operation were constructed according to the application;

(c) Assure the matrix is a practical tool for use by persons when completing permit applications and by county officials when scoring conditional use permit or special exception applications. To every extent feasible, the matrix shall include criteria that may be readily scored according to ascertainable data and upon which reasonable persons familiar with the location of a proposed construction site would not ordinarily disagree; and

(d) Provide for definite point selections for all criteria included in the matrix and provide for a minimum threshold total score required to receive approval by county officials.

(3) The Department of Agriculture may develop criteria in the matrix which include factors referencing the following:

(a) Size of operation;

(b) Type of operation;

(c) Whether the operation has received or is in the process of applying for a permit from the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, if required by law;

(d) Environmental practices adopted by the operation operator which may exceed those required by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality;

(e) Odor control practices;

(f) Consideration of proximity of a livestock operation to neighboring residences, public use areas, and critical public areas;

(g) Community support and communication with neighbors and other community members;

(h) Manure storage and land application sites and practices;

(i) Traffic;

(j) Economic impact to the community; and

(k) Landscape and aesthetic appearance.

(4) In developing the matrix, the Department of Agriculture shall consider whether the proposed criteria are:

(a) Protective of public health or safety;

(b) Practical and workable;

(c) Cost effective;

(d) Objective;

(e) Based on available scientific information that has been subjected to peer review;

(f) Designed to promote the growth and viability of animal agriculture in this state;

(g) Designed to balance the economic viability of farm operations with protecting natural resources and other community interests; and

(h) Usable by county officials.

Sec. 104. Section 81-1108.55, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1108.55 All purchases, leases, or contracts which by law are required to be based on competitive bids pursuant to section 81-1108.16 shall be made to the lowest responsible bidder, taking into consideration the best interests of the state, the quality or performance of the property proposed to be supplied, its conformity with specifications, the purposes for which required, and the times of delivery. In determining the lowest responsible bidder, in addition to price, the following elements shall be given consideration:

(1) The ability, capacity, and skill of the bidder to perform the contract required;

(2) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder;

(3) Whether the bidder can perform the contract within the time specified;

(4) The quality of performance of previous contracts;

(5) The previous and existing compliance by the bidder with laws relating to the contract;

(6) The life-cost of the property in relation to the purchase price and specific use of the item;

(7) The performance of the property, taking into consideration any commonly accepted tests and standards of product usability and user requirements;

(8) Energy efficiency ratio as stated by the bidder for alternative choices of appliances or equipment;

(9) The information furnished by each bidder, when deemed applicable by the State Building Administrator, concerning life-cycle costs between alternatives for all classes of equipment, evidence of expected life, repair and maintenance costs, and energy consumption on a per-year basis; and

(10) Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the decision to award the contract.

Reports regarding procurements made pursuant to this section shall be provided to the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office. Such reports shall be in the form and contain such information as the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office may require.

All political subdivisions may follow the procurement principles set forth in this section if they are deemed applicable by the official authorized to make purchases for such political subdivision.

Sec. 105. Section 81-1316, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018,

is amended to read:

81-1316 (1) All agencies and personnel of state government shall be covered by sections 81-1301 to 81-1319 and shall be considered subject to the State Personnel System, except the following:

- (a) All personnel of the office of the Governor;
 - (b) All personnel of the office of the Lieutenant Governor;
 - (c) All personnel of the office of the Secretary of State;
 - (d) All personnel of the office of the State Treasurer;
 - (e) All personnel of the office of the Attorney General;
 - (f) All personnel of the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts;
 - (g) All personnel of the Legislature;
 - (h) All personnel of the court systems;
 - (i) All personnel of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds;
 - (j) All personnel of the Public Service Commission;
 - (k) All personnel of the Nebraska Brand Committee;
 - (l) All personnel of the Commission of Industrial Relations;
 - (m) All personnel of the State Department of Education;
 - (n) All personnel of the Nebraska state colleges and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges;
 - (o) All personnel of the University of Nebraska;
 - (p) All personnel of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education;
 - (q) All personnel of the Governor's Policy Research Office, ~~but not to include personnel within the State Energy Office;~~
 - (r) All personnel of the Commission on Public Advocacy;
 - (s) All agency heads;
 - (t)(i) The Director of Behavioral Health of the Division of Behavioral Health; (ii) the Director of Children and Family Services of the Division of Children and Family Services; (iii) the Director of Developmental Disabilities of the Division of Developmental Disabilities; (iv) the Director of Medicaid and Long-Term Care of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care; and (v) the Director of Public Health of the Division of Public Health;
 - (u) The chief medical officer established under section 81-3115, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Services, and the chief executive officers of the Beatrice State Developmental Center, Lincoln Regional Center, Norfolk Regional Center, Hastings Regional Center, Grand Island Veterans' Home, Norfolk Veterans' Home, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney, and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva;
 - (v) The chief executive officers of all facilities operated by the Department of Correctional Services and the medical director for the department appointed pursuant to section 83-4,156;
 - (w) All personnel employed as pharmacists, physicians, psychiatrists, or psychologists by the Department of Correctional Services;
 - (x) All personnel employed as pharmacists, physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, service area administrators, or facility operating officers of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
 - (y) Deputies and examiners of the Department of Banking and Finance and the Department of Insurance as set forth in sections 8-105 and 44-119, except for those deputies and examiners who remain in the State Personnel System; and
 - (z) All personnel of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission.
- (2) At each agency head's discretion, up to the following number of additional positions may be exempted from the State Personnel System, based on the following agency size categories:

Number of Agency Employees	Number of Noncovered Positions
less than 25	0
25 to 100	1
101 to 250	2
251 to 500	3
501 to 1000	4
1001 to 2000	5
2001 to 3000	8
3001 to 4000	11
4001 to 5000	40
over 5000	50

The purpose of having such noncovered positions shall be to allow agency heads the opportunity to recruit, hire, and supervise critical, confidential, or policymaking personnel without restrictions from selection procedures,

compensation rules, career protections, and grievance privileges. Persons holding the noncovered positions shall serve at the pleasure of the agency head and shall be paid salaries set by the agency head. An agency with over five thousand employees shall provide notice in writing to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature when forty noncovered positions have been filled by the agency head pursuant to this subsection.

(3) No changes to this section or to the number of noncovered positions within an agency shall affect the status of personnel employed on the date the changes become operative without their prior written agreement. A state employee's career protections or coverage by personnel rules and regulations shall not be revoked by redesignation of the employee's position as a noncovered position without the prior written agreement of such employee.

Sec. 106. Section 81-1502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1502 For purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Air contaminant or air contamination shall mean the presence in the outdoor atmosphere of any dust, fume, mist, smoke, vapor, gas, other gaseous fluid, or particulate substance differing in composition from or exceeding in concentration the natural components of the atmosphere;

(2) Air pollution shall mean the presence in the outdoor atmosphere of one or more air contaminants or combinations thereof in such quantities and of such duration as are or may tend to be injurious to human, plant, or animal life, property, or the conduct of business;

(3) Chairperson shall mean the chairperson of the Environmental Quality Council and council shall mean the Environmental Quality Council;

(4) Complaint shall mean any charge, however informal, to or by the council, that any person or agency, private or public, is polluting the air, land, or water or is violating the Environmental Protection Act or any rule or regulation of the department in respect thereof;

(5) Control and controlling shall include prohibition and prohibiting as related to air, land, or water pollution;

(6) Department shall mean the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, which department is hereby created;

(7) Director shall mean the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, which position is hereby established;

(8) Disposal system shall mean a system for disposing of wastes, including hazardous wastes, either by surface or underground methods, and includes sewerage systems and treatment works, disposal wells and fields, and other systems;

(9) Emissions shall mean releases or discharges into the outdoor atmosphere of any air contaminant or combination thereof;

(10) Person shall mean any: Individual; partnership; limited liability company; association; public or private corporation; trustee; receiver; assignee; agent; municipality or other governmental subdivision; public agency; other legal entity; or any officer or governing or managing body of any public or private corporation, municipality, governmental subdivision, public agency, or other legal entity;

(11) Rule or regulation shall mean any rule or regulation of the department;

(12) Sewerage system shall mean pipelines, conduits, pumping stations, force mains, and all other constructions, devices, appurtenances, and facilities used for collecting or conducting wastes to an ultimate point for treatment or disposal;

(13) Treatment works shall mean any plant or other works used for the purpose of treating, stabilizing, or holding wastes;

(14) Wastes shall mean sewage, industrial waste, and all other liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substances which may pollute or tend to pollute any air, land, or waters of the state;

(15) Refuse shall mean putrescible and nonputrescible solid wastes, except body wastes, and includes garbage, rubbish, ashes, incinerator ash, incinerator residue, street cleanings, and solid market and industrial wastes;

(16) Garbage shall mean rejected food wastes, including waste accumulation of animal, fruit, or vegetable matter used or intended for food or that attend the preparation, use, cooking, dealing in, or storing of meat, fish, fowl, fruit, or vegetables, and dead animals rejected by rendering plants;

(17) Rubbish shall mean nonputrescible solid wastes, excluding ashes, consisting of both combustible and noncombustible wastes, such as paper, cardboard, tin cans, yard clippings, wood, glass, bedding, crockery, or litter of any kind that will be a detriment to the public health and safety;

(18) Junk shall mean old scrap, copper, brass, iron, steel, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, waste, dismantled or wrecked automobiles, or parts thereof, and other old or scrap ferrous or nonferrous material;

(19) Land pollution shall mean the presence upon or within the land resources of the state of one or more contaminants or combinations of contaminants, including, but not limited to, refuse, garbage, rubbish, or junk, in such quantities and of such quality as will or are likely to (a) create a nuisance, (b) be harmful, detrimental, or injurious to public health, safety, or welfare, (c) be injurious to plant and animal life and property, or (d) be detrimental to the economic and social development, the scenic beauty, or the enjoyment of the natural attractions of the state;

(20) Water pollution shall mean the manmade or man-induced alteration of

the chemical, physical, biological, or radiological integrity of water;

(21) Waters of the state shall mean all waters within the jurisdiction of this state, including all streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marshes, wetlands, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems, drainage systems, and all other bodies or accumulations of water, surface or underground, natural or artificial, public or private, situated wholly or partly within or bordering upon the state;

(22) Point source shall mean any discernible confined and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged;

(23) Effluent limitation shall mean any restriction, including a schedule of compliance, established by the council on quantities, rates, and concentrations of chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents which are discharged from point sources into waters of the state;

(24) Schedule of compliance shall mean a schedule of remedial measures including an enforceable sequence of actions or operations leading to compliance with an effluent limitation, other limitation, prohibition, or standard;

(25) Hazardous waste shall mean a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may (a) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness or (b) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human or animal health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed;

(26) Solid waste shall mean any garbage, refuse, or sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, and mining operations and from community activities. Solid waste shall not include slag, a product that is a result of the steel manufacturing process and is managed as an item of value in a controlled manner and not as a discarded material; solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.; or source, special nuclear, or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.;

(27) Storage, when used in connection with hazardous waste, shall mean the containment of hazardous waste, either on a temporary basis or for a period of years, in such manner as not to constitute disposal of such hazardous waste;

(28) Manifest shall mean the form used for identifying the quantity, composition, origin, routing, and destination of hazardous waste during its transportation from the point of generation to the point of disposal, treatment, or storage;

(29) Processing shall mean to treat, detoxify, neutralize, incinerate, biodegrade, or otherwise process a hazardous waste to remove such waste's harmful properties or characteristics for disposal in accordance with regulations established by the council;

(30) Well shall mean a bored, drilled, or driven shaft or a dug hole, the depth of which is greater than the largest surface dimension of such shaft or hole;

(31) Injection well shall mean a well into which fluids are injected;

(32) Fluid shall mean a material or substance which flows or moves whether in a semisolid, liquid, sludge, gas, or other form or state;

(33) Mineral production well shall mean a well drilled to promote extraction of mineral resources or energy, including, but not limited to, a well designed for (a) mining of sulfur by the Frasch process, (b) solution mining of sodium chloride, potash, phosphate, copper, uranium, or any other mineral which can be mined by this process, (c) in situ combustion of coal, tar sands, oil shale, or any other fossil fuel, or (d) recovery of geothermal energy for the production of electric power. Mineral production well shall not include any well designed for conventional oil or gas production, for use of fluids to promote enhanced recovery of oil or natural gas, or for injection of hydrocarbons for storage purposes;

(34) Mineral exploration hole shall mean a hole bored, drilled, driven, or dug in the act of exploring for a mineral other than oil and gas;

(35) Solution mining shall mean the use of an injection well and fluids to promote the extraction of mineral resources;

(36) Uranium shall mean tri-uranium oct-oxide;

(37) Solid waste management facility shall mean a facility as defined in section 13-2010; and

(38) Livestock waste control facility shall have the same meaning as in section 54-2417.

Sec. 107. Section 81-1503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1503 (1) ~~(1)~~(a) The Environmental Quality Council is hereby created.

~~(b) Until April 28, 2005, the council shall consist of sixteen members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature as follows:~~

~~(i) One representative of the food products manufacturing industry;~~

~~(ii) One representative of conservation;~~

~~(iii) One representative of the agricultural processing industry;~~

- ~~(iv) One representative of the automotive or petroleum industry;~~
- ~~(v) One representative of the chemical industry;~~
- ~~(vi) One representative of heavy industry;~~
- ~~(vii) One representative of the power generating industry;~~
- ~~(viii) One representative of agriculture actively engaged in crop production;~~
- ~~(ix) One representative of labor;~~
- ~~(x) One professional engineer experienced in control of air and water pollution and solid wastes;~~
- ~~(xi) One physician knowledgeable in the health aspects of air, water, and land pollution;~~
- ~~(xii) One representative from county government;~~
- ~~(xiii) Two representatives from municipal government, one of whom shall represent cities other than those of the primary or metropolitan class;~~
- ~~(xiv) One representative of the livestock industry; and~~
- ~~(xv) One representative of the public at large.~~

~~The (c) On and after April 28, 2005, the council shall consist of seventeen members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature as follows:~~

- ~~(a) (i) One representative of the food products manufacturing industry;~~
- ~~(b) (ii) One representative of conservation;~~
- ~~(c) (iii) One representative of the agricultural processing industry;~~
- ~~(d) (iv) One representative of the automotive or petroleum industry;~~
- ~~(e) (v) One representative of the chemical industry;~~
- ~~(f) (vi) One representative of heavy industry;~~
- ~~(g) (vii) One representative of the power generating industry;~~
- ~~(h) (viii) One representative of agriculture actively engaged in crop production;~~
- ~~(i) (ix) One representative of labor;~~
- ~~(j) (x) One professional engineer experienced in control of air and water pollution and solid wastes;~~
- ~~(k) (xi) One physician knowledgeable in the health aspects of air, water, and land pollution;~~
- ~~(l) (xii) One representative from county government;~~
- ~~(m) (xiii) Two representatives from municipal government, one of whom shall represent cities other than those of the primary or metropolitan class;~~
- ~~(n) (xiv) One representative of the livestock industry;~~
- ~~(o) (xv) One representative of minority populations; and~~
- ~~(p) (xvi) One biologist.~~

~~(d)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, members of the council serving on April 28, 2005, shall continue to serve on the council as representatives of the entity they were appointed to represent until their current terms of office expire and their successors are appointed and confirmed. The member representing the public at large shall serve until the member representing minority populations is appointed.~~

~~(ii) The Governor shall appoint members pursuant to subdivisions (1)(c)(xv) and (1)(c)(xvi) of this section within ninety days after April 28, 2005.~~

(2) Members shall serve for terms of four years. All appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the Legislature when initially made. As the term of an appointee to the council expires, the succeeding appointee shall be a representative of the same segment of the public as the previous appointee. In the case of appointees to vacancies occurring from unexpired terms, each successor shall serve out the term of his or her predecessor. Members whose terms have expired shall continue to serve until their successors have been appointed. All members shall be citizens and residents of the State of Nebraska.

(3) Members may be removed by the Governor for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office but only after delivering to the member a copy of the charges and affording him or her an opportunity to be publicly heard in person or by counsel, in his or her own defense, upon not less than ten days' notice. Such hearing shall be held before the Governor. When a member is removed, the Governor shall file, in the office of the Secretary of State, a complete statement of all charges made against such member and the findings thereon, together with a complete record of the proceedings.

(4) The council shall elect from its members a chairperson and a vice-chairperson, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the council. The vice-chairperson shall serve as chairperson in case of the absence or disability of the chairperson. The director shall serve as secretary of the council and shall keep all records of meetings of and actions taken by the council. He or she shall be promptly advised as to such actions by the chairperson.

(5) The members of the council, while engaged in the performance of their official duties, shall receive a per diem of forty dollars while so serving, including travel time. In addition, members of the council shall receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(6) The council shall hold at least two regular meetings each year, at a time and place fixed by the council and shall keep a record of its proceedings which shall be open to the public for inspection. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson. Such special meetings must be called by him or her upon receipt of a written request signed by two or more members of the council. Written notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be mailed in advance to the office of each member of the council by the secretary. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

(7) The council shall submit to the Governor a list of names from which he or she shall appoint the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality who shall be experienced in air, water, and land pollution control and who may be otherwise an employee of state government. The director shall be responsible for administration of the department and all standards, rules, and regulations adopted pursuant to Chapter 81, article 15, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act. All such standards, rules, and regulations shall be adopted by the council after consideration of the recommendations of the director. All grants to political subdivisions under the control of the department shall be made by the director in accordance with priorities established by the council, unless otherwise directed by statute. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The affirmative vote of a majority of all members of the council shall be necessary for the adoption of standards, rules, and regulations.

(8) Before the director enters upon the duties of his or her office, he or she shall take and subscribe to the constitutional oath of office and shall, in addition thereto, swear and affirm that he or she holds no other public office nor any position under any political committee or party, that he or she has not during the two years immediately prior to his or her appointment received a significant portion of his or her income directly or indirectly from permitholders or applicants for a permit under the Environmental Protection Act, and that he or she will not receive such income during his or her term as director, except that such requirements regarding income prior to the term of office shall not apply to employees of any agency of the State of Nebraska or any political subdivision which may be a permitholder under the Environmental Protection Act. Such oath and affirmation shall be filed with the Secretary of State.

Sec. 108. Section 81-1504, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-1504 The department shall have and may exercise the following powers and duties:

(1) To exercise exclusive general supervision of the administration and enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Livestock Waste Management Act, and all rules and regulations and orders adopted and promulgated under such acts;

(2) To develop comprehensive programs for the prevention, control, and abatement of new or existing pollution of the air, waters, and land of the state;

(3) To advise and consult, cooperate, and contract with other agencies of the state, the federal government, and other states, with interstate agencies, and with affected groups, political subdivisions, and industries in furtherance of the purposes of the acts;

(4) To act as the state water pollution, air pollution, and solid waste pollution control agency for all purposes of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq., the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq., and any other federal legislation pertaining to loans or grants for environmental protection and from other sources, public or private, for carrying out any of its functions, which loans and grants shall not be expended for other than the purposes for which provided;

(5) To encourage, participate in, or conduct studies, investigations, research, and demonstrations relating to air, land, and water pollution and causes and effects, prevention, control, and abatement of such pollution as it may deem advisable and necessary for the discharge of its duties under the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act, using its own staff or private research organizations under contract;

(6) To collect and disseminate information and conduct educational and training programs relating to air, water, and land pollution and the prevention, control, and abatement of such pollution;

(7) To issue, modify, or revoke orders (a) prohibiting or abating discharges of wastes into the air, waters, or land of the state and (b) requiring the construction of new disposal systems or any parts thereof or the modification, extension, or adoption of other remedial measures to prevent, control, or abate pollution;

(8) To administer state grants to political subdivisions for solid waste disposal facilities and for the construction of sewage treatment works and facilities to dispose of water treatment plant wastes;

(9) To (a) hold such hearings and give notice thereof, (b) issue such subpoenas requiring the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such evidence, (c) administer such oaths, and (d) take such testimony as the director deems necessary, and any of these powers may be exercised on behalf of the director by a hearing officer designated by the director;

(10) To require submission of plans, specifications, and other data relative to, and to inspect construction of, disposal systems or any part thereof prior to issuance of such permits or approvals as are required by the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

(11) To issue, continue in effect, revoke, modify, or deny permits, under such conditions as the director may prescribe and consistent with the standards, rules, and regulations adopted by the council, (a) to prevent, control, or abate pollution, (b) for the discharge of wastes into the air,

land, or waters of the state, and (c) for the installation, modification, or operation of disposal systems or any parts thereof;

(12) To require proper maintenance and operation of disposal systems;

(13) To exercise all incidental powers necessary to carry out the purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

(14) To establish bureaus, divisions, or sections for the control of air pollution, water pollution, mining and land quality, and solid wastes which shall be administered by full-time salaried bureau, division, or section chiefs and to delegate and assign to each such bureau, division, or section and its officers and employees the duties and powers granted to the department for the enforcement of Chapter 81, article 15, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Livestock Waste Management Act, and the standards, rules, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto;

(15)(a) To require access to existing and available records relating to (i) emissions or discharges which cause or contribute to air, land, or water pollution or (ii) the monitoring of such emissions or discharges; and

(b) To require, for purposes of developing or assisting the development of any regulation or enforcing any of the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act which pertain to hazardous waste, any person who generates, stores, treats, transports, disposes of, or otherwise handles or has handled hazardous waste, upon request of any officer, employee, or representative of the department, to furnish information relating to such waste and any permit involved. Such person shall have access at all reasonable times to a copy of all results relating to such waste;

(16) To obtain such scientific, technical, administrative, and operational services including laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise, as the director deems necessary;

(17) To encourage voluntary cooperation by persons and affected groups to achieve the purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

(18) To encourage local units of government to handle air, land, and water pollution problems within their respective jurisdictions and on a cooperative basis and to provide technical and consultative assistance therefor;

(19) To consult with any person proposing to construct, install, or otherwise acquire an air, land, or water contaminant source or a device or system for control of such source, upon request of such person, concerning the efficacy of such device or system or concerning the air, land, or water pollution problem which may be related to the source, device, or system. Nothing in any such consultation shall be construed to relieve any person from compliance with the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Livestock Waste Management Act, rules and regulations in force pursuant to the acts, or any other provision of law;

(20) To require all persons engaged or desiring to engage in operations which result or which may result in air, water, or land pollution to secure a permit prior to installation or operation or continued operation;

(21) To enter and inspect, during reasonable hours, any building or place, except a building designed for and used exclusively for a private residence;

(22) To receive or initiate complaints of air, water, or land pollution, hold hearings in connection with air, water, or land pollution, and institute legal proceedings in the name of the state for the control or prevention of air, water, or land pollution, and for the recovery of penalties, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

(23) To delegate, by contract with governmental subdivisions which have adopted local air, water, or land pollution control programs approved by the council, the enforcement of state-adopted air, water, or land pollution control regulations within a specified region surrounding the jurisdictional area of the governmental subdivisions. Prosecutions commenced under such contracts shall be conducted by the Attorney General or county attorneys as provided in the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

(24) To conduct tests and take samples of air, water, or land contaminants, fuel, process materials, or any other substance which affects or may affect discharges or emissions of air, water, or land contaminants from any source, giving the owner or operator a receipt for the sample obtained;

(25) To develop and enforce compliance schedules, under such conditions as the director may prescribe and consistent with the standards, rules, and regulations adopted by the council, to prevent, control, or abate pollution;

(26) To employ the Governor's Keep Nebraska Beautiful Committee for such special occasions and projects as the department may decide. Reimbursement of the committee shall be made from state and appropriate federal matching funds for each assignment of work by the department as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177;

(27) To provide, to the extent determined by the council to be necessary and practicable, for areawide, selective, and periodic inspection and testing of motor vehicles to secure compliance with applicable exhaust emission standards for a fee not to exceed five dollars to offset the cost of inspection;

(28) To enforce, when it is not feasible to prescribe or enforce any emission standard for control of air pollutants, the use of a design, equipment, a work practice, an operational standard, or a combination thereof, adequate to protect the public health from such pollutant or pollutants with an

ample margin of safety;

(29) To establish the position of public advocate to be located within the department to assist and educate the public on departmental programs and to carry out all duties of the ombudsman as provided in the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7661f;

(30) Under such conditions as it may prescribe for the review, recommendations, and written approval of the director, to require the submission of such plans, specifications, and other information as it deems necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act or to carry out the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the acts. When deemed necessary by the director, the plans and specifications shall be prepared and submitted by a professional engineer licensed to practice in Nebraska;

(31) To carry out the provisions of the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Act;

(32) To consider the risk to human health and safety and to the environment in evaluating and approving plans for remedial action; ~~and~~

(33) To evaluate permits proposed to be issued to any political subdivision under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System created by the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., as provided in section 81-1517; ~~-~~

(34) To exercise such powers and duties as may be delegated by the federal government to administer an individual and general permit program for the discharge of dredged or fill material consistent with section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1344;

(35) To serve as or assist in developing and coordinating a central repository within state government for the collection of data on energy;

(36) To undertake a continuing assessment of the trends in the availability, consumption, and development of all forms of energy;

(37) To collect and analyze data relating to present and future demands and resources for all sources of energy and to specify energy needs for the state;

(38) To recommend to the Governor and the Legislature energy policies and conservation measures for the state and to carry out such measures as are adopted;

(39) To provide for public dissemination of appropriate information on energy, energy sources, and energy conservation;

(40) To accept, expend, or disburse funds, public or private, made available to it for research studies, demonstration projects, or other activities which are related either to energy conservation and efficiency or development;

(41) To study the impact and relationship of state energy policies to national and regional energy policies and engage in such activities as will reasonably insure that the State of Nebraska and its residents receive an equitable share of energy supplies, including the administration of any federally mandated or state-mandated energy allocation programs;

(42) To actively seek the advice of the residents of Nebraska regarding energy policies and programs;

(43) To prepare emergency allocation plans suggesting to the Governor actions to be taken in the event of serious shortages of energy;

(44) To design and maintain a state program for conservation of energy and energy efficiency;

(45) To provide technical assistance regarding energy to local subdivisions of government;

(46) To provide technical assistance to private persons desiring information on energy conservation and efficiency techniques and the use of renewable energy technologies;

(47) To develop a strategic state energy plan pursuant to section 81-1604;

(48) To develop and disseminate transparent and objective energy information and analysis while utilizing existing energy planning resources of relevant stakeholder entities;

(49) To actively seek to maximize federal and other nonstate funding and support to the state for energy planning;

(50) To monitor energy transmission capacity planning and policy affecting the state and the regulatory approval process for the development of energy infrastructure and make recommendations to the Governor and electronically to the Legislature as necessary to facilitate energy infrastructure planning and development;

(51) To implement rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the director pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to carry out subdivisions (35) through (58) of this section;

(52) To make all contracts pursuant to subdivisions (35) through (58) of this section and do all things to cooperate with the federal government, and to qualify for, accept, expend, and dispense public or private funds intended for the implementation of subdivisions (35) through (58) of this section;

(53) To contract for services, if such work or services cannot be satisfactorily performed by employees of the department or by any other part of state government;

(54) To enter into such agreements as are necessary to carry out energy research and development with other states;

(55) To carry out the duties and responsibilities relating to energy as may be requested or required of the state by the federal government;

(56) To cooperate and participate with the approval of the Governor in the

activities of organizations of states relating to the availability, conservation, development, and distribution of energy;

(57) To engage in such activities as will seek to insure that the State of Nebraska and its residents receive an equitable share of energy supplies at a fair price; and

(58) To form advisory committees of residents of Nebraska to advise the director on programs and policies relating to energy and to assist in implementing such programs. Such committees shall be of a temporary nature, and no member shall receive any compensation for serving on any such committee but, with the approval of the Governor, members shall receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The minutes of meetings of and actions taken by each committee shall be kept and a record shall be maintained of the name, address, and occupation or vocation of every individual serving on any committee. The department shall maintain such minutes and records and shall make them available for public inspection during regular office hours.

Sec. 109. Section 81-1504.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1504.01 The ~~department~~ Department of Environmental Quality shall provide the following information to the Governor and to the Clerk of the Legislature by December 1 of each year:

(1) A report by type of service or aid provided by the use and distribution of federal funds received by the department. The report shall also include user fees, permit fees, license fees, and application fees authorized by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as follows:

(a) Actual expenditure of each grant or authorized fees for the most recently completed state fiscal year, including state matching funds;

(b) Current budget and planned use and distribution of each grant and authorized fees for the current state fiscal year, including state matching funds;

(c) A summary of the projected funding level of each grant and authorized fees and the impact of federal mandates and regulations upon the future use of each grant and authorized fees; and

(d) Program summaries including statistical summaries when applicable for the most recently completed state fiscal year and program activity goals for the current state fiscal year;

(2) A summary of regulations of the federal Environmental Protection Agency which the department is required to implement and which do not include federal funding assistance and the possible financial impact to the state and political subdivisions;

(3) A report by type of service or aid provided by the use and distribution of state general and cash funds, including user fees, permit fees, license fees, and application fees, to carry out activities that are not funded by federal grants as follows:

(a) Actual expenditure of state funds, by agency sections, for the most recently completed state fiscal year, including a breakdown of expenditures by personal services, operations, travel, capital outlay, and consulting and contractual services;

(b) Current budget and planned use and distribution of state funds, by agency sections, for the current state fiscal year, including a breakdown of expenditures for personal services, operations, travel, capital outlay, and consulting and contractual services;

(c) A summary of projected program funding needs based upon the statutory requirements and public demand for services and the department's assessment of anticipated needs statewide; and

(d) Program summaries including statistical summaries when applicable for the most recently completed state fiscal year and program activity goals for the current state fiscal year;

(4) A report regarding staff turnover by job class and the department's assessment of its ability to hire and retain qualified staff considering the state's personnel pay plan;

(5) A report listing the method used by each new or existing licensee, permittee, or other person who is required by the department to establish proof of financial responsibility; and

(6) A report for the previous state fiscal year relating to the purpose of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act and of funds credited to the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund.

The reports and summaries submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

Sec. 110. Section 81-1505, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-1505 (1) In order to carry out the purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act, the council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations which shall set standards of air, water, and land quality to be applicable to the air, waters, and land of this state or portions thereof. Such standards of quality shall be such as to protect the public health and welfare. The council shall classify air, water, and land contaminant sources according to levels and types of discharges, emissions, and other characteristics which relate to air, water, and land pollution and may require reporting for any such class or classes. Such classifications and standards made pursuant to this section may be made for application to the state as a whole or to any designated area of the state and shall be made with special reference to

effects on health, economic and social factors, and physical effects on property. Such standards and classifications may be amended as determined necessary by the council.

(2) In adopting the classifications of waters and water quality standards, the primary purpose for such classifications and standards shall be to protect the public health and welfare and the council shall give consideration to:

(a) The size, depth, surface area, or underground area covered, the volume, direction, and rate of flow, stream gradient, and temperature of the water;

(b) The character of the area affected by such classification or standards, its peculiar suitability for particular purposes, conserving the value of the area, and encouraging the most appropriate use of lands within such area for domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and aquatic life purposes;

(c) The uses which have been made, are being made, or are likely to be made, of such waters for agricultural, transportation, domestic, and industrial consumption, for fishing and aquatic culture, for the disposal of sewage, industrial waste, and other wastes, or other uses within this state and, at the discretion of the council, any such uses in another state on interstate waters flowing through or originating in this state;

(d) The extent of present pollution or contamination of such waters which has already occurred or resulted from past discharges therein; and

(e) Procedures pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., for certification by the department of activities requiring a federal license or permit which may result in a discharge.

(3) In adopting effluent limitations or prohibitions, the council shall give consideration to the type, class, or category of discharges and the quantities, rates, and concentrations of chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents which are discharged from point sources into navigable or other waters of the state, including schedules of compliance, best practicable control technology, and best available control technology.

(4) In adopting standards of performance, the council shall give consideration to the discharge of pollutants which reflect the greatest degree of effluent reduction which the council determines to be achievable through application of the best available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating methods, or other alternatives, including, when practicable, a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

(5) In adopting toxic pollutant standards and limitations, the council shall give consideration to the combinations of pollutants, the toxicity of the pollutant, its persistence, degradability, the usual or potential presence of the affected organisms in any waters, the importance of the affected organisms, and the nature and extent of the effect of the toxic pollutant on such organisms.

(6) In adopting pretreatment standards, the council shall give consideration to the prohibitions or limitations to noncompatible pollutants, prohibitions against the passage through a publicly owned treatment works of pollutants which would cause interference with or obstruction to the operation of publicly owned treatment works, damage to such works, and the prevention of the discharge of pollutants therefrom which are inadequately treated.

(7) In adopting treatment standards, the council shall give consideration to providing for processes to which wastewater shall be subjected in a publicly owned wastewater treatment works in order to make such wastewater suitable for subsequent use.

(8) In adopting regulations pertaining to the disposal of domestic and industrial liquid wastes, the council shall give consideration to the minimum amount of biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids, or equivalent in the case of industrial wastewaters, which must be removed from the wastewaters and the degree of disinfection necessary to meet water quality standards with respect to construction, installation, change of, alterations in, or additions to any wastewater treatment works or disposal systems, including issuance of permits and proper abandonment, and requirements necessary for proper operation and maintenance thereof.

(9)(a) The council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for controlling mineral exploration holes and mineral production and injection wells. The rules and regulations shall include standards for the construction, operation, and abandonment of such holes and wells. The standards shall protect the public health and welfare and air, land, water, and subsurface resources so as to control, minimize, and eliminate hazards to humans, animals, and the environment. Consideration shall be given to:

(i) Area conditions such as suitability of location, geologic formations, topography, industry, agriculture, population density, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, sites of archaeological and historical importance, mineral, land, and water resources, and the existing economic activities of the area including, but not limited to, agriculture, recreation, tourism, and industry;

(ii) A site-specific evaluation of the geologic and hydrologic suitability of the site and the injection, disposal, and production zones;

(iii) The quality of the existing ground water, the effects of exemption of the aquifer from any existing water quality standards, and requirements for restoration of the aquifer;

(iv) Standards for design and use of production facilities, which shall include, but not be limited to, all wells, pumping equipment, surface structures, and associated land required for operation of injection or production wells; and

(v) Conditions required for closure, abandonment, or restoration of mineral exploration holes, injection and production wells, and production facilities in order to protect the public health and welfare and air, land, water, and subsurface resources.

(b) The council shall establish fees for regulated activities and facilities and for permits for such activities and facilities. The fees shall be sufficient but shall not exceed the amount necessary to pay the department for the direct and indirect costs of evaluating, processing, and monitoring during and after operation of regulated facilities or performance of regulated activities.

(c) With respect to mineral production wells, the council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations which require restoration of air, land, water, and subsurface resources and require mineral production well permit applications to include a restoration plan for the air, land, water, and subsurface resources affected. Such rules and regulations may provide for issuance of a research and development permit which authorizes construction and operation of a pilot plant by the permittee for the purpose of demonstrating the permittee's ability to inject and restore in a manner which meets the standards required by this subsection and the rules and regulations.

The rules and regulations adopted and promulgated may also provide for issuance of a commercial permit after a finding by the department that the injection and restoration procedures authorized by the research and development permit have been successful in demonstrating the applicant's ability to inject and restore in a manner which meets the standards required by this subsection and the rules and regulations.

(d) For the purpose of this subsection, unless the context otherwise requires, restoration shall mean the employment, during and after an activity, of procedures reasonably designed to control, minimize, and eliminate hazards to humans, animals, and the environment, to protect the public health and welfare and air, land, water, and subsurface resources, and to return each resource to a quality of use consistent with the uses for which the resource was suitable prior to the activity.

(10) In adopting livestock waste control regulations, the council shall consider the discharge of livestock wastes into the waters of the state or onto land not owned by the livestock operator, conditions under which permits for such operations may be issued, including design, location, and proper management of such facilities, protection of ground water from such operations, and revocation, modification, or suspension of such permits for cause and all requirements of the Livestock Waste Management Act.

(11) In adopting regulations for the issuance of permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System created by the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., the council shall consider when such permits shall be required and exemptions, application and filing requirements, terms and conditions affecting such permits, notice and public participation, duration and review of such permits, the evaluation provided for under section 81-1517, and monitoring, recording, and reporting under the system.

(12) The council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for air pollution control which shall include:

(a) A construction permit program which requires the owner or operator of an air contaminant source to obtain a permit prior to construction. Application fees shall be according to section 81-1505.06;

(b) An operating permit program consistent with requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq., and an operating permit program for minor sources of air pollution, which programs shall require permits for both new and existing sources;

(c) Provisions for operating permits to be issued after public notice, to be terminated, modified, or revoked for cause, and to be modified to incorporate new requirements;

(d) Provisions for applications to be on forms provided by the department and to contain information necessary to make a determination on the appropriateness of issuance or denial. The department shall make a completeness determination in a timely fashion and after such determination shall act on the application within time limits set by the council. Applications for operating permits shall include provisions for certification of compliance by the applicant;

(e) Requirements for operating permits which may include such conditions as necessary to protect public health and welfare, including, but not limited to (i) monitoring and reporting requirements on all sources subject to the permit, (ii) payment of annual fees sufficient to pay the reasonable direct and indirect costs of developing and administering the air quality permit program, (iii) retention of records, (iv) compliance with all air quality standards, (v) a permit term of no more than five years from date of issuance, (vi) any applicable schedule of compliance leading to compliance with air quality regulations, (vii) site access to the department for inspection of the facility and records, (viii) emission limits or control technology requirements, (ix) periodic compliance certification, and (x) other conditions necessary to carry out the purposes of the Environmental Protection Act. For purposes of this subsection, control technology shall mean a design, equipment, a work practice, an operational standard which may include a requirement for operator training or certification, or any combination thereof;

(f) Classification of air quality control regions;

(g) Standards for air quality that may be established based upon protection of public health and welfare, emission limitations established by

the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and maximum achievable control technology standards for sources of toxic air pollutants. For purposes of this subdivision, maximum achievable control technology standards shall mean an emission limit or control technology standard which requires the maximum degree of emission reduction that the council, taking into consideration the cost of achieving such emission reduction, any health and environmental impacts not related to air quality, and energy requirements, determines is achievable for new or existing sources in the category or subcategory to which the standard applies through application of measures, processes, methods, systems, or techniques, including, but not limited to, measures which accomplish one or a combination of the following:

- (i) Reduce the volume of or eliminate emissions of the pollutants through process changes, substitution of materials, or other modifications;
- (ii) Enclose systems or processes to eliminate emissions; or
- (iii) Collect, capture, or treat the pollutants when released from a process, stack, storage, or fugitive emission point;
- (h) Restrictions on open burning and fugitive emissions;
- (i) Provisions for issuance of general operating permits, after public notice, for sources with similar operating conditions and for revoking such general authority to specific permittees;
- (j) Provisions for implementation of any emissions trading programs as defined by the department. Such programs shall be consistent with the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq., and administered through the operating permit program;
- (k) A provision that operating permits will not be issued if the Environmental Protection Agency objects in a timely manner;
- (l) Provisions for periodic reporting of emissions;
- (m) Limitations on emissions from process operations, fuel-burning equipment, and incinerator emissions and such other restrictions on emissions as are necessary to protect the public health and welfare;
- (n) Time schedules for compliance;
- (o) Requirements for owner or operator testing and monitoring of emissions;
- (p) Control technology requirements when it is not feasible to prescribe or enforce an emission standard; and
- (q) Procedures and definitions necessary to carry out payment of the annual emission fee set in section 81-1505.04.

(13)(a) In adopting regulations for hazardous waste management, the council shall give consideration to generation of hazardous wastes, labeling practices, containers used, treatment, storage, collection, transportation including a manifest system, processing, resource recovery, and disposal of hazardous wastes. It shall consider the permitting, licensing, design and construction, and development and operational plans for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities, and conditions for licensing or permitting of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal areas. It shall consider modification, suspension, or revocation of such licenses and permits, including requirements for waste analysis, site improvements, fire prevention, safety, security, restricted access, and covering and handling of hazardous liquids and materials. Licenses and permits for hazardous waste, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities shall not be issued until certification by the State Fire Marshal as to fire prevention and fire safety has been received by the department. The council shall further consider the need at treatment, storage, or disposal facilities for required equipment, communications and alarms, personnel training, and contingency plans for any emergencies that might arise and for a coordinator during such emergencies.

In addition the council shall give consideration to (i) ground water monitoring, (ii) use and management of containers and tanks, (iii) surface impoundments, (iv) waste piles, (v) land treatment, (vi) incinerators, (vii) chemical or biological treatment, (viii) landfills including the surveying thereof, and (ix) special requirements for ignitable, reactive, or incompatible wastes.

In considering closure and postclosure of hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities, the council shall consider regulations that would result in the owner or operator closing his or her facility so as to minimize the need for future maintenance, and to control, minimize, or eliminate, to the extent necessary to protect humans, animals, and the environment, postclosure escape of hazardous waste, hazardous waste constituents, and leachate to the ground water or surface waters, and to control, minimize, or eliminate, to the extent necessary to protect humans, animals, and the environment, waste decomposition to the atmosphere. In considering corrective action for hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities, the council shall consider regulations that would require the owner or operator, or any previous owner or operator with actual knowledge of the presence of hazardous waste at the facility, to undertake corrective action or such other response measures necessary to protect human health or the environment for all releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from any treatment, storage, or disposal facility or any solid waste management unit at such facility regardless of the time at which waste was placed in such unit.

Such regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection shall in all respects comply with the Environmental Protection Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.

(b) In adopting regulations for hazardous waste management, the council shall consider, in addition to criteria in subdivision (a) of this subsection,

establishing criteria for (i) identifying hazardous waste including extraction procedures, toxicity, persistence, and degradability in nature, potential for accumulation in tissue, flammability or ignitability, corrosiveness, reactivity, and generation of pressure through decomposition, heat, or other means, and other hazardous characteristics, (ii) listing all materials it deems hazardous and which should be subject to regulation, and (iii) locating treatment, storage, or disposal facilities for such wastes. In adopting criteria for flammability and ignitability of wastes pursuant to subdivision (b)(i) of this subsection, no regulation shall be adopted without the approval of the State Fire Marshal.

(c) In adopting regulations for hazardous waste management, the council shall establish a schedule of fees to be paid to the director by licensees or permittees operating hazardous waste processing facilities or disposal areas on the basis of a monetary value per cubic foot or per pound of the hazardous wastes, sufficient but not exceeding the amount necessary to reimburse the department for the costs of monitoring such facilities or areas during and after operation of such facilities or areas. The licensees may assess a cost against persons using the facilities or areas. The director shall remit any money collected from fees paid to him or her to the State Treasurer who shall credit the entire amount thereof to the General Fund.

(d) In adopting regulations for solid waste disposal, the council shall consider storage, collection, transportation, processing, resource recovery, and disposal of solid waste, developmental and operational plans for solid waste disposal areas, conditions for permitting of solid waste disposal areas, modification, suspension, or revocation of such permits, regulations of operations of disposal areas, including site improvements, fire prevention, ground water protection, safety and restricted access, handling of liquid and hazardous materials, insect and rodent control, salvage operations, and the methods of disposing of accumulations of junk outside of solid waste disposal areas. Such regulations shall in all respects comply with the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.

(14) In adopting regulations governing discharges or emissions of oil and other hazardous materials into the waters, in the air, or upon the land of the state, the council shall consider the requirements of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, methods for prevention of such discharges or emissions, and the responsibility of the discharger or emitter for cleanup, toxicity, degradability, and dispersal characteristics of the substance.

(15) In adopting regulations governing composting and composting sites, the council shall give consideration to:

(a) Approval of a proposed site by the local governing body, including the zoning authority, if any, prior to issuance of a permit by the department;

(b) Issuance of permits by the department for such composting operations, with conditions if necessary;

(c) Submission of construction and operational plans by the applicant for a permit to the department, with approval of such plans before issuance of such permit;

(d) A term of up to ten years for such permits;

(e) Renewal of permits if the operation has been in substantial compliance with composting regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection, permit conditions, and operational plans;

(f) Review by the department of materials to be composted, including chemical analysis when found by the department to be necessary;

(g) Inspections of such compost sites by the department. Operations out of compliance with composting regulations, permit conditions, or operational plans shall be given a reasonable time for voluntary compliance, and failure to do so within the specified time shall result in a hearing after notice is given, at which time the owner or operator shall appear and show cause why his or her permit should not be revoked;

(h) Special permits of the department for demonstration projects not to exceed six months;

(i) Exemptions from permits of the department; and

(j) The Integrated Solid Waste Management Act.

(16) Any person operating or responsible for the operation of air, water, or land contaminant sources of any class for which the rules and regulations of the council require reporting shall make reports containing information as may be required by the department concerning quality and quantity of discharges and emissions, location, size, and height of contaminant outlets, processes employed, fuels used, and the nature and time periods or duration of discharges and emissions, and such other information as is relevant to air, water, or land pollution and is available.

(17) Prior to adopting, amending, or repealing standards and classifications of air, water, and land quality and rules and regulations under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act or the Livestock Waste Management Act, the council shall, after due notice, conduct public hearings thereon. Notice of public hearings shall specify the waters or the area of the state for which standards of air, water, or land are sought to be adopted, amended, or repealed and the time, date, and place of such hearing. Such hearing shall be held in the general area to be affected by such standards. Such notice shall be given in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(18) Standards of quality of the air, water, or land of the state and rules and regulations adopted under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act or the Livestock Waste Management Act or any amendment or repeal of such

standards or rules and regulations shall become effective upon adoption by the council and filing in the office of the Secretary of State. In adopting standards of air, water, and land quality or making any amendment thereof, the council shall specify a reasonable time for persons discharging wastes into the air, water, or land of the state to comply with such standards and upon the expiration of any such period of time may revoke or modify any permit previously issued which authorizes the discharge of wastes into the air, water, or land of this state which results in reducing the quality of such air, water, or land below the standards established therefor by the council.

(19) All standards of quality of air, water, or land and all rules and regulations adopted pursuant to law by the council prior to May 29, 1981, and applicable to specified air, water, or land are hereby approved and adopted as standards of quality of and rules and regulations for such air, water, or land.

(20) In addition to such standards as are heretofore authorized, the council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to set standards of performance, effluent standards, pretreatment standards, treatment standards, toxic pollutant standards and limitations, effluent limitations, effluent prohibitions, and quantitative limitations or concentrations which shall in all respects conform with and meet the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System in the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

(21)(a) The council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations requiring all new or renewal permit or license applicants regulated under the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, or the Livestock Waste Management Act to establish proof of financial responsibility by providing funds in the event of abandonment, default, or other inability of the permittee or licensee to meet the requirements of its permit or license or other conditions imposed by the department pursuant to the acts. The council may exempt classes of permittees or licensees from the requirements of this subdivision when a finding is made that such exemption will not result in a significant risk to the public health and welfare.

(b) Proof of financial responsibility shall include any of the following made payable to or held in trust for the benefit of the state and approved by the department:

(i) A surety bond executed by the applicant and a corporate surety licensed to do business in this state;

(ii) A deposit of cash, negotiable bonds of the United States or the state, negotiable certificates of deposit, or an irrevocable letter of credit of any bank or other savings institution organized or transacting business in the United States in an amount or which has a market value equal to or greater than the amount of the bonds required for the bonded area under the same terms and conditions upon which surety bonds are deposited;

(iii) An established escrow account; or

(iv) A bond of the applicant without separate surety upon a satisfactory demonstration to the director that such applicant has the financial means sufficient to self-bond pursuant to bonding requirements adopted by the council consistent with the purposes of this subdivision.

(c) The director shall determine the amount of the bond, deposit, or escrow account which shall be reasonable and sufficient so the department may, if the permittee or licensee is unable or unwilling to do so and in the event of forfeiture of the bond or other financial responsibility methods, arrange to rectify any improper management technique committed during the term of the permit or license and assure the performance of duties and responsibilities required by the permit or license pursuant to law, rules, and regulations.

(d) In determining the amount of the bond or other method of financial responsibility, the director shall consider the requirements of the permit or license or any conditions specified by the department, the probable difficulty of completing the requirements of such permit, license, or conditions due to such factors as topography, geology of the site, and hydrology, and the prior history of environmental activities of the applicant.

This subsection shall apply to hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities which have received interim status.

(22)(a) ~~(22)~~ The council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations no more stringent than the provisions of section 1453 et seq. of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 300j-13 et seq., for public water system source water assessment programs.

(b) The council may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement a source water petition program no more stringent than section 1454 et seq. of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 300j-14 et seq.

(23) The council may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the issuance of permits relating to the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., giving consideration to (a) when such permits are required and exemptions, application, and filing requirements, (b) terms and conditions affecting such permits, notice and public participation, and duration, (c) review of such permits, (d) monitoring, recording, and reporting requirements, and (e) such other requirements not inconsistent with the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

Sec. 111. Section 81-1505.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1505.01 There is hereby created the ~~Department of Environmental Quality~~ Cash Fund which shall be used to pay the expenses of the department. The

department shall remit all fees collected pursuant to subsection (9) of section 81-1505 and section 81-1521.09 to the State Treasurer for credit to the fund. Any fee collected pursuant to section 81-1521.09 shall be used to pay the expenses related to the notice of intent for which the fee was paid. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. The State Treasurer shall transfer any money in the Department of Environmental Quality Cash Fund to the Environmental Cash Fund on the operative date of this act.

Sec. 112. Section 81-1506, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1506 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person:

(a) To cause pollution of any air, waters, or land of the state or to place or cause to be placed any wastes in a location where they are likely to cause pollution of any air, waters, or land of the state; or

(b) To discharge or emit any wastes into any air, waters, or land of the state which reduce the quality of such air, waters, or land below the air, water, or land quality standards established therefor by the council. Any such action is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. An animal feeding operation is not a nuisance if:

(i) Reasonable techniques are employed to keep dust, noise, insects, and odor at a minimum;

(ii) It is in compliance with applicable regulations adopted by the council and zoning regulations of the local governing body having jurisdiction; and

(iii) The action is brought by or on behalf of a person whose date of lawful possession of the land claimed to be affected by an animal feeding operation is subsequent to the issuance of an appropriate permit by the department for such operation or is subsequent to the operation of the feedlot and an onsite inspection by the department is made, before or after filing of the suit, and the inspection reveals that no permit is required for such operation.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(a) Discharge any pollutant into waters of the state without obtaining a permit as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System created by the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., and by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to section 81-1505;

(b) Construct, install, modify, or operate any disposal system or part thereof or any extension or addition thereto without obtaining necessary permits from the department;

(c) Increase in volume or strength any waste in excess of permitted discharges specified under any existing permit;

(d) Construct, install, or operate any industrial, commercial, or other facility or extend, modify, or add to any such facility if the operation would cause an increase in the discharge or emission of wastes into the air, waters, or land of the state or would otherwise cause an alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of any air, waters, or land of the state in a manner that is not lawfully authorized; ~~or~~

(e) Construct or use any new outlet for the discharge or emission of any wastes into the air, waters, or land of the state without the necessary permit; ~~or~~

(f) Discharge any dredged or fill material into waters of the United States without obtaining a permit as required by section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1344, and by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to section 81-1505.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(a) Construct or operate a solid waste management facility without first obtaining a permit required under the Environmental Protection Act or under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act and the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the council pursuant to the acts;

(b) Violate any term or condition of a solid waste management facility permit;

(c) Violate any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the council pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act or the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act; or

(d) After October 1, 1993, dispose of any solid waste at any location other than a solid waste management facility holding a current permit issued by the department pursuant to the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act.

(4) It shall be unlawful to:

(a) Construct or operate an air pollution source without first obtaining a permit required under the Environmental Protection Act and the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the council pursuant to subsection (12) of section 81-1505;

(b) Violate any term or condition of an air pollution permit or any emission limit set in the permit; or

(c) Violate any emission limit or air quality standard established by the council.

(5) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(a) Construct or operate an animal feeding operation without first obtaining a permit if required under the Livestock Waste Management Act or under the Environmental Protection Act and the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the council pursuant to such acts;

(b) Violate any provision of the Livestock Waste Management Act;

(c) Violate any term or condition of an animal feeding operation permit;
or

(d) Violate any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the council pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act or the Livestock Waste Management Act.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the department to specify the type, design, method of installation, or type of construction of any equipment of manufacturing processes.

Sec. 113. Section 81-1537, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1537 Department shall mean the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality.

Sec. 114. Section 81-1540, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1540 Director shall mean the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality.

Sec. 115. Section 81-1561, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1561 (1) The Tax Commissioner shall deduct and withhold from the litter fee collected a fee sufficient to reimburse himself or herself for the cost of collecting and administering the litter fee and shall deposit such collection fee in the Litter Fee Collection Fund which is hereby created. The Litter Fee Collection Fund shall be appropriated to the Department of Revenue. Any money in the Litter Fee Collection Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(2) The Tax Commissioner shall remit the balance of the litter fee collections to the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality. The department shall allocate and distribute funds from the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund in percentage amounts to be determined by the council on an annual basis, after a public hearing on a date to be determined by the council, for the following activities:

(a) Programs of public education, motivation, and participation aimed at creating an ethic conducive to the reduction of litter, establishing an attitude against littering and a desire for a clean environment, and securing greater awareness of and compliance with antilitter laws. Such programs shall include:

(i) The distribution of informative materials to elementary and secondary schools;

(ii) The purchase and erection of roadside signs;

(iii) The organization and operation of cleanup drives conducted by local agencies and organizations using volunteer help;

(iv) Grants to state and local government units and agencies and private organizations for developing and conducting antilitter programs; and

(v) Any other public information method selected by the department, including the use of media;

(b) Cleanup of public highways, waterways, recreation lands, urban areas, and public places within the state, including, but not limited to:

(i) Grants to cities and counties for payment of personnel employed in the pickup of litter;

(ii) Grants for programs aimed at increasing the use of youth and unemployed persons in seasonal and part-time litter pickup programs and to establish work release and other programs to carry out the purposes of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act;

(iii) Grants to public and private agencies and persons to conduct surveys of amounts and composition of litter and rates of littering; and

(iv) Grants to public and private agencies and persons for research and development in the fields of litter reduction, removal, and disposal, including the evaluation of behavioral science techniques in litter control and the development of new equipment, and to implement such research and development when appropriate; and

(c) New or improved community recycling and source separation programs, including, but not limited to:

(i) Expansion of existing and creation of new community recycling centers;

(ii) Expansion of existing and creation of new source separation programs;

(iii) Research and evaluation of markets for the materials and products recovered in source separation and recycling programs; and

(iv) Providing advice and assistance on matters relating to recycling and source separation, including information and consultation on available technology, operating procedures, organizational arrangements, markets for materials and products recovered in recycling and source separation, transportation alternatives, and publicity techniques.

Sec. 116. Section 81-15,118, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,118 The Legislature finds that the number of leaking underground storage tanks throughout the state is increasing and that there exists a serious threat to the health and safety of citizens because substances contained in leaking storage tanks are often potential ground water contaminants and major fire and explosive hazards.

For the reasons stated in this section, the Legislature deems it necessary to provide a program of storage tank registration and inspection as a preventative measure and a comprehensive leak cleanup program as a responsive measure. Primary responsibility for the Petroleum Products and Hazardous

Substances Storage and Handling Act shall be with the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality. However, preventative measures described in such act shall also be carried out by the State Fire Marshal. The State Fire Marshal's actions shall be pursuant to an interagency agreement with the department.

Sec. 117. Section 81-15,120, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,120 Any farm or residential tank or tank used for storing heating oil as defined in subdivisions (10)(a) and (b) of section 81-15,119 shall be registered with the State Fire Marshal. The registration shall be accompanied by a one-time fee of five dollars and shall be valid until the State Fire Marshal is notified that a tank so registered has been permanently closed. Such registration shall specify the ownership of, location of, and substance stored in the tank to be registered. The State Fire Marshal shall remit the fee to the State Treasurer for credit to the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Fund which is hereby created as a cash fund. The fund shall also consist of any money appropriated to the fund by the state. The fund shall be administered by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality to carry out the purposes of the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Act, including the provision of matching funds required by Public Law 99-499 for actions otherwise authorized by the act. Any money in such fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 118. Section 81-15,123, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,123 The State Fire Marshal shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing release, detection, prevention, and correction procedures applicable to all owners and operators as shall be necessary to protect human health, public safety, and the environment. Such rules and regulations may distinguish between types, classes, and ages of tanks. In making such distinctions, the State Fire Marshal shall consider, but not be limited to, location of the tanks, soil and climate conditions, uses of the tanks, history of maintenance, age of the tanks, current industry-recommended practices, national consensus codes, hydrogeology, depth to the ground water, size of the tanks, quantity of regulated substances periodically deposited in or dispensed from the tanks, the technical capability of the owners and operators, and the compatibility of the regulated substance and the materials of which the tank is fabricated. Before adoption, such rules and regulations shall be reviewed and approved by the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality who shall determine whether the proposed rules and regulations are adequate to protect the environment. Rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Proper procedures and specifications for the construction, design, installation, replacement, or repair of tanks;
- (2) A permit and registration system for all tanks;
- (3) A program to establish an inspection system for all tanks. Such program shall provide for periodic safety inspections and spot checks of monitoring systems by the State Fire Marshal. A fee schedule may also be developed for the inspection of new tank and piping installations and tank closures in the manner prescribed in section 81-505.01. Such inspection fees shall be remitted by the State Fire Marshal to the State Treasurer for credit to the Underground Storage Tank Fund. No fee shall be charged for the periodic safety inspections and spot checks of monitoring systems by the State Fire Marshal;
- (4) A monitoring system for all tanks which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (a) An inventory-control procedure for any tank used to hold petroleum products or hazardous substances for resale;
 - (b) An inventory-control procedure for any tank used solely for consumptive onsite purposes and not for resale. Such control procedure shall determine the method of inventory measurement giving consideration to the economic burden created by the procedure. The frequency of inventory measurement for such category of tank shall include at least one measurement every thirty days;
 - (c) Provisions for the prompt reporting of any release of a regulated substance; and
 - (d) A procedure for the proper method of monitoring tanks;
- (5) A procedure for notifying the State Fire Marshal of temporarily or permanently abandoned tanks;
- (6) A procedure for removing or making safe any abandoned tanks, except that the State Fire Marshal may dispense with such procedure in special circumstances;
- (7) Financial responsibility requirements, taking into account the financial responsibility requirements established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6991b(d);
- (8) Requirements for maintaining a leak-detection system, an inventory-control system, and a tank-testing or comparable system or method designed to identify releases in a manner consistent with the protection of human health, public safety, and the environment;
- (9) Requirements for maintaining records of any monitoring or leak-detection system, inventory-control system, or tank-testing or comparable system;

(10) Provisions to establish a system for licensing tank installation and removal contractors;

(11) Provisions to prohibit delivery to, deposit into, or the acceptance of a regulated substance into, an underground storage tank at a facility which has been identified by the State Fire Marshal to be ineligible for such delivery, deposit, or acceptance; and

(12) Effective August 8, 2009, requirements for training and certification of operators.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a subcontractor working under the direction of a licensed installation or removal contractor to be licensed.

Sec. 119. Section 81-15,124, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,124 Any reported or suspected release of a regulated substance from any tank shall be investigated consistent with principles of risk-based corrective action by the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~. In the event that the State Fire Marshal or the department finds an adverse effect caused by a release of a regulated substance from a tank:

(1) The State Fire Marshal shall (a) determine the immediate danger presented by the release, (b) take all steps necessary to assure immediate public safety, and (c) assist the department in determining the source of the release and taking all steps necessary to ensure that the release is halted;

(2) By order of the department, the owner or operator of the tank causing the release shall, after securing the source of the release, develop a plan for remedial action to be approved by the department. The department shall inform the owner or operator of its approval or disapproval of a plan for remedial action within one hundred twenty days after receipt of a remedial action plan which contains all required information. If after one hundred twenty days the department fails to either deny, approve, or amend the remedial action plan submitted, the proposed plan shall be deemed approved; and

(3) The approved remedial action plan shall then be carried out by the owner or operator of the tank causing the release. All expenses incurred during the remedial action shall be paid by the owner or operator subject to reimbursement pursuant to the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act.

If it is determined that the source of the release is unknown or that the owner or operator of the facility causing the release is unknown or unavailable, a remedial action plan shall be developed by or under the direction of the department. Such remedial action plan shall be developed and carried out by the department with money from the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Fund if funds are available. If at a later date the owner or operator of the facility which caused the release is determined, he or she shall be responsible for remedial action costs incurred on his or her behalf subject to reimbursement pursuant to the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act. Any money received from such person shall be deposited in the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Fund.

Sec. 120. Section 81-15,124.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,124.01 (1) The Environmental Quality Council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations consistent with principles of risk-based corrective action governing all phases of remedial action to be taken by owners, operators, and other persons in response to a release or suspected release of a regulated substance from a tank. Such rules and regulations shall include:

(a) Provisions governing remedial action to be taken by owners and operators pursuant to section 81-15,124;

(b) Provisions by which the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ may determine the cleanup levels to be achieved through soil or water remediation and the applicable limitations for air emissions at the petroleum release site or occurring by reason of such remediation; and

(c) Such other provisions necessary to carry out the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Act.

(2) In developing rules and regulations, the Environmental Quality Council shall take into account risk-based corrective action assessment principles which identify the risks presented to the public health and safety or the environment by each release in a manner that will protect the public health and safety and the environment using, to the extent appropriate, a tiered approach consistent with the American Society for Testing of Materials guidance for risk-based corrective action applicable to petroleum release sites.

Sec. 121. Section 81-15,124.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,124.02 If necessary in the course of an investigation or inspection or during the remedial action and if the owner of property or the owner's agent has specifically denied the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ access to the property for such purposes, the department may order the owner or owner's agent to grant access to property for the performance of reasonable steps, including drilling, to determine the source and extent of contamination or for remediation. Access shall be by the department or by a person conducting an investigation, inspection, or remedial action at the direction of the department. All actions taken on the property shall be performed in the least obtrusive manner possible to allow the investigation, inspection, or remedial action to proceed. Upon completion of any such actions, the property shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition.

Sec. 122. Section 81-15,124.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,124.04 The Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality shall provide briefing on the use by the department of risk-based corrective action. The briefing shall be directed toward comprehension and knowledge of the use by the department of risk-based corrective action, and a fee may be charged for attending the briefing which shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund. The department may contract for providing such briefing and shall maintain and make available to the public a list of attendees.

Sec. 123. Section 81-15,124.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,124.05 (1) If a remedial action plan submitted by a responsible person as defined in section 66-1514 is approved or deemed to be approved by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 81-15,124 and has been carried out, the department may issue to the responsible person a certificate of completion stating that no further remedial action needs to be taken at the site relating to any contamination for which remedial action has already been taken in accordance with the approved remedial action plan. The department shall condition the certificate of completion upon compliance with any monitoring, institutional, or technological controls that may be necessary and which were relied upon by the responsible person to demonstrate compliance with the remedial action plan. Any certificate of completion issued pursuant to this section shall be in a form which can be filed for record in the real estate records of the county in which the remedial action took place. The responsible person shall file the certificate of completion and notify the department within ten days after issuance as to the date and location of the real estate filing. If the department issues a certificate of completion to a responsible person under this section, a covenant not to sue shall arise by operation of law subject to subsection (2) of this section. The covenant not to sue releases the responsible person from liability to the state and from liability to perform additional environmental assessment, remedial activity, or response action with regard to the release of a petroleum product for which the responsible person has complied with the requirements of this subsection. The covenant not to sue shall be voided if the responsible person fails to conduct additional remedial action as required under subsection (2) of this section, if a certificate of completion is revoked by the department under subsection (3) of this section, or if the responsible person fails to comply with the monitoring, institutional, or technological controls, if any, upon which the certificate of completion is conditioned.

(2) A certificate of completion issued by the department under subsection (1) of this section shall require the responsible person to conduct additional remedial action in the event that any monitoring conducted at or near the real property or other circumstances indicate that (a) contamination is reoccurring, (b) additional contamination is present for which remedial action was not taken according to the remedial action plan, or (c) contamination from the site presents a threat to human health or the environment and was not addressed in the remedial action plan.

(3) A certificate of completion shall be revoked if the department demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that any approval provided under this section was obtained by fraud or material misrepresentation, knowing failure to disclose material information, or false certification to the department. The department shall file a copy of the notice of revocation of any certificate of completion in the real estate records of the county in which the remedial action took place within ten days after such revocation.

(4) If a responsible person transfers property to an affiliate in order for that affiliate to obtain a benefit to which the transferor would not otherwise be eligible under this section or to avoid an obligation under this section, the affiliate shall be subject to the same obligations and obtain the same level of benefits as those available to the transferor under this section.

(5)(a) A covenant not to sue arising under subsection (1) of this section, unless voided pursuant to such subsection, shall bar suit against any person who acquires title to property to which a certificate of completion applies for all claims of the state or any other person in connection with petroleum products which were the subject of an approved remedial action plan and (b) a person who purchased a site before May 31, 2001, is released, upon the issuance of a certificate of completion under this section or upon the issuance of a no further action letter on or after May 31, 2001, pursuant to section 81-15,186, from all liability to the state for cleanup of contamination that was released at the site covered by the certificate of completion or the no further action letter before the purchase date, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, for releases or consequences that the person contributed to or caused, for failure by such person to comply with the monitoring, institutional, or technological controls, if any, upon which the certificate of completion is conditioned, or in the event the certificate of completion is revoked by the department under subsection (3) of this section.

(6) Any person entitled to the protections of the covenant not to sue or eligible to be released from liability pursuant to the issuance of a certificate of completion or a no further action letter under subsection (5) of this section who is ordered by the department to take remedial action shall be eligible for reimbursement as a responsible person pursuant to section 66-1525 and shall not be required to pay the first cost or percent of the remaining

cost as provided in subsection (1) of section 66-1523 unless such person contributed to or caused the release or failed to comply with the monitoring, institutional, or technological controls, if any, imposed under subsection (1) of this section.

Sec. 124. Section 81-15,125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,125 Any person violating the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Act or the rules, regulations, or orders of the State Fire Marshal or the Department of ~~Environment and Energy Environmental Quality~~ adopted and promulgated or issued pursuant to such act shall be subject to a civil fine of not more than five thousand dollars for each offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense. In assessing the amount of the fine, the court shall consider the size of the operation and the degree and extent of the pollution.

Sec. 125. Section 81-15,126, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,126 The Department of ~~Environment and Energy Environmental Quality~~ or the State Fire Marshal may apply to the district court of the county where the violation is occurring or about to occur for a restraining order, a temporary or permanent injunction, or a mandatory injunction against any person violating or threatening to violate the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Act or the rules, regulations, or orders adopted and promulgated under the act. The court shall have jurisdiction to grant relief upon good cause shown. Relief may be granted notwithstanding the existence of any other remedy at law and shall be granted without bond.

Sec. 126. Section 81-15,127, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,127 (1) Any person who deposits regulated substances in a tank shall reasonably notify the owner or operator of such tank of the owner's or operator's registration requirements pursuant to the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Act.

(2) The Department of ~~Environment and Energy Environmental Quality~~ shall design and make available a printed notice of registration for owners of tanks to any person who deposits regulated substances in a tank.

Sec. 127. Section 81-15,129, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,129 As used in the Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Certificate shall mean a certificate of competency issued by the director or his or her duly authorized representative certifying that the operator has met the requirements for the specified operator classification of the certification program;

(2) Council shall mean the Environmental Quality Council;

(3) Department shall mean the Department of ~~Environment and Energy Environmental Quality~~;

(4) Director shall mean the Director of ~~Environment and Energy Environmental Quality~~;

(5) Nationally recognized association of certification authorities shall mean an organization or organizations selected by the director which (a) serve as an information center for certification activities, (b) recommend minimum standards and guidelines for classification of wastewater treatment facilities and certification of operators, (c) facilitate reciprocity between state programs, (d) assist authorities in establishing new certification programs and updating existing ones, and (e) provide testing services;

(6) Operator shall mean any person who regularly makes recommendations or is responsible for process control decisions at a wastewater treatment facility. Operator shall not include a person whose duties are limited solely to laboratory testing or maintenance or who exercises general or indirect supervision only;

(7) Voluntarily certified operator shall mean an operator who holds a certificate of competency described in section 81-15,133; and

(8) Wastewater treatment facility shall mean the structures, equipment, and processes required to collect, transport, and treat domestic or industrial wastes and to dispose of the effluent and sludge.

Sec. 128. Section 81-15,149, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-15,149 As used in the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Assistance Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Clean Water Act means the federal Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.;

(2) Construction means any of the following: Preliminary planning to determine the feasibility of wastewater treatment works or nonpoint source control systems; engineering, architectural, legal, fiscal, or economic investigations or studies; surveys, designs, plans, working drawings, specifications, procedures, or other necessary preliminary actions; erection, building, acquisition, alteration, remodeling, improvement, or extension of wastewater treatment works or nonpoint source control systems; or the inspection or supervision of any of the foregoing items;

(3) Council means the Environmental Quality Council;

(4) County means any county authorized to construct a sewerage disposal system and plant or plants pursuant to the County Industrial Sewer Construction Act;

(5) Department means the Department of ~~Environment and Energy~~

~~Environmental Quality;~~

(6) Director means the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~;

(7) Eligible financial institution means a bank that agrees to participate in the linked deposit program and which is chartered to conduct banking in this state pursuant to the Nebraska Banking Act, is chartered to conduct banking by another state and authorized to do business in this state, or is a national bank authorized to do business in this state;

(8) Fund means the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund;

(9) Linked deposit program means the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Assistance Act Linked Deposit Program established in accordance with section 81-15,151.03;

(10) Municipality means any city, town, village, district, association, or other public body created by or pursuant to state law and having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes;

(11) Nonpoint source control systems means projects which establish the use of methods, measures, or practices to control the pollution of surface waters and ground water that occurs as pollutants are transported by water from diffuse or scattered sources. Such projects include, but are not limited to, structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures applied before, during, and after pollution-producing activities. Sources of nonpoint source pollution may include, but are not limited to, agricultural, forestry, and urban lands, transportation corridors, stream channels, mining and construction activities, animal feeding operations, septic tank systems, underground storage tanks, landfills, and atmospheric deposition;

(12) Operate and maintain means all necessary activities including the normal replacement of equipment or appurtenances to assure the dependable and economical function of a wastewater treatment works or nonpoint source control systems in accordance with its intended purpose; and

(13) Wastewater treatment works means the structures, equipment, processes, and land required to collect, transport, and treat domestic or industrial wastes and to dispose of the effluent and sludges.

Sec. 129. Section 81-15,159, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,159 (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Some landfills operating with or without a permit in Nebraska exhibit numerous operational and management practices which are inconsistent with proper landfill management and permit requirements, and the owners and operators of such landfills should be encouraged to cooperate and work with the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to ensure that the air, land, and water of this state are not polluted;

(b) Some landfills in Nebraska are reaching capacity and the siting of a new location can be a financially expensive and socially disruptive process, and because of this situation all Nebraska citizens and businesses are encouraged to implement waste reduction measures that will result in a reduction of waste entering landfills by at least twenty-five percent;

(c) Recycling and waste reduction are necessary components of any well-managed waste management system and can extend the lifespan of a landfill and provide alternative waste management options; and

(d) The state can encourage recycling by the example of its own purchase and use of recycled and recyclable materials. The state can also encourage recycling and waste reduction by the creation of funding grants which support existing and future waste management systems.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the state, as a major consumer and an example for others, should assist resource recovery by making a concerted effort to use recyclable and recycled products and encourage other levels of government and the private sector to follow its example. When purchasing products, materials, or supplies for use by the State of Nebraska, the Department of Administrative Services, the University of Nebraska, and any other state agency making such purchases shall give preference to and purchase products, materials, and supplies which are manufactured or produced from recycled material or which can be readily reused or recycled after their normal use. Preference shall also be given to the purchase of corn-based biodegradable plastics and road deicers, depending on the availability and suitability of such products. Such preference shall not operate when it would result in the purchase of products, materials, or supplies which are of inadequate quality or substantially higher cost.

Sec. 130. Section 81-15,159.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-15,159.01 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall conduct a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and revise such programs. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (a) Whether existing state programs regarding litter and waste reduction and recycling should be amended or merged; (b) a needs assessment of the recycling and composting programs in the state, including the need for infrastructure development operating standards, market development, coordinated public education resulting in behavior change, and incentives to increase recycling and composting; (c) methods to partner with political subdivisions, private industry, and private, nonprofit organizations to most successfully address waste management issues in the state; (d) recommendations regarding existing funding sources and possible new revenue sources at the state and local level to address existing and emerging solid waste management issues; and (e)

revisions to existing grant programs to address solid waste management issues in a proactive manner.

(2) The Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall establish an advisory committee to advise the department regarding the study described in this section. The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the director and shall include no more than nine members. The director shall designate a chairperson of the advisory committee. The members shall receive no compensation for their services.

(3) In addition to the advisory committee, the department may hire consultants and special experts to assist in the study described in this section. After completion of the study, the department shall submit a report, including recommendations, to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council and the chairpersons of the Natural Resources Committee, the Urban Affairs Committee, and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature no later than December 15, 2017. The report shall be submitted electronically.

Sec. 131. Section 81-15,159.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,159.02 For purposes of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Act:

(1) Council means the Environmental Quality Council;

(2) Department means the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~;

(3) Director means the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~;

(4) Scrap tire or waste tire means a tire that is no longer suitable for its original intended purpose because of wear, damage, or defect;

(5) Tire means any tire made of rubber or other resilient material and normally used on any vehicle;

(6) Tire-derived product means the usable product produced from a scrap tire. Tire-derived product does not include crumb rubber or chipped tires not intended for a direct end use and does not include baled tires or tire-derived fuel; and

(7) Tire retailer means a person, business, or other entity which engages in the retail sale of tires in any quantity for any use or purpose by the purchaser other than for resale.

Sec. 132. Section 81-15,160, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-15,160 (1) The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund is created. The department shall deduct from the fund amounts sufficient to reimburse itself for its costs of administration of the fund. The fund shall be administered by the department ~~Department of Environmental Quality~~. The fund shall consist of proceeds from the fees imposed pursuant to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Act.

(2) The fund may be used for purposes which include, but are not limited to:

(a) Technical and financial assistance to political subdivisions for creation of recycling systems and for modification of present recycling systems;

(b) Recycling and waste reduction projects, including public education, planning, and technical assistance;

(c) Market development for recyclable materials separated by generators, including public education, planning, and technical assistance;

(d) Capital assistance for establishing private and public intermediate processing facilities for recyclable materials and facilities using recyclable materials in new products;

(e) Programs which develop and implement composting of yard waste and composting with sewage sludge;

(f) Technical assistance for waste reduction and waste exchange for waste generators;

(g) Programs to assist communities and counties to develop and implement household hazardous waste management programs;

(h) Capital assistance for establishing private and public facilities to manufacture combustible waste products and to incinerate combustible waste to generate and recover energy resources, except that no disbursements shall be made under this section for scrap tire processing related to tire-derived fuel; and

(i) Grants for reimbursement of costs to cities of the second class, villages, and counties of five thousand or fewer population for the deconstruction of abandoned buildings. Eligible deconstruction costs will be related to the recovery and processing of recyclable or reusable material from the abandoned buildings.

(3) Grants up to one million five hundred thousand dollars annually shall be available until June 30, 2024, for new scrap tire projects only, if acceptable scrap tire project applications are received. Eligible categories of disbursement under section 81-15,161 may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Reimbursement for the purchase of crumb rubber generated and used in Nebraska, with disbursements not to exceed fifty percent of the cost of the crumb rubber;

(b) Reimbursement for the purchase of tire-derived product which utilizes a minimum of twenty-five percent recycled tire content, with disbursements not to exceed twenty-five percent of the product's retail cost;

(c) Participation in the capital costs of building, equipment, and other capital improvement needs or startup costs for scrap tire processing or

manufacturing of tire-derived product, with disbursements not to exceed fifty percent of such costs or five hundred thousand dollars, whichever is less;

(d) Participation in the capital costs of building, equipment, or other startup costs needed to establish collection sites or to collect and transport scrap tires, with disbursements not to exceed fifty percent of such costs;

(e) Cost-sharing for the manufacturing of tire-derived product, with disbursements not to exceed twenty dollars per ton or two hundred fifty thousand dollars, whichever is less, to any person annually;

(f) Cost-sharing for the processing of scrap tires, with disbursements not to exceed twenty dollars per ton or two hundred fifty thousand dollars, whichever is less, to any person annually;

(g) Cost-sharing for the use of scrap tires for civil engineering applications for specified projects, with disbursements not to exceed twenty dollars per ton or two hundred fifty thousand dollars, whichever is less, to any person annually;

(h) Disbursement to a political subdivision up to one hundred percent of costs incurred in cleaning up scrap tire collection and disposal sites; and

(i) Costs related to the study provided in section 81-15,159.01.

The director shall give preference to projects which utilize scrap tires generated and used in Nebraska.

(4) Priority for grants made under section 81-15,161 shall be given to grant proposals demonstrating a formal public/private partnership except for grants awarded from fees collected under subsection (6) of section 13-2042.

(5) Grants awarded from fees collected under subsection (6) of section 13-2042 may be renewed for up to a five-year grant period. Such applications shall include an updated integrated solid waste management plan pursuant to section 13-2032. Annual disbursements are subject to available funds and the grantee meeting established grant conditions. Priority for such grants shall be given to grant proposals showing regional participation and programs which address the first integrated solid waste management hierarchy as stated in section 13-2018 which shall include toxicity reduction. Disbursements for any one year shall not exceed fifty percent of the total fees collected after rebates under subsection (6) of section 13-2042 during that year.

(6) Any person who stores waste tires in violation of section 13-2033, which storage is the subject of abatement or cleanup, shall be liable to the State of Nebraska for the reimbursement of expenses of such abatement or cleanup paid by the ~~department~~ Department of Environmental Quality.

(7) The ~~department~~ Department of Environmental Quality may receive gifts, bequests, and any other contributions for deposit in the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund. Transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 133. Section 81-15,166, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,166 The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, with the advice and consent of the Environmental Quality Council, shall contract for the preparation of a comprehensive solid waste management plan. Such plan shall be contracted for and prepared on or before December 15, 1991.

It is the intent of the Legislature that in preparation of the plan the state consider the following hierarchy of criteria: (1) Volume reduction at the source; (2) recycling, reuse, and vegetative waste composting; (3) incineration with energy resource recovery; (4) incineration for volume reduction; and (5) land disposal.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the plan be used as a guide to assist political subdivisions in the planning and implementation of their individual, joint, or regional solid waste management systems. The comprehensive solid waste management plan shall not supersede or impair plans, agreements, or contracts initiated by political subdivisions prior to December 15, 1991.

The Environmental Quality Council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for solid waste management options which comply with Environmental Protection Agency rules and guidelines, including rules and guidelines promulgated pursuant to the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to Subtitle D of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.

Sec. 134. Section 81-15,170, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,170 The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board is hereby created as an entity of the executive branch. The board shall consist of the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the Director of Natural Resources, the Director of Agriculture, the secretary of the Game and Parks Commission, the chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee, and nine citizens appointed by the Governor with the approval of a majority of the Legislature. The citizen members shall begin serving immediately following notice of nomination and prior to approval by the Legislature. The citizen members shall represent the general public and shall have demonstrated competence, experience, and interest in the environment of the state. Two of the citizen appointees shall also have experience with private financing of public-purpose projects. Three appointees shall be chosen from each of the three congressional districts. The board shall hire an executive director who shall hire and supervise other staff members as may be

authorized by the board. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the board and be solely responsible to it. The Game and Parks Commission shall provide administrative support, including, but not limited to, payroll and accounting functions, to the board.

Sec. 135. Section 81-15,177, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,177 (1) There is hereby established the Solid Waste Landfill Closure Assistance Fund which shall be a cash fund administered by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~. The fund shall be used:

(a) To provide grants for landfill site closing assessment, closure, monitoring, and remediation costs related to landfills existing or already closed on July 15, 1992; and

(b) To provide funds to the department for expenses incurred in carrying out its duties under sections 81-15,178 and 81-15,179.

Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. ~~Within five days after February 23, 2002, the State Treasurer shall transfer the balance of the fund to the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Cash Fund.~~

(2) The Environmental Quality Council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations regarding the form and procedure for applications for grants from the fund, procedures for determining claims for payment or reimbursement, procedures for determining the amount and type of costs that are eligible for payment or reimbursement from the fund, procedures for determining priority among applicants, procedures for auditing persons who have received payments from the fund, and other provisions necessary to carry out sections 81-15,178 and 81-15,179.

Sec. 136. Section 81-15,178, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,178 In order for an applicant to receive funding from the Solid Waste Landfill Closure Assistance Fund, the applicant shall:

(1) Agree to use the funds for landfill site closing assessment, closure, monitoring, or remediation costs relating to landfills existing or already closed on July 15, 1992;

(2) Provide the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ with documentation regarding the landfill closure site, including, when appropriate, information indicating that the applicant holds or can acquire title to all lands or has the necessary easements and rights-of-way for the project and related lands;

(3) Provide a plan for the proposed project, including appropriate engineering, economic, and financial feasibility data and other data and information, including estimated costs, as may be required by the department; and

(4) Demonstrate the anticipated environmental and ecological benefits resulting from the proposed project.

Sec. 137. Section 81-15,179, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,179 Upon receipt of an application for funds from the Solid Waste Landfill Closure Assistance Fund, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall evaluate and investigate all aspects of the proposed project and the proposed schedule for completion, determine eligibility and priority of the project for funding, and make appropriate grants from the fund pursuant to rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Environmental Quality Council. If the department determines that an application is unsatisfactory or does not contain adequate information, the department shall return the application to the applicant and may make recommendations to the applicant which the department considers necessary to make the plan or the application satisfactory.

Sec. 138. Section 81-15,180, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,180 The Superfund Cost Share Cash Fund is created. The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall remit grants and gifts received by the department for purposes of providing cost share for remediation of superfund sites to the State Treasurer for credit to the fund. The department shall administer the Superfund Cost Share Cash Fund to pay for nonfederal costs, including costs for in-kind services, required as cost share for remediation of superfund sites. Transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Superfund Cost Share Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 139. Section 81-15,183, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,183 (1) The Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Fund is created. The fund shall be administered by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~. Revenue from the following sources shall be credited to the fund:

(a) Application fees collected under the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act;

(b) Deposits for costs associated with administration of the act, including review, oversight, and guidance;

(c) Gifts, grants, reimbursements, or appropriations from any source intended to be used for purposes of the act; and

(d) Investment interest attributable to the fund.

(2) The fund shall be used by the department to:

(a) Review applications and provide technical review, oversight, guidance, and other activities associated with remedial action plans for land pollution or water pollution;

(b) Fund activities performed by the department to address immediate or emergency threats to human health and the environment related to property under the act; and

(c) Administer and enforce the act.

(3) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 140. Section 81-15,184, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,184 (1) Any entity which voluntarily chooses to make application for monitoring of remedial action plans for property where land pollution or water pollution exists shall:

(a) Submit an application on a form approved by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~;

(b) Provide the department with a nonrefundable application fee of two thousand dollars; and

(c) Execute a written agreement to provide reimbursement of all department direct and indirect costs related to technical review, oversight, guidance, and other activities associated with the remedial action plan. As part of the voluntary agreement, the department shall require the applicant to post a deposit of three thousand dollars to be used by the department to cover all costs. The department shall not commence technical review, oversight, guidance, or other activities associated with the remedial action plan until the voluntary agreement is executed and a complete remedial action plan has been submitted. If the costs of the department exceed the initial deposit, an additional amount agreed upon by the department and the applicant may be required prior to proceeding. After the mutual termination of the voluntary agreement, any balance of funds paid under this subdivision shall be refunded.

(2) The department shall review and approve or deny all applications and notify the applicant in writing. If the application is denied, the notification shall state the reason for the denial. If the department determines that an application does not contain adequate information, the department shall return the application to the applicant. The applicant has sixty days to resubmit the required information or the application will be deemed denied.

(3) Within ninety days of approval of the application and voluntary agreement, the applicant shall provide a complete remedial action plan for the proposed project that conforms to all federal and state environmental standards and substantive requirements, including:

(a) Documentation regarding the investigation of land pollution or water pollution including, when appropriate, information indicating that the applicant holds or can acquire title to all lands or has the necessary easements and rights-of-way for the project and related lands;

(b) A remedial action work plan which describes the remedial action measures to be taken to address the land or water pollution; and

(c) Project monitoring reports, appropriate engineering, scientific, and financial feasibility data, and other data and information as may be required by the department.

Sec. 141. Section 81-15,185, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,185 Upon receipt of a voluntary remedial action plan for land pollution or water pollution pursuant to section 81-15,184, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall review and approve or disapprove the plan and notify the applicant in writing. If the plan is disapproved, the notification shall state the reason for the disapproval and provide a reasonable opportunity to resubmit the plan.

Sec. 142. Section 81-15,185.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,185.01 The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall issue public notice of its intent to approve a voluntary remedial action plan pursuant to section 81-15,185 in a local newspaper of general circulation in the area affected and make the remedial action plan available to the public. The public shall have thirty days from the date of publication during which any person may submit written comments to the department regarding the proposed remedial action. Such person may also request or petition the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, in writing, for a hearing and state the nature of the issues to be raised. The director shall hold a public hearing if the comments, request, or petition raise legal, policy, or discretionary questions of general application and significant public interest exists.

Sec. 143. Section 81-15,185.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,185.02 (1) The applicant may unilaterally terminate a voluntary remedial action plan approved pursuant to section 81-15,185 prior to completion of investigative and remedial activities if the applicant leaves the property in no worse condition, from a human health and environment perspective, than when the applicant initiated voluntary remedial action and the applicant reimburses the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ for all outstanding costs.

(2) The department may terminate a voluntary remedial action plan if the applicant:

(a) Violates any terms or conditions of the plan or fails to fulfill any obligations of the plan, including submission of an acceptable remedial action plan within a reasonable period of time;

(b) Fails to address an immediate and significant risk of harm to public health and the environment in a timely and effective manner; or

(c) Fails to initiate the plan within six months after approval by the department or to complete the plan within twenty-four months after approval by the department, excluding long-term operation, maintenance, and monitoring, unless the department grants an extension of time.

(3) The department shall notify the applicant in writing of the intention to terminate the voluntary remedial action plan and include the reason for the termination and a summary of any unreimbursed costs of the department that are due.

Sec. 144. Section 81-15,185.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,185.03 (1) Within sixty days after completion of a voluntary remedial action plan approved pursuant to section 81-15,185, the applicant shall provide the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality with a final remedial action report and assurance that the plan has been fully implemented. Department approval of a voluntary remedial action plan shall be void upon failure to comply with the approved plan or willful submission of false, inaccurate, or misleading information by the applicant.

(2) Voluntary remedial action plans approved under section 81-15,185 are not enforceable unless the department can demonstrate that the applicant has failed to fully implement the approved plan. The department may require further action if such action is authorized by other state statutes administered by the department.

Sec. 145. Section 81-15,186, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,186 If the requirements of the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act are met and the applicant has remitted all applicable fees, the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality may issue to the applicant a letter stating that no further action need be taken at the site related to any contamination for which remedial action has been taken in accordance with the approved remedial action plan. Such letter shall provide that the department may require the person to conduct additional remedial action in the event that any monitoring conducted at or near the real property or other circumstances indicate that (1) contamination is reoccurring, (2) additional contamination is present which was not identified pursuant to section 81-15,184, or (3) additional contamination is present for which remedial action was not taken according to the remedial action plan. As a condition of issuance, the department may require payment of ongoing direct and indirect costs of oversight of any ongoing long-term operation, maintenance, and monitoring.

Sec. 146. Section 81-15,196, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,196 Director means the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality.

Sec. 147. Section 81-15,210, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,210 (1) The director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall serve as the State Administrator of the Nebraska Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. The State Emergency Response Commission is created and shall be a part of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for administrative purposes. The membership of the commission shall include the Director of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality or his or her designee, the Director-State Engineer or his or her designee, the Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his or her designee, the State Fire Marshal or his or her designee, the director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency or his or her designee, the chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee, two elected officials or employees of municipal or county government, and one citizen member to represent each of the following interest groups: Firefighters, local emergency management, public or community health, environmental protection, labor, school district, small business, agricultural business, chemical industry, highway transportation, and rail transportation. The Governor shall appoint the municipal or county government officials or employees and the citizen members with the approval of the Legislature. The appointments shall be made to represent the three congressional districts as equally as possible.

(2) The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for terms of four years, except that of the first citizen members appointed, three members shall serve for one-year terms, three members shall serve for two-year terms, and two members shall serve for three-year terms, as designated at the time of appointment.

(3) A vacancy on the commission shall exist in the event of the death, disability, or resignation of a member. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed by the Governor for the remainder of such term.

Sec. 148. Section 81-15,213, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,213 (1) The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall supervise and coordinate emergency planning and training under section 305 of Title III and shall oversee and distribute all funds received under section 305 of Title III and section 81-15,214.

(2) The Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ shall receive emergency notification and facility reports and establish procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for information as required to be provided under the Nebraska Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. The director or his or her designee shall serve as commission coordinator for information.

Sec. 149. Section 81-15,229, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,229 (1) Each emergency plan, material safety data sheet, list of chemicals, inventory form, toxic chemical release form, and followup emergency notice shall be made available to the general public, consistent with section 322 of Title III, during normal working hours at the location or locations designated by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the commission, or a local emergency planning committee, as appropriate. Upon request by an owner or operator of a facility subject to the requirements of section 81-15,224, the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, the commission, or the appropriate committee shall withhold from disclosure under this section the location of any specific chemical required by section 81-15,225 to be contained in an inventory form as tier II information.

(2) Each local emergency planning committee shall annually publish a notice in local newspapers that the emergency plan, material safety data sheets, and inventory forms have been submitted under this section. The notice shall state that followup emergency notices may subsequently be issued. Such notice shall announce that members of the public who wish to review any such plan, sheet, form, or followup notice may do so at the location designated under subsection (1) of this section.

Sec. 150. Section 81-15,235, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,235 The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall as necessary adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out its responsibilities under the Nebraska Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. The Environmental Quality Council shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ to carry out its responsibilities under the act.

Sec. 151. Section 81-15,242, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,242 Department means the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

Sec. 152. Section 81-15,243, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,243 Director means the Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~.

Sec. 153. Section 81-15,245, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,245 The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory Committee is created. The advisory committee shall be composed of the following eleven members:

- (1) Seven members appointed by the director as follows:
 - (a) Five private onsite wastewater treatment system professionals; and
 - (b) Two registered environmental health specialists or officials representing local public health departments which have established programs for regulating private onsite wastewater treatment systems;
- (2) The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee;
- (3) The Director of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~ or his or her designated representative; and
- (4) One representative with experience in soils and geology and one representative with experience in biological engineering, both of whom shall be designated by the vice chancellor of the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Members shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The department shall provide administrative support for the advisory committee.

Sec. 154. Section 81-1604, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-1604 (1) The Legislature finds that:

(a) Comprehensive planning enables the state to address its energy needs, challenges, and opportunities and enhances the state's ability to prioritize energy-related policies, activities, and programs; and

(b) Meeting the state's need for clean, affordable, and reliable energy in the future will require a diverse energy portfolio and a strategic approach, requiring engagement of all energy stakeholders in a comprehensive planning process.

(2) The Department of Environment and Energy ~~State Energy Office~~ shall develop an integrated and comprehensive strategic state energy plan and review such plan periodically as the department ~~office~~ deems necessary. The department ~~office~~ may organize technical committees of individuals with expertise in energy development for purposes of developing the plan. If the department ~~office~~ forms an advisory committee pursuant to subdivision (58) (8) of section

~~81-1504 81-1603~~ for purposes of such plan, the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature, and three members of the Legislature selected by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of such advisory committee.

(3) The strategic state energy plan shall include short-term and long-term objectives that will ensure a secure, reliable, and resilient energy system for the state's residents and businesses; a cost-competitive energy supply and access to affordable energy; the promotion of sustainable economic growth, job creation, and economic development; and a means for the state's energy policy to adapt to changing circumstances.

(4) The strategic state energy plan shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) A comprehensive analysis of the state's energy profile, including all energy resources, end-use sectors, and supply and demand projections;

(b) An analysis of other state energy plans and regional energy activities which identifies opportunities for streamlining and partnerships; and

(c) An identification of goals and recommendations related to:

(i) The diversification of the state's energy portfolio in a way that balances the lowest practicable environmental cost with maximum economic benefits;

(ii) The encouragement of state and local government coordination and public-private partnerships for future economic and investment decisions;

(iii) The incorporation of new technologies and opportunities for energy diversification that will maximize Nebraska resources and support local economic development;

(iv) The interstate and intrastate promotion and marketing of the state's renewable energy resources;

(v) A consistent method of working with and marketing to energy-related businesses and developers;

(vi) The advancement of transportation technologies, alternative fuels, and infrastructure;

(vii) The development and enhancement of oil, natural gas, and electricity production and distribution;

(viii) The development of a communications process between energy utilities and the department ~~State Energy Office~~ for responding to and preparing for regulations having a statewide impact; and

(ix) The development of a mechanism to measure the plan's progress.

Sec. 155. Section 81-1606, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-1606 The Department of Environment and Energy Director of the State Energy Office shall develop and maintain a program of collection, compilation, and analysis of energy statistics and information. Existing information reporting requests, maintained at the state and federal levels, shall be utilized whenever possible in any data collection required regarding state energy policy pursuant to this section, subdivisions (35) through (58) of section 81-1504, or section 81-1604 or under the provisions of sections 81-1601 to 81-1607. A central state repository of energy data shall be developed and coordinated with other governmental data-collection and record-keeping programs. The department director shall, on at least an annual basis, with monthly compilations, submit to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature a report identifying state energy consumption by fuel type and by use to the extent that such information is available. The report submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting or authorizing the revealing of confidential information. For purposes of this section confidential information shall mean any process, formula, pattern, decision, or compilation of information which is used, directly or indirectly, in the business of the producer, refiner, distributor, transporter, or vendor, and which gives such producer, refiner, distributor, transporter, or vendor an advantage or an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it.

Sec. 156. Section 81-1607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1607 (1) On or before February 15 of each year, the Director of Environment and Energy ~~the State Energy Office~~ shall transmit to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature a comprehensive report designed to identify emerging trends related to energy supply, demand, and conservation and to specify the level of statewide energy need within the following sectors: Agricultural, commercial, residential, industrial, transportation, utilities, government, and any other sector that the director determines to be useful. The report submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

(2) The report shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) An assessment of the state's energy resources, including examination of the current energy supplies and any feasible alternative sources;

(b) The estimated reduction in annual energy consumption resulting from various energy conservation measures;

(c) The status of the ~~office's~~ ongoing studies of the Department of Environment and Energy pursuant to subdivisions (35) through (58) of section 81-1504;

(d) Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for administrative and legislative actions to accomplish the purposes of this section and section sections 70-625, 70-704, 81-161, 81-1602, 81-1606, and 81-1607; and

(e) The use of funds disbursed during the previous year under sections

81-1635 to 81-1641. The use of such funds shall be reported each year until the funds are completely disbursed and all contractual obligations have expired or otherwise terminated.

Sec. 157. Section 81-1607.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-1607.01 The State Energy Office Cash Fund is hereby created. The fund shall consist of funds received pursuant to section 57-705. The fund shall be used for the administration of subdivisions (35) through (58) of section 81-1504 and sections 81-1604 ~~81-1604~~ to 81-1607, for energy conservation activities, and for providing technical assistance to communities in the area of natural gas other than assistance regarding ownership of regulated utilities, except that transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature. Any money in the State Energy Office Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. The State Treasurer shall transfer any money in the State Energy Office Cash Fund to the State Energy Cash Fund on the operative date of this act.

Sec. 158. Section 81-1609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1609 As used in sections 81-1608 to 81-1626, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) ~~Department means the Department of Environment and Energy Office means the State Energy Office;~~

(2) Contractor means the person or entity responsible for the overall construction of any building or the installation of any component which affects the energy efficiency of the building;

(3) Architect or engineer means any person licensed as an architect or professional engineer under the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act;

(4) Building means any new structure, renovated building, or addition which is used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy, but not including any structure which has a consumption of traditional energy sources for all purposes not exceeding the energy equivalent of three and four-tenths British Thermal Units per hour or one watt per square foot;

(5) Residential building means a building three stories or less that is used primarily as one or more dwelling units;

(6) Renovation means alterations on an existing building which will cost more than fifty percent of the replacement cost of such building at the time work is commenced or which was not previously heated or cooled, for which a heating or cooling system is now proposed, except that the restoration of historical buildings shall not be included;

(7) Addition means an extension or increase in the height, conditioned floor area, or conditioned volume of a building or structure;

(8) Floor area means the total area of the floor or floors of a building, expressed in square feet, which is within the exterior faces of the shell of the structure which is heated or cooled;

(9) Nebraska Energy Code means the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code;

(10) Traditional energy sources means electricity, petroleum-based fuels, uranium, coal, and all nonrenewable forms of energy; and

(11) Equivalent or equivalent code means standards that meet or exceed the requirements of the Nebraska Energy Code.

Sec. 159. Section 81-1611, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1611 The Legislature hereby adopts the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code as the Nebraska Energy Code. The Director of Environment and Energy State Energy Office may adopt regulations specifying alternative standards for building systems, techniques, equipment designs, or building materials that shall be deemed equivalent to the Nebraska Energy Code. Regulations specifying alternative standards may be deemed equivalent to the Nebraska Energy Code and may be approved for general or limited use if the use of such alternative standards would not result in energy consumption greater than would result from the strict application of the Nebraska Energy Code.

Sec. 160. Section 81-1612, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1612 The Director of Environment and Energy ~~State Energy Office~~ shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for implementation and administration of sections 81-1608 to 81-1626. Rules, regulations, or amendments thereto shall be adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sec. 161. Section 81-1613, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1613 The department ~~State Energy Office~~ shall produce manuals for use by architects, engineers, prime contractors, and owners. Such manuals shall be furnished upon request at a price sufficient to cover the costs of production. Such manuals shall contain, but not be limited to:

(1) The Nebraska Energy Code;

(2) Forms, charts, tables, and other data to assist architects, engineers, and prime contractors in meeting the Nebraska Energy Code; and

(3) Any other information which the department ~~office~~ determines will assist local code officials in enforcing the code.

Sec. 162. Section 81-1616, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1616 For purposes of insuring compliance with section 81-1614:

(1) The department office, or its authorized agent, may conduct such inspections and investigations as are necessary to make a determination pursuant to section 81-1625 and may issue an order containing and resulting from the findings of such inspections and investigations; and

(2) A building owner may submit a written request that the department office undertake a determination pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section. Such request shall include a list of reasons why the building owner believes such a determination is necessary.

A building owner aggrieved by the ~~office's~~ determination, or refusal to make such determination, under this section may appeal such determination or refusal, and the appeal shall be in accordance with as provided in the Administrative Procedure Act.

The department office may charge an amount sufficient to recover the costs of providing such determinations.

Sec. 163. Section 81-1617, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1617 The department State Energy Office and any local code authority may conduct inspections and investigations necessary to enforce the Nebraska Energy Code or equivalent code and may, at reasonable hours, enter into any building and upon any premises within its jurisdiction for the purpose of examination to determine compliance with sections 81-1608 to 81-1626. Inspections shall be conducted only after permission has been granted by the owner or occupant or after a warrant has been issued pursuant to sections 29-830 to 29-835.

Sec. 164. Section 81-1618, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1618 Any county, city, or village may adopt and enforce a lighting and thermal efficiency ordinance, resolution, code, or standard. Such ordinance, resolution, code, or standard shall be deemed equivalent to the Nebraska Energy Code if it does not result in energy consumption greater than would result from the strict application of the Nebraska Energy Code and is reasonably consistent with the intent of sections 81-1608 to 81-1626. Any building or portion thereof subject to the jurisdiction of and inspected by such county, city, or village shall be deemed to comply with sections 81-1608 to 81-1626 if it meets the standards of such ordinance, resolution, code, or standards. Such county, city, or village may by ordinance or resolution prescribe a schedule of fees sufficient to pay the costs incurred pursuant to sections 81-1608 to 81-1626.

Any county, city, or village which adopts and enforces a lighting and thermal efficiency ordinance, resolution, code, or standard may waive a specific requirement of the Nebraska Energy Code when meeting such requirement is not economically justified. The local code authority shall submit to the department State Energy Office its analysis for determining that a specific requirement is not justified. The department State Energy Office shall review such analysis and transmit its findings and conclusions to the local code authority within a reasonable time. The local code authority shall submit to the department State Energy Office its explanation as to how the original code or any revised code addresses the issues raised by the department State Energy Office. After a local code authority has submitted such explanation, the authority may proceed to enforce its ordinance, resolution, code, or standard.

Sec. 165. Section 81-1620, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1620 The department State Energy Office shall establish a training program to provide initial technical assistance to local code officials and residential and commercial builders upon adoption and implementation of a new Nebraska Energy Code. The program shall include the training of local code officials in building technology and local enforcement procedure related to implementation of the Nebraska Energy Code and the development of training programs suitable for presentation by local governments, educational institutions, and other public or private entities. Subsequent requests for training shall be fulfilled at a fee that pays for the department's State Energy Office's costs for such training.

Sec. 166. Section 81-1625, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1625 If the Director of Environment and Energy the ~~State Energy Office~~ or the local code authority finds, within two years from the date a building is first occupied, that the building, at the time of construction, did not comply with the Nebraska Energy Code or equivalent code adopted by a county, city, or village in effect at such time, the director or code authority may order the owner or prime contractor to take those actions necessary to bring the building into compliance. This section does not limit the right of the owner to bring civil action against the contractor, architect, or engineer for the cost of bringing the building into compliance.

Sec. 167. Section 81-1635, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1635 There is hereby established in the state treasury a fund, to be known as the Nebraska Energy Settlement Fund and referred to in sections 81-1635 to 81-1641 as the fund, to be administered by the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office as the representative of the Governor. The fund shall consist of (1) money received by the State of Nebraska after February 15, 1986, from awards or allocations to the State of Nebraska on behalf of consumers of petroleum products as a result of judgments or settlements for overcharges to consumers of petroleum products sold during the

period of time in which federal price controls on such products were in effect and (2) any investment interest earned on the fund. The Department of Administrative Services may for accounting purposes create subfunds of the fund to segregate awards or allocations received pursuant to different orders or settlements. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. No money shall be transferred or disbursed from the fund except pursuant to sections 81-1635 to 81-1641.

Sec. 168. Section 81-1636, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1636 The Governor or the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office as representative of the Governor shall develop a plan for the disbursement of the money credited to the fund for submission to the United States Department of Energy. The plan shall be in accordance with the specifications and guidelines of the applicable federal court order and any applicable federal law or regulations.

Sec. 169. Section 81-1637, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1637 (1) The Governor shall submit electronically a predisbursement plan to the Legislature if in session or the Executive Board of the Legislative Council if the Legislature is not in session.

(2) The predisbursement plan shall generally outline the uses and beneficiaries of proposed disbursements from the fund, as well as the expected benefits to the state as a whole.

(3) The predisbursement plan shall also include a policy statement which shall indicate (a) a perception of the current and anticipated trends regarding energy availability, costs, and needs in the state, (b) assumptions regarding the impacts on energy needs of the state of current and anticipated state and federal policies and market forces affecting energy use, and (c) generally, how the types of projects to be selected will address those trends and assumptions.

(4) The Legislature may hold a public hearing within thirty days after of receipt of the predisbursement plan to solicit testimony on such plan. The Legislature may, no later than fifteen days following such hearing, make recommendations to the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office concerning the plan. No disbursement of or obligation to disburse any money in the fund shall be made after July 9, 1988, until forty-five days after the predisbursement plan referring to such disbursement has been submitted to the Legislature or the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, as the case may be.

Sec. 170. Section 81-1638, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1638 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office shall, as the representative of and under the direction of the Governor, be the administrative agency for the selection of projects pursuant to section 81-1636, allocation of funds to the projects, and monitoring of the uses of the funds so allocated.

(2) The department State Energy Office shall contract with any and all grantees of funds in and recipients of loans from the fund. The contracts shall include provisions for reporting on and accounting for the use of the funds by the grantee or loan recipient to the department State Energy Office, and any contracts or agreements entered into before appropriations are made by the Legislature shall recite that they are subject to appropriations of the fund by the Legislature.

(3) Any political subdivision of this state may apply for, and shall be eligible to receive, a disbursement for a project pursuant to section 81-1636, including a disbursement of loan proceeds.

Sec. 171. Section 81-1640, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1640 The Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed uses of the fund in the manner and to the extent required by specifications and guidelines of the applicable federal court order and any applicable federal law or regulations.

Sec. 172. Section 81-1641, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-1641 Sections 81-1635 to 81-1641 shall apply to the disbursement of all funds which are subject to sections 81-1635 to 81-1641 except for funds appropriated by Legislative Bill 432, Ninetieth Legislature, First Session, 1987.

Sections 81-1636 and 81-1637 shall not apply to any funds which are the subject of any written agreement or contract entered into ~~by the State Energy Office or the Governor~~ prior to April 9, 1987, for the awarding of any funds received by the state from United States v. Exxon Corporation.

Sec. 173. Section 81-3449, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

81-3449 The provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act regulating the practice of architecture do not apply to the following activities:

(1) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a detached single-family through four-family dwelling of less than five thousand square feet of above grade finished space. Any detached or attached sheds, storage buildings, and garages incidental to the dwelling are not included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but

shall not exceed the Type V, column B, limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

(2) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a one-story commercial or industrial building or structure of less than five thousand square feet of above grade finished space which does not exceed thirty feet in height unless such building or structure, or the remodeling or repairing thereof, provides for the employment, housing, or assembly of twenty or more persons. Any detached or attached sheds, storage buildings, and garages incidental to the building or structure are not included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

(3) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of farm buildings, including barns, silos, sheds, or housing for farm equipment and machinery, livestock, poultry, or storage, if the structures are designed to be occupied by no more than twenty persons. Such exemption may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

(4) Any public works project with contemplated expenditures for a completed project that do not exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The board shall adjust the dollar amount in this subdivision every fifth year. The first such adjustment after August 27, 2011, shall be effective on July 1, 2014. The adjusted amount shall be equal to the then current amount adjusted by the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics for the five-year period preceding the adjustment date. The amount shall be rounded to the next highest one-thousand-dollar amount;

(5) Any alteration, renovation, or remodeling of a building if the alteration, renovation, or remodeling does not affect architectural or engineering safety features of the building;

(6) The teaching, including research and service, of architectural subjects in a college or university offering a degree in architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board;

(7) The preparation of submissions to architects, building officials, or other regulating authorities by the manufacturer, supplier, or installer of any materials, assemblies, components, or equipment that describe or illustrate the use of such items, the preparation of any details or shop drawings required of the contractor by the terms of the construction documents, or the management of construction contracts by persons customarily engaged in contracting work;

(8) The preparation of technical submissions or the administration of construction contracts by employees of a person or organization lawfully engaged in the practice of architecture if such employees are acting under the direct supervision of an architect;

(9) A public service provider or an organization who employs a licensee performing professional services for itself;

(10) A nonresident who holds the certification issued by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards offering to render the professional services involved in the practice of architecture. The nonresident shall not perform any of the professional services involved in the practice of architecture until licensed as provided in the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act. The nonresident shall notify the board in writing that (a) he or she holds a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards certificate and is not currently licensed in Nebraska but will be present in Nebraska for the purpose of offering to render architectural services, (b) he or she will deliver a copy of the notice to every potential client to whom the applicant offers to render architectural services, and (c) he or she promises to apply immediately to the board for licensure if selected as the architect for the project;

(11) The practice by a qualified member of another legally recognized profession who is otherwise licensed or certified by this state or any political subdivision to perform services consistent with the laws of this state, the training, and the code of ethics of the respective profession, if such qualified member does not represent himself or herself to be practicing architecture and does not represent himself or herself to be an architect;

(12) Financial institutions making disbursements of funds in connection with construction projects;

(13) Earthmoving and related work associated with soil and water conservation practices performed on farmland or any land owned by a political subdivision that is not subject to a permit from the Department of Natural Resources or for work related to livestock waste facilities that are not subject to a permit by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~; and

(14) The work of employees and agents of a political subdivision or a nonprofit entity organized for the purpose of furnishing electrical service performing, in accordance with other requirements of law, their customary duties in the administration and enforcement of codes, permit programs, and land-use regulations and their customary duties in utility and public works construction, operation, and maintenance.

Sec. 174. Section 81-3453, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018,

is amended to read:

81-3453 The provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act regulating the practice of engineering do not apply to the following activities:

(1) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a detached single-family through four-family dwelling of less than five thousand square feet above grade finished space. Any detached or attached sheds, storage buildings, and garages incidental to the dwelling are not included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

(2) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a one-story commercial or industrial building or structure of less than five thousand square feet above grade finished space which does not exceed thirty feet in height unless such building or structure, or the remodeling or repairing thereof, provides for the employment, housing, or assembly of twenty or more persons. Any detached or attached sheds, storage buildings, and garages incidental to the building or structure are not included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

(3) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of farm buildings, including barns, silos, sheds, or housing for farm equipment and machinery, livestock, poultry, or storage and if the structures are designed to be occupied by no more than twenty persons. Such exemption may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

(4) Any public works project with contemplated expenditures for the completed project that do not exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The board shall adjust the dollar amount in this subdivision every fifth year. The first such adjustment after August 27, 2011, shall be effective on July 1, 2014. The adjusted amount shall be equal to the then current amount adjusted by the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics for the five-year period preceding the adjustment date. The amount shall be rounded to the next highest one-thousand-dollar amount;

(5) Any alteration, renovation, or remodeling of a building if the alteration, renovation, or remodeling does not affect architectural or engineering safety features of the building;

(6) The teaching, including research and service, of engineering subjects in a college or university offering an ABET-accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more;

(7) A public service provider or an organization who employs a licensee performing professional services for itself;

(8) The practice by a qualified member of another legally recognized profession who is otherwise licensed or certified by this state or any political subdivision to perform services consistent with the laws of this state, the training, and the code of ethics of such profession, if such qualified member does not represent himself or herself to be practicing engineering and does not represent himself or herself to be a professional engineer;

(9) The offer to practice engineering by a person not a resident of and having no established place of business in this state if the person is legally qualified by licensure to practice engineering in his or her own state or country. The person shall make application to the board in writing and after payment of a fee established by the board may be granted a temporary permit for a definite period of time not to exceed one year to do a specific job. No right to practice engineering accrues to such applicant with respect to any other work not set forth in the permit;

(10) The work of an employee or a subordinate of a person holding a certificate of licensure under the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act or an employee of a person practicing lawfully under subdivision (9) of this section if the work is done under the direct supervision of a person holding a certificate of licensure or a person practicing lawfully under such subdivision;

(11) Those services ordinarily performed by subordinates under direct supervision of a professional engineer or those commonly designated as locomotive, stationary, marine operating engineers, power plant operating engineers, or manufacturers who supervise the operation of or operate machinery or equipment or who supervise construction within their own plant;

(12) Financial institutions making disbursements of funds in connection with construction projects;

(13) Earthmoving and related work associated with soil and water conservation practices performed on farmland or any land owned by a political subdivision that is not subject to a permit from the Department of Natural Resources or for work related to livestock waste facilities that are not subject to a permit by the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality;

(14) The work of employees and agents of a political subdivision or a nonprofit entity organized for the purpose of furnishing electrical service performing, in accordance with other requirements of law, their customary duties in the administration and enforcement of codes, permit programs, and land-use regulations and their customary duties in utility and public works construction, operation, and maintenance;

(15) Work performed exclusively in the exploration for and development of energy resources and base, precious, and nonprecious minerals, including sand, gravel, and aggregate, which does not have a substantial impact upon public health, safety, and welfare, as determined by the board, or require the submission of reports or documents to public agencies;

(16) The construction of water wells as defined in section 46-1212, the installation of pumps and pumping equipment into water wells, and the decommissioning of water wells, unless such construction, installation, or decommissioning is required by the owner thereof to be designed or supervised by an engineer or unless legal requirements are imposed upon the owner of a water well as a part of a public water supply;

(17) Work performed in the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas or before the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; and

(18) Siting, layout, construction, and reconstruction of a private onsite wastewater treatment system with a maximum flow from the facility of one thousand gallons of domestic wastewater per day if such system meets all of the conditions required pursuant to the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act unless the siting, layout, construction, or reconstruction by an engineer is required by the Department of Environment and Energy ~~Environmental Quality~~, mandated by law or rules and regulations imposed upon the owner of the system, or required by the owner.

Sec. 175. Section 84-166, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

84-166 Pursuant to the proclamation of a vital resource emergency issued as provided in section 84-164, the Governor by executive order may:

(1) Regulate the operating hours of vital resource consuming instrumentalities including state government, political subdivisions, private institutions, and business facilities to the extent that the regulation is not hazardous or detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the people of this state;

(2) Establish a system for the distribution of the supply of energy or vital resource;

(3) Curtail, regulate, or direct the public and private transportation and use of the vital resource which is in short supply, to the extent necessary, so long as such regulation is not hazardous or detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the people of this state;

(4) Delegate any administrative authority vested in him or her to the Department of Environment and Energy ~~State Energy Office~~ or any other state agency or its respective director; and

(5) Provide for the temporary transfer of directors, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies for the purpose of carrying out any emergency measures taken pursuant to sections 84-162 to 84-167.

Sec. 176. Section 84-602.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

84-602.04 (1) The State Treasurer shall develop and maintain a single, searchable web site with information on state receipts, expenditures of state funds, and contracts which is accessible by the public at no cost to access as provided in this section. The web site shall be hosted on a server owned and operated by the State of Nebraska or approved by the Chief Information Officer. The naming convention for the web site shall identify the web site as a state government web site. The web site shall not include the treasurer's name, the treasurer's image, the treasurer's seal, or a welcome message.

(2)(a) The web site established, developed, and maintained by the State Treasurer pursuant to this section shall provide such information as will document the sources of all state receipts and the expenditure of state funds by all state entities.

(b) The State Treasurer shall, in appropriate detail, cause to be published on the web site:

(i) The identity, principal location, and amount of state receipts received or expended by the State of Nebraska and all of its state entities;

(ii) The funding or expending state entity;

(iii) The budget program source;

(iv) The amount, date, purpose, and recipient of all expenditures of state funds; and

(v) Such other relevant information as will further the intent of enhancing the transparency of state government financial operations to its citizens and taxpayers. The web site shall include data for fiscal year 2008-09 and each fiscal year thereafter, except that for any state entity that becomes subject to this section due to the changes made by Laws 2016, LB851, the web site shall include data for such state entity for fiscal year 2016-17 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(3) The data shall be available on the web site no later than thirty days after the end of the preceding fiscal year.

(4)(a) The web site described in this section shall include a link to the web site of the Department of Administrative Services. The department's web site shall contain:

(i) A data base that includes a copy of each active contract that is a basis for an expenditure of state funds, including any amendment to such contract and any document incorporated by reference in such contract. For purposes of this subdivision, amendment means an agreement to modify a contract which has been reduced to writing and signed by each party to the contract, an agreement to extend the duration of a contract, or an agreement to renew a contract. The data base shall be accessible by the public and searchable by vendor, by state entity, and by dollar amount. All state entities shall provide to the Department of Administrative Services, in electronic form, copies of such contracts for inclusion in the data base beginning with contracts that are active on and after January 1, 2014, except that for any state entity that becomes subject to this section due to the changes made by Laws 2016, LB851, such state entity shall provide copies of such contracts for inclusion in the data base beginning with contracts that are active on and after January 1, 2017; and

(ii) A data base that includes copies of all expired contracts which were previously included in the data base described in subdivision (4)(a)(i) of this section and which have not been disposed of pursuant to policies and procedures adopted under subdivision (4)(e) of this section. The data base required under this subdivision shall be accessible by the public and searchable by vendor, by state entity, and by dollar amount.

(b) The following shall be redacted or withheld from any contract before such contract is included in a data base pursuant to subdivision (4)(a) of this section:

(i) The social security number or federal tax identification number of any individual or business;

(ii) Protected health information as such term is defined under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as such act existed on January 1, 2013;

(iii) Any information which may be withheld from the public under section 84-712.05; or

(iv) Any information that is confidential under state or federal law, rule, or regulation.

(c) The following contracts shall be exempt from the requirements of subdivision (4)(a) of this section:

(i) Contracts entered into by the Department of Health and Human Services that are letters of agreement for the purpose of providing specific services to a specifically named individual and his or her family;

(ii) Contracts entered into by the University of Nebraska or any of the Nebraska state colleges for the purpose of providing specific services or financial assistance to a specifically named individual and his or her family;

(iii) Contracts entered into by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under section 80-401 or 80-403 for the purpose of providing aid to a specifically named veteran and his or her family;

(iv) Contracts entered into by the Department of Environment and Energy State Energy Office for the purpose of providing financing from the Dollar and Energy Saving Loan program;

(v) Contracts entered into by the State Department of Education under sections 79-11,121 to 79-11,132 for the purpose of providing specific goods, services, or financial assistance on behalf of or to a specifically named individual;

(vi) Contracts of employment for employees of any state entity. The exemption provided in this subdivision shall not apply to contracts entered into by any state entity to obtain the services of an independent contractor; and

(vii) Contracts entered into by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority for the purpose of providing a specific service or financial assistance, including, but not limited to, a grant or loan, to a specifically named individual and his or her family.

(d) No state entity shall structure a contract to avoid any of the requirements of subdivision (4)(a) of this section.

(e) The Department of Administrative Services shall adopt policies and procedures regarding the creation, maintenance, and disposal of records pursuant to section 84-1212.02 for the contracts contained in the data bases required under this section and the process by which state entities provide copies of the contracts required under this section.

(5) All state entities shall provide to the State Treasurer, at such times and in such form as designated by the State Treasurer, such information as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Taxpayer Transparency Act.

(6) Nothing in this section requires the disclosure of information which is considered confidential under state or federal law or is not a public record under section 84-712.05.

Sec. 177. Section 86-570, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

86-570 (1) The Geographic Information Systems Council is hereby created and shall consist of:

(a) The Chief Information Officer or his or her designee, the chief executive officer or designee of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the director or designee of the Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality, the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor's Policy Research Office;

(b) The Director-State Engineer or designee;

- (c) The State Surveyor or designee;
 - (d) The Clerk of the Legislature or designee;
 - (e) The secretary of the Game and Parks Commission or designee;
 - (f) The Property Tax Administrator or designee;
 - (g) One representative of federal agencies appointed by the Governor;
 - (h) One representative of the natural resources districts nominated by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts and appointed by the Governor;
 - (i) One representative of the public power districts appointed by the Governor;
 - (j) Two representatives of the counties nominated by the Nebraska Association of County Officials and appointed by the Governor;
 - (k) One representative of the municipalities nominated by the League of Nebraska Municipalities and appointed by the Governor;
 - (l) Two members at large appointed by the Governor; and
 - (m) Such other members as nominated by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission and appointed by the Governor.
- (2) The appointed members shall serve terms as determined by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.
- (3) The members shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

Sec. 178. Section 88-550, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

88-550 The Department of ~~Environment and Energy~~ Environmental Quality and the commission shall, during the course of their regular inspections required by law, inspect warehouses for conditions which are or may be conducive to grain dust explosions. Such conditions shall include, but not be limited to, the presence at the warehouse of excessive grain dust, faulty equipment, or any other condition which could reasonably lead to an explosion if not corrected. The department and commission shall report any such condition to the State Fire Marshal as soon as practicable after each inspection.

Sec. 179. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2019.

Sec. 180. Original sections 2-15,100, 2-3241, 2-4215, 13-1701, 13-2008, 13-2009, 13-2042.01, 37-806, 46-2,109, 46-602, 46-606, 46-704, 46-705, 46-706, 46-711, 46-721, 46-722, 46-723, 46-724, 46-725, 46-726, 46-728, 46-729, 46-730, 46-731, 46-732, 46-733, 46-743, 46-749, 46-750, 46-1102, 46-1108, 46-1109, 46-1217, 46-1301, 46-1502, 46-1642, 54-744.01, 54-2417, 54-2421, 54-2429, 57-705, 58-221, 60-6,363, 60-6,364, 60-6,367, 60-6,368, 66-203, 66-204, 66-301, 66-302, 66-303, 66-304, 66-489.02, 66-1004, 66-1009, 66-1105, 66-1344, 66-1504, 66-1518, 66-1529.02, 66-2001, 69-2011, 69-2502, 70-1003, 70-1032, 71-2433, 71-3503, 71-5302, 71-5316, 72-804, 72-805, 76-2602, 76-2608, 77-27,150, 77-27,151, 77-27,152, 77-27,153, 77-27,154, 77-27,187.01, 77-27,236, 81-1108.55, 81-1502, 81-1503, 81-1504.01, 81-1505.01, 81-1506, 81-1537, 81-1540, 81-1561, 81-15,118, 81-15,120, 81-15,123, 81-15,124, 81-15,124.01, 81-15,124.02, 81-15,124.04, 81-15,124.05, 81-15,125, 81-15,126, 81-15,127, 81-15,129, 81-15,159, 81-15,159.02, 81-15,166, 81-15,170, 81-15,177, 81-15,178, 81-15,179, 81-15,180, 81-15,183, 81-15,184, 81-15,185, 81-15,185.01, 81-15,185.02, 81-15,185.03, 81-15,186, 81-15,196, 81-15,210, 81-15,213, 81-15,229, 81-15,235, 81-15,242, 81-15,243, 81-15,245, 81-1607, 81-1609, 81-1611, 81-1612, 81-1613, 81-1616, 81-1617, 81-1618, 81-1620, 81-1625, 81-1635, 81-1636, 81-1637, 81-1638, 81-1640, 81-1641, 84-166, 86-570, and 88-550, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 2-969, 2-1501, 2-1507, 2-2626, 2-4604, 46-2,139, 46-683.01, 46-707, 46-1224, 46-1304, 49-506, 54-703, 57-1407, 57-1502, 57-1503, 81-2,294, 81-1316, 81-1504, 81-1505, 81-15,149, 81-15,159.01, 81-15,160, 81-1604, 81-1606, 81-1607.01, 81-3449, 81-3453, and 84-602.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, are repealed.

Sec. 181. The following sections are outright repealed: Section 69-2505, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 81-1601, 81-1602, 81-1603, and 81-1605, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018.

Sec. 182. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.