

Forward

This easily accessible manual presents the department's procedures for carrying out our responsibility to achieve compliance with environmental laws for the protection of the citizens of Missouri. This manual is posted on the Internet so it is available to department staff and the public alike, so the department's practices and procedures are transparent and do not come as a surprise to anyone.

Missouri's natural resources provide the basis for our economy, our enjoyment and our health and well being. Making sure we comply with the legally required environmental protection measures is the least each of us can do to help and sustain ourselves and our neighbors. I am sure you agree the environment we leave to our children should be the best we can make it.

Department staff are expected to work cooperatively with anyone who has an environmental problem, throughout the process of solving it. We believe in offering our services up front to prevent problems through Environmental Assistance Visits and other technical assistance avenues. Where problems occur, we will work with the parties involved to resolve the problems as quickly and productively as possible.

If a problem persists, the department must resort to stronger means to address it. Any problem that is not solved must be quickly elevated to the next stage so that threats to citizens' health and Missouri resources are eliminated promptly. Staff are directed to use the full range of compliance tools to solve environmental problems and address as many aspects of the problem as possible. Pollution must end. Damages must be repaired. Penalties must be assessed fairly and assertively. No one should profit from pollution. I also direct staff to avoid dwelling at any stage that is not producing a resolution of a problem.

Missouri's environment is worth protecting and the department will carry out its role as described in this manual. I hope having these procedures clearly outlined across all of our responsibilities will help those we work with understand the compliance process, how we administer it and what to expect at each stage. Through all of this process staff are directed to be respectful of those we regulate and seek understanding of the issues involved on both sides of any problem. Together we can solve any problem we face.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
August, 2007

Preface

This is the first unified manual striving to cover the compliance aspects of the state environmental protection laws and regulations. The topical chapters and media-specific subsections provide a clear path for achieving compliance for any violation present. However, as this is the first manual of this type, it will undoubtedly need revision as new needs and corrections are identified. The department's internal Enforcement Coordination Committee will proceed with review and modification as needed, but at least annually, under the oversight of the Enforcement Review Board.

This manual provides general guidance to department staff in carrying out compliance activities. These are the general procedures to be used as this work proceeds. Any individual matter may deviate from these procedures as they are adapted to fit the circumstances involved.

This manual is not a rule in and of itself, as it is exempted in Chapter 536. It does attempt to unify the actions taken by the department's staff, across program boundaries, in seeking compliance with state environmental laws and regulations. If there is any conflict between this manual and state law or regulation, the law or regulation takes precedence. Should such a conflict come to light, it will be resolved through revising the conflicting section of the manual.

We believe this manual will support consistent actions to achieve compliance across all of the activities the department regulates. We hope this manual demystifies the department's work for those who want a fuller understanding. We trust this manual also provides a roadmap to explain the department expectations for those involved in the compliance process, either outside the department or within it.

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August, 2007